

PRESS RELEASE

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Definitive Guide to Collection Storage Now Available

Washington, DC—Four publishers collaborated to publish a comprehensive guide to collection storage. *Preventive Conservation: Collection Storage* is a 944-page, full color book that covers storage needs and considerations on the micro to macro levels. Preventive conservation is key to managing modern collections, and this book is the new “go-to” guide for all collection stewards.

The American Institute for Conservation (AIC), the Society for the Preservation of Natural History Collections (SPNHC), the Smithsonian Institution (SI), and the George Washington University Museum Studies Program (GWU) came together to publish a peer-reviewed volume that covers the breadth of collection storage preservation issues and challenges as they apply to all collection types including science, fine and decorative art, history, library, archives, and digital collections. It concentrates on preventive conservation and emphasizes a risk-management approach that threads throughout the volume. The book will be useful to anyone in the field of collection care looking for an overview of collection storage – be it an established specialist, an emerging professional, or a student.

The last book to cover such a comprehensive topic was published nearly 25 years ago, and both ethical and practical considerations have evolved over time. This volume addresses such topics as: collection risk assessment and collection surveys; planning processes for new buildings or storage areas; facility systems including lighting, environmental, fire protection and security; facility management such as emergency management, health and safety, integrated pest management and environmental monitoring; and the selection of materials for storage areas including wood, paper, plastic, and labeling materials. Specialized collection environments are discussed in detail as well: low temperature, fluid preservation, visible collections, off site storage, outdoor collections, and collections storage within an historic building. Focused attention on special collection types and materials such as remains, digital collections, and many more are presented with thoughtfulness and a full understanding of current standards and practice.

Editors Lisa Elkin, American Museum of Natural History, and Christopher A. Norris, Yale Peabody Museum, led an experienced editorial team including Mary Coughlin (GWU), Catharine A. Hawks (National Museum of Natural History), John Simmons, Jude Southward (Denver Museum of Science & Nature), Sarah Stauderman (Hirshhorn Museum), Shelley Sturman (National Museum of Art), and Robert Waller (Protect Heritage).

The volume is divided into eight main sections: Fundamentals, Assessment and Planning, Creating and Renovating Storage Facilities, Facility Management, Specialized Collection Environments and Care, Storage Equipment and Materials, Storage of Digital Collections and Storage at a Glance. The 36 chapters and 21 unique Storage at a Glance entries were written by nearly 90 subject area experts reflecting a diverse community of collection care specialists: conservators, conservation scientists, collection managers, archivists, facility managers, architects, engineers, and more.

Ann-Imelda Radice of the National Endowment for the Humanities states, “We are all stewards. We are all responsible to future generations. Elkin and Norris have provided us with an essential guide on how to be proactive in preserving the past and present and planning for the future.” It is expected that the volume will become the “go-to” reference for preventive conservation as it applies to collection storage for years to come.

The *Preventive Conservation: Collection Storage* volume is available through AIC’s website at <http://store.culturalheritage.org>.

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About AIC

The American Institute for Conservation (AIC) is the leading membership association for current and aspiring conservators and allied professionals who preserve cultural heritage. AIC represents more than 3,500 individuals working in the domains of science, art, and history through treatment, research, collections care, education, and more. By informing, empowering, and connecting conservation professionals, AIC ensures our cultural heritage is not lost or forgotten. Learn more at www.culturalheritage.org.

About SPNHC

SPNHC is a multidisciplinary organization composed of individuals who are interested in the development and preservation of natural history collections. These include not just specimens, but also supporting documentation, such as audio-visual materials, labels, library materials, field data and similar archives. Members are those who look after collections, use collections, or have an interest in natural history. Learn more at www.spnhc.org.

About SI

The Smithsonian Institution is the world’s largest museum, education and research complex, with 19 museums and galleries and the National Zoological Park. With 9 research facilities, 29 million visitors, and a more than \$1 billion budget, Smithsonian is estimated to hold nearly 155 million objects, works of art and specimens, of which nearly 146 million are scientific specimens at the National Museum of Natural History.

About GWU

Established in 1976, the Master of Arts in Museum Studies at the George Washington University responds to the evolving museum profession by combining hands-on training with future-focused theoretical engagement. Students gain foundational knowledge about the state of museum work today, practical skills and the ability to critically engage with developments in the field. Our location in the nation’s museum capital offers a unique opportunity to connect to national and global conversations at the cutting edge of museum practice. Visit <https://corcoran.gwu.edu/museum-studies>.