



## ICCROM-UNESCO PARTNERSHIP FOR THE PREVENTIVE CONSERVATION OF ENDANGERED MUSEUM COLLECTIONS IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

# PREVENTIVE CONSERVATION FOR COLLECTIONS IN STORAGE BIBLIOGRAPHY on Storage Reorganization

### Web resources

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CCI Technical Bulletins, Notes, and Newsletter  
<https://www.cci-icc.gc.ca/bookstore/index-e.cfm>

US National Park Service Conserv-o-Gram Technical Leaflets  
<http://www.cr.nps.gov/museum/publications/>

### General

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**An alternative technique for applying accession numbers to museum artifacts** / Braun, Thomas J. In: *The Journal of The American Institute for Conservation*, Vol. 46, Number 2, Summer 2007, p. 91-104.

**Where shall we put it? Spotlight on collection storage issues: papers given at the National Preservation Office Annual Conference held 4 October 2004** / Webster, John (ed.) / National Preservation Office. London, United Kingdom, London, NW1 2DB: National Preservation Office, 2005; 63 p. : ill.30 cm.,  
*Shelf no. XIV H 365*

**Guidelines for the care of East Asian paintings: display, storage and handling** / Hare, Andrew. In: *The paper conservator*, Vol. 30, 2006, p. 73-92, ill., 10 notes

**Abstract/Résumé:** Traditional East Asian paintings evolved over centuries into physically and aesthetically sophisticated objects. Made with delicate materials and time-honoured methods, East Asian scrolls, screens, and albums are complex, laminate mounting structures that are easily damaged by mishandling and unstable environmental conditions. In the East, customary practices for display, storage, and connoisseurship have been essential for long-term preservation. For East Asian paintings housed in the West, concerns have arisen about appropriate measures for care and maintenance in modern museum environments. Based on experience as a traditionally trained East Asian painting conservator and informed by Western preventive conservation practices, the author presents relevant traditional methods and modern innovations for the safe display, storage and handling of scrolls, screens and albums. Broken into three sections, the article introduces guidelines and practical suggestions to determine suitable environmental parameters, display methods, storage containers and handling techniques. By relating traditional practices and modern developments, the author hopes to increase awareness of East Asian paintings and encourage improvements in their preservation.

*Shelf no. Per. Grande-Bretagne 35*

**The role of architecture in preventive conservation** / Toledo, Franciza, Rome: ICCROM, 2006; 74 p. : ill. ; 30 cm.,

**Abstract/Résumé:** This ICCROM Fellowship report discusses the climate responsiveness of historic and modern buildings, especially when reused for museum purposes, and how these buildings can be designed or adapted using architectural solutions to provide passive climate control for the preventive conservation of museum, library and

archive collections. The use of forced ventilation is also described. Presents extensive documentation from the PREMA course, especially as related to the design and improvement of museum storage facilities in Africa.  
*Shelf no. III G 35*

**Labelling artefacts to museum standards** / Fernandez, Nieves. In: *IPCRA journal*, Spring, 2005, p. 27-29,

**Descriptors / Mots-clés**

**Subject/Sujet:** Conservation; Museum; Recommendation; Collection; Label; Labelling; Documentation; Identification; Inventory; Catalogue; Reversibility; Storage - Conservation; Musée; Recommandation; Collection; Etiquette; Etiquetage; Documentation; Identification; Inventaire; Catalogue; Reversibilité; Dépôt

**Abstract/Résumé:** Outlines the importance and responsibility of every museum professional to ensure that all collection items are properly documented to provide information on its provenance, identification, records of conservation treatments and condition. Issues to consider include securing labels to avoid accidental removal or damage to the object, reversibility, making labels visible yet discreet, convenience, and safety. Discussed in this article are health and safety issues; a summary of risks and safety precautions; materials to avoid; positioning of labels and marks; the selection of an appropriate method; basic techniques; marking packaging or supports; labels for storage; and the convenience of creating labelling and marking kits.

*Shelf no. Per. Grande-Bretagne 97 bis*

**Pollutants in the museum environment: practical strategies for problem solving, exhibition and storage /**

Hatchfield, Pamela B. , London: Archetype Publications, 2002 ; XI, 203 p. : ills., tables ; 27,5 cm. , ISBN 1-873132-96-4

*Shelf no. IV C 103*

**Benchmarks in Collection Care or Museums, Archives and Libraries. A Self-assessment Checklist / Resource:**

The Council for Museums, Galleries and Archives. London: Resource. 2002

[http://www.mla.gov.uk/resources/assets/B/benchmarks\\_pdf\\_6849.pdf](http://www.mla.gov.uk/resources/assets/B/benchmarks_pdf_6849.pdf)

**Sammlungsdokumentation : Geschichte - Wege - Beispiele** / [Landesstelle für die nichtstaatlichen Museen in Bayern. Red.: Monika Dreykorn ...]. - München [u.a.] : Dt. Kunstverl., 2001. - 255 S. . - (MuseumsBausteine ; 6) Literaturverz. S. 235 - 253. ISBN 3-422-06307-2

**Coatings for display and storage in museums** / Tétéreault, Jean , In: *Canadian Conservation Institute technical bulletin*, N. 21, 1999, p. 1-46, fig., tables, ISSN 0706-4152

**Abstract/Résumé:** Coatings are used in museums, archives, and galleries for new construction, storage facilities, or exhibitions; but coatings have the potential to cause damage (such as corrosion and discoloration) to objects either by direct contact or the emission of volatile compounds. Most problems caused by contact can be solved by using interleaves, and problems related to volatile emission can be controlled by selecting appropriate coatings and allowing adequate drying periods. Coatings formed by oxidative polymerization (such as oil-based or alkyd coatings) emit harmful volatile compounds and should be avoided in conservation contexts. Other types of coatings are usually acceptable provided sufficient drying time is allowed: 4 days is usually enough in a ventilated room, but up to 4 weeks may be required in airtight enclosures such as well-sealed display cases and cabinets. The general recommendations in this document are based on the nature and use of the coatings rather than their trade names, as formulations may change. Information on the nature of coatings can be obtained from technical data or material safety data sheets, or tests can be run to determine the properties of a coating. The use of appropriate procedures and mitigation strategies will minimize any risk of damage.

*Shelf no. Per. Canada 2*

**Managing conservation in museums** / Keene, Suzanne, London: Butterworth Heinemann, 1996; XI, 265 p. : fig., tables ; 23 cm.,

**Abstract/Résumé:** This book aims to show conservators and other professionals in museums and libraries that professional management information can be as useful to them as is their own specialist expertise. It reviews the climate in which museums operate today, and then describes the most up-to-date and relevant management techniques. The management information techniques which are explained and sceptically reviewed include performance indicators, strategic planning decision making and priority setting, data analysis and presentation, risk and cost-benefit analysis, and information analysis. These are applied to preventive conservation, work management and conservation planning. In this way, a link is established between the world of professional management and the

current priorities and preoccupations of conservators. These are set in the context of the present museum management climate.

*Shelf no. III E 134*

**Storage of natural history collections : a preventive conservation approach. Volume 1** / Rose, Carolyn L.; Hawks, Catherine A.; Genoways, Hugh H. , Iowa City: Society for the preservation of natural history collections, **1995** ; X, 448 p. : ill. ; 28 cm. , ISBN 0-9635476-1-5

*Shelf no. XIX T 11/1*

**Storage of natural history collections: ideas and practical solutions. Vol. II** / Rose, Carolyn L. (ed.); Torres, Amparo R. de (ed.), Iowa City: Society for the Preservation of Natural History Collections, **1995**; XVI, 346 : ill., fig. ; 28 cm.,

**Abstract/Résumé:** A collection book containing ideas and practical solutions for the storage of natural history collections including anthropological and archive holdings. It includes the following chapters: supports (paper and boards, trays, drawers, hangers, three-dimensional supports, pallets, racks and frames, shelving, tubes); covers; containers (bags, folders, envelopes, enclosures, boxes, subdividers, vials, jars, cases); environmental control (microenvironments, pest control); labels.

*Shelf no. XIX T 11/2*

**Estimating space for the storage of ethnographic collections.** / Walston, Sue; Bertram, Brian , In: *La conservation préventive. ARAAFU, Paris, 8,9 et 10 octobre 1992.*, Paris: ARAAFU, **1992**, p. 137-144, figs., (*Conservation restauration des biens culturels*) , *La conservation préventive*, Paris, France, 19921008-19921010. ISBN 2-907465-02-3

*Shelf no. XXI 292*

**Mount-making for museum objects** / Barclay, Robert L.; Bergeron, André; Dignard, Carole; Schlichting, Carl (ill.) , Ottawa: Canadian Conservation Institute, **1998** ; 57 p. : fig., ill. ; 23 cm. , ISBN 0-660-17531-2

*Shelf no. III D 35*

## Case-studies

**Integrating preventive conservation into a collections move and rehousing project at the National Museum of the American Indian** / Kaplan, Emily; et alii. In: *Journal of the American Institute for Conservation*, Vol. 44, N. 3, **2005**, p. 217-232, table,

**Abstract/Résumé:** In June 2004, the Smithsonian Institution National Museum of the American Indian finished transporting its collection, comprised of approximately 800,000 archaeological and ethnographic artifacts from native cultures throughout the Western Hemisphere, from the museum's Research Branch in the Bronx, New York to the new Cultural Resources Center in Suitland, Maryland. The project took five years to complete and finished on budget and ahead of schedule. Conservators at the New York and Washington, D.C. venues worked to institute high standards of collections care that were integrated into the move and rehousing process. Collaboration with Collections Management, Registration, and Photography staff resulted in the establishment of preventive care procedures for object handling, pest management, packing, transport, and rehousing. This reduced direct object handling. Interventive conservation treatments were minimal and temporary stabilization measures were used often. This article describes the preventive conservation procedures developed over the course of the project and assesses the immediate and long-term benefits of these processes.

*Shelf no. Per. IIC 3*

**Collection management and storage issues at the Vasa Museum** / Lindblom, I. In: *Maritime heritage* / Brebbia, C.A. (ed); Gambin, Timothy (ed). Southampton: Wit Press, **2003**, p. 191-198, ill., (*Advances in architecture*, 15),

**Abstract/Résumé:** The Vasa Museum in Stockholm has approximately 40,000 objects in its collection. This volume of objects has created problems due to lack of storage space. After the discovery of salt precipitates (sulphur) on the museum's centrepiece, the Vasa, and other objects, it was decided that the present storage system was unacceptable. An external warehouse was rented, and objects were documented, assessed for damage and photographed during the relocation process. The aim of the Museum is to create a storage facility doubling as a showroom, well-organised

and conducive to proper object care and handling. The author argues that museum storage systems do not get the same attention as more public museum functions, though a well-organised facility is a long-term investment that will pay for itself.

*Shelf no. VIII A bis 140*

**Rehousing of print collections at the British Museum: the William Blake post binder project and other recent approaches** / Rayner, Judith. **In:** *The paper conservator*, Vol. 27, 2003, p. 35-45, ill.,

**Abstract/Résumé:** The department of prints and drawings at The British Museum has a very large collection of around two million prints, housed and stored in a variety of ways. There is a continuous programme of work to improve the organization and care of this collection and, in recent years, many prints have been rehoused. Because it is a study collection, the priority is not simply safe storage, but protection during handling and viewing. Consideration must also be given to the demands of exhibition and loan programmes, to economic and time factors and to storage space, which is very limited. To satisfy all these requirements a number of routine approaches have been adopted, utilizing, for example, standard-sized mounts in Solander boxes or-especially in recent years-post binders with Melinex sleeves. Such methods are useful when dealing with large numbers of objects but are not necessarily ideal in every case. Conservators responsible for big collections are often under pressure to complete large quantities of work, but must at the same time maintain an alertness and sensitivity to the particular needs of each object or group of objects they encounter and try, where appropriate, to come up with new and better solutions. This article discusses the considerations involved in some recent rehousing projects. It uses a current example involving some of William Blake's illuminated books, to illustrate one way in which a routine approach (in this case the use of post binders) has been adapted to provide a more sympathetic response to the needs of one particular group of objects.

*Shelf no. Per. Grande-Bretagne 35*

**Organiser le stockage de grandes series: part III: l'exemple des Artiodactyles au Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle** / Cuisin, Jacques; Bens, Alain; Martin, Alexis; Pellé, Eric. **In:** *Conservation restauration des biens culturels*, Vol. 24, 2006, p. 51-58, ill.,

**Abstract/Résumé:** Storage of natural history specimens implies several major problems, mainly due to numerous collections, which characterizes this field of heritage. The questions regarding the use of space, easy handling and transport are the two main purposes which should act as guidelines in every storage management project. An example of combination of these aims is given by the authors, who detail the storage of Ungulates at the Museum national d'histoire naturelle (MNHN, Paris). A reduced staff at the MNHN, without external help, performed this example.

*Shelf no. Per. France 45*

**Rehousing ancient glass** / Charette, Sean; Kimbrell, Dawn K.. **In:** *Journal of the American Institute for Conservation*, Vol. 45, n. 2, Summer (2006), p. 79-87, ill.,

**Abstract/Résumé:** A large collection of ancient glass vessels presented a rehousing challenge to conservation and collections care staff members. Based upon a storage survey and condition assessment, five basic rehousing methods were developed using standard archival materials. The methods were designed to protect the collection in storage, minimize vibration during transport within the museum, limit future handling, and support earthquake mitigation efforts.

*Shelf no. Per. IIC 3*

**Rehousing Indian paintings on mica** / Fleming, Nicola. **In:** *ICON News*, n. 4, May (2006), p. 31-33, ill.,

**Abstract/Résumé:** The Assistant Iconographic Curator and Conservator at the Wellcome Trust describes a project to re-house a large collection of these interesting and historically important paintings in the Wellcome Library Collection.

*Shelf no. Per. IIC 9 bis*

**Vers un Plan Delta en Haute-Normandie: enquête sur l'état et les conditions de conservation des collections des musées de France** / Le Ray-Burimi, Sylvie; et alii. **In:** *Technè: la science au service de l'histoire de l'art et des civilisations*, N. 23, 2006, p. 33-39, ill., tables,

**Abstract/Résumé:** In collaboration with the Drac Haute-Normandie (regional cultural department), the C2RMF carried out a short but comprehensive and systematic review of conservation conditions of collections in the 41 Musées de France in the region (i.e. museums recognised by the State and controlled by the museums department

of the Ministry of Culture). The aim was to establish, for the first time in France, a survey on a regional scale in order to define operational guidelines and develop a tool for assessment.

*Shelf no. Per. France 36*

**Les réserves de musée: nouvelles missions, nouvelles fonctions, nouvelles appellations** / May, Roland. **In:** *Technè: la science au service de l'histoire de l'art et des civilisations*, N. 21, 2005, p. 109-112, ill.,

**Abstract/Résumé:** Storage facilities have now become one of the most important components contributing to the conservation, preservation and management of museum collections. As a result of outsourcing and the need to accommodate new collection care needs, storage facilities have undergone profound changes and are moving away from the pattern inherited from the 19th and 20th centuries. In this way storage facilities are beginning to attain a status in their own right, as they are transformed from mere storage areas to conservation-preservation centres. The article focuses on the development of this new generation of museum storage, drawing on several French examples to illustrate different manifestations of this transformation.

*Shelf no. Per. France 36*

**Workshop on reorganizing museum storage taking into account preventive conservation methods, 13-28 October 2004: report** / Jain, Kamal K. / ICCROM. Rome, Italy / National Research Laboratory for Conservation of Cultural Property (NRLC). Lucknow, India / INTACH - Indian Council of Conservation Institutes (ICCI). Lucknow, India / Bharat Kala Bhavan. Varanasi, India / Royal Tropical Institute (KIT). Amