



ABSTRACT

This paper discusses the need of preserving deterioration of library resources which has been one of the greatest challenges plaguing the libraries. In order to savage these library resources of individual Library from deterioration of before damage has

THE NEED FOR PRESERVATION OF LIBRARY COLLECTIONS

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INTRODUCTION

The present world is fast changing from the [industrial world](#) to the information world. It requires speedy, accurate, ready and reliable information. A large amount of information is being generated every moment. The information has become a strategic raw material and a dominating factor in decision making and execution. Information is and will be a primordial need for each individual in this world. Information is regarded as “Lifeblood of society” and a vital resource for national development. The largest single constituent of library materials is book. There are also various types of non-book reading materials. All these materials both in book form and non-book form are composed of paper. Mainly paper and other constituents of the book create perpetual problem in preserving. It is only recently that librarians have become aware of the



occurred. It is also concerned with preventing damage in order to extend the life expectancy of library collections. It further highlights the methods of preserving library collections, proffering recommendations in addressing issues bordering preservation of library collection by the librarians.

Keywords: Preservation, Library, Collections, Deterioration, Need

gravity of the problems presented by the rapid deterioration of the materials in their care. Specialists from the late 19 century on were aware of the fragility of paper, but it was not until the 20s that the enormous scope of the problem was recognized — that the bulk of our library materials would disintegrate, if not cared for, by the 21st century.

Library materials are the records of intellectual contribution of the mankind and have been preserved by the human beings for centuries together. The recorded word-etched in stone, inscribed on paper, encoded on magnetic tape — has for centuries served as mankind's bid for immortality. The survival of thoughts beyond the life of the thinker gives significance to the human experience and so we are comfortable in believing that the materials on which we record those thoughts will live after us (Sarasvathy, 2007).

Preservation is recognized as a virtually necessary component of collection development and an area of librarianship that concerns all libraries. Books, millions of books are falling apart. Librarians have increasingly become aware of the impermanence of their collections. Every librarian faces a considerable range of library materials books, prints, maps, micro-forms, photographs, sound recordings, films, videotape, disks that are in various stages of deterioration.



Deterioration of information materials is one of the basic challenges facing library materials which are prone to wear and tear, shrinkage, cracks, brittleness, warping, bio-infestation, discoloration, abrasion, hole, dust and dirt accumulation. External causes of deterioration of collections include poor handling or storage, theft or vandalism, fire and flood, pests, pollution, light and incorrect temperature and relative humidity (Popoola, 2003; Alegbeleye, 2008; Walker, 2013).

Almost all library collections are organic in nature, so they are in need of preservation and conservation. Books and other materials suffer damage or deterioration because of several groups of factors, some inherent in the materials and others beyond the control of the library. Each type of paper material, glue, plastic that goes into the manufacturing of a book, recording or optical media has its own combination of physical and chemical properties, and a life span. The other factors include all of the conditions surrounding the processing, storage and use of the materials. The deterioration of information materials is caused by either inherent chemical instability of the materials or the external environmental factors (Akussah, 2006). To avoid these heavy loose of materials in the library, preservation and conservation practices become imperative. (Osunride and Adetunla, 2017)

Conceptual Definition of terms

According to Encyclopedia of communication and information (2002), Preservation is the maintenance of library materials or information so that they can be close to the original condition as much as possible. It includes developing criteria for selecting materials that have cultural or historical importance and assessing their preservation needs; halting the deterioration of material by providing a stable environment and proper supplies and equipment for storage; developing and



providing the resources necessary to engage in an on-going preservation program committed to the continued existence of valued materials by providing a stable environment and proper implementing policies for the safe use of materials; and providing the resources necessary to engage in an on-going preservation program committed to the continued existence of valued materials. Preservation also includes preparing for potentials disasters such as floods, fires, tornadoes, and earthquakes

Various materials and formats have special preservation needs; these are a few recommendations that are common to the long-term preservation of nearly every type of item. These recommendation deals with High temperatures, high humidity or large fluctuations or changes in temperature and humidity can damage most materials. High humidity encourages the growth of mold and mildew and affects the chemical makeup of items such as film, photographic prints, and audiotape or videotape. High temperature often speeds up the deterioration of materials.

Need for Preservation of Library Collection:

Once collections deteriorate it could be due to “internal or inherent vice” caused by weakness in the chemical or physical make up of an object being introduced during its manufacture. This is the fundamental problem you face as you begin to consider the preservation of collections. For example, papers composed of wood pulp may term yellow and bristle in just a short period of time. Some adhesive will dry out and fall, while others may discolor and turn into a sticky mass. Old writing inks may seem to burn through a paper sheet, or may have faded and become illegible. Audio tapes become sticky and unplayable. Photographic prints can fade or become yellow and bristle, and photographic films can emit and odor, or be way or



spotted. These problems are due in part to internal vice and they affect all types of collections

Need for Preservation of Library collection generally contains a wide range of organic materials, including paper, cloth, animal skin, and adhesives, and modern media such as microforms, optical and magnetic discs, digital formats, photographs, and audio and visual media. The organic substances undergo a continual and inevitable natural aging process. While measures can be taken to slow this deterioration by careful handling and providing a sympathetic environment, it is impossible to halt it altogether. The chemical and physical stability of library material also depends on the quality and processing of the raw products used in their manufacture together with the design and construction of the final artifact. Over the centuries, the pressures of mass production have reduced the material quality of what is received in libraries (Salma, 2017).

