



Disaster supplies at-the-ready in the Preservation lab

Disaster Planning & Response

As a department, we manage the ULS' collection-related disaster response efforts, provide internal training and materials for ULS staff, coordinate the volunteer-based disaster teams, and provide emergency supplies as needed.

Outreach & Education

We believe strongly in educating others in preservation through fun activities and hands-on events. These are a sample of opportunities we participate in frequently:

- * Preservation Fair (2009, 2011, 2015)
- * Edible Book Festival since 2008
- * Biennial exhibits in Hillman library
- * ULS social media (Instagram account)
- * Alliance for Response Pittsburgh chapter
- * Our own professional activities such as workshops, presentations, and publications

Preservation

“Conscious, deliberate, and planned supervision, care, and preservation of the total resources of a library, archives, or similar institution, from the injurious effect of age, use (or misuse), as well as external or internal influences of all types, but especially light, heat, humidity, and atmospheric influences.”

Bookbinding and the Conservation of Books: A Dictionary of Descriptive Terminology;
Roberts and Etherington, 1982.

Contact Us

Phone: 412-648-5676 or 5836

Email: MLN26 or ALC194



pitt.preservation



ULS Preservation

Staff:

Miranda Nixon: Preservation
Coordinator

Ashley Cox: Conservation
Librarian

+ *Many student employees & interns!*

ULS Preservation Dept.
7500 Thomas Blvd
(2nd Floor)



Dept. Responsibilities

- * **In-house conservation of collection materials**
- * **Special projects**
- * **Disaster planning and response**
- * **ULS policy development**
- * **Outreach and education**
- * **CONSOL Energy Mine Map Preservation project**

How can we help you?

- * Have a question about an item's condition?
- * Need help with an exhibit or digitization project?
- * Are your stacks getting wet from a leak? You aren't sure who to contact in an emergency?
- * Have an event or opportunity that would benefit from showcasing a unique side of the library system?

In-house Conservation

Our conservation work can include simple and complex repairs, various types of protective enclosures, and many other creative solutions depending on the item and intended purpose.

"Each year, we receive over 1500 items for treatment and send out over 2000 completed ones. Our workflow and tracking statistics are vital, but key to our processes is finding ways to allow for the patron to have access, no matter the item's condition." (Miranda)

Special Projects

We assist with any project where preservation work or advice is needed. Often, we help with digitization projects through cleaning, mending, disbinding, and rehousing. We prepare items for exhibition, create unique housing solutions such as 5-foot long map boxes and tiny artists' book boxes, and re-sew entire texts.

Policy Development

Preservation staff lend their expertise when new policies are being created, relating to issues such as digital assets, lighting, environmental and storage conditions, and mold.



[Plan of Workings, Rock Run Mine, xsl-339, after treatment photo]

CONSOL Energy Mine Map Preservation Project

In response to the Quecreek Mine incident in 2002, a grant fund was set up to digitize Pennsylvania coal mine maps. The ULS has participated in this program since its inception.

- * Operates within the Preservation Department with the Conservation Librarian and team of student workers.
- * Project first received funding in 2007 from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection.
- * Part of the Archives Service Center CONSOL Energy Inc. Mine Maps and Records Collection [AIS.1991.16]
- * Roughly 750 large scale maps, the largest being 5' x 48'
- * Maps are called "hardbacks" a thick paper adhered to canvas.
- * Treatments include: Humidification & flattening, paper mending, washing, tape and adhesive removal, cleaning, and replacing of canvas backing.