Preservation of information is an idea whose time has come. Preservation and conservation (PAC) are related activities, relevant in library and information centers (LICs). If considered at all, they were deemed to be the province of those who had the care of rare books and manuscripts. But during recent past, the view of PAC has expanded to become an integral part of the much wider area of collection management and a vital element in the provision of access to information. If the particular medium, which records the information, has been allowed to decay and disappear, then access to it is impossible.

According to (Sarasvathy, 2017) there are many preservation methods, they include: -

Chemical De-acidification:

De-acidification merely arrests deterioration for a while, but if the book is already fragile, it remains so. From a collaborative perspective,



if there are multiple copies of an old book scattered around the library, it is likely to be cheaper to film or scan the best available copy once and then reproduce it, than to de-acidify all the copies. In addition microfilming creates a copying master and a bibliographic entry that provide broad access to the information. De-acidification can be done on an item-by-item basis at individual libraries. The cost of page-by-page paper treatment, by spraying a chemical fog on the page, is more than the cost of copying, even for one copy. The costs of this more elaborate preservation technique which require disassembly and rebinding of each item are basically prohibitive for books that do not have high value as artifacts. Paper preservation and individual book conservation, however, are the only technologies that preserve the original book itself.

Digital imagery:

In digital imagery books is scanned into computer storage, which is a promising alternative process. Storing page images of books permits the rapid transfer of books from library to library. The images can be displayed or printed, much as film images, although with greater cost today. Additionally, digital imagery permits considerable reprocessing: adjustment of contrast, adjustment of image size, and so on. Handling of these images requires special skills and equipment few libraries possess, but there is rapid technological progress in the design of disk drives, displays, and printing devices.

ASCII (non-image):

ASCII storage is much more compact; a page of text that will use a few hundred Kbytes in image form will contain only one to two thousand bytes of ASCII, or 11100th of the space. Other advantages of ASCII storage include the ability to reformat and reprint whole or partial



documents easily; the ability to extract quotations or other subsections of the documents and include them in newer papers; and the ability to mechanically compare texts. Editing texts for later publication also needs ASCII rather than image storage. More applications such as feeding the texts to speech synthesizers to be read aloud are also possible; ASCII text can also be displayed on a wider variety of equipment and on cheaper equipment. ASCII displays can be formatted for the particular screen size or program environment preferred by the user. The image quality shown does not reflect any fading or discoloration of the original

Restoration and Repair

Restoration and repair are controversial subjects in the world of antiques and collectibles, with lots of different and strongly held views. Some collectors believe in restoring an item to its original condition or appearance, while others view any repair or restoration as sacrilegious. Others take a middle view, advocating conservation and addition of reproduction elements to complete an original. Usually, though, it depends on the item. For example, it is acceptable to stabilize a vintage travel or advertising poster by backing it with linen, but doing the same to a rock poster from the 1960s is considered sacrilege, and will kill its value. So while there is no single, correct answer for every situation, we can offer the following advice:

Eliminating or Reducing the Factors that Accelerate Deterioration of Papers:

Since high temperature, relative humidity and long exposure of sunlight rays to library materials accelerate deterioration of papers, it is important to ensure that library materials are kept in such conditions that will slow down deterioration. Thus library materials must be



housed in an air-conditioned environment in Africa so that moderate temperature and relative humidity can be maintained.

Conclusion

In conclusion, preservation assists in keeping information accessible and useful overtime. Conservation treatments help to ensure the longevity of objects that have value for their content, so information can be learned from them as artifact. Preservation and conservation efforts assist in research and scholarly activities but also affect daily life. Access to architectural records provides safety information for building and construction details that may prove useful during a natural disaster, municipal records that outline information on the storage of waste can ensure that housing developments are not placed in areas that once have waste materials. Photographs, maps and other visual documents can help with the revitalization or neighborhoods and business districts. The records of organizations may help them plan community programmes for the future.

The existence of information in its myriad forms, maintenance or preserved over time, has benefits for all generations. It continues to provide the foundation for development of new information, knowledge, and skill. Society and groups of people throughout history have sought to document their experience. It is from recorded information that we have learned about past cultures and peoples how they lived, what they thought, what they placed value on, be it ideas or objects and even what may have led to their demise. Information stored on paper, in books through skill and moving images, on sound recording and electronic media and in works of arts in original or surrogate form, help to define culture and society, drives economic and political decisions and should remain essential to our global heritage and cultures. Libraries, archives, local and state



historical societies, conservation labs, museums and related judicial libraries serve as a custodian of these resources and as such make the effort to preserve information for generations to come

Recommendations

1. The maintenance of collections and individual objects should be done as close as possible to original condition through appropriate handling, housing, repair and conservation treatment when appropriate.
2. The librarian who is responsible for the preservation of collection ensures that they are stored under the best possible environmental conditions
3. Librarian should determine which materials need special handling or housing to prevent or retard deterioration
4. Librarian should decide which materials are in need of repair or more extensive physical treatment

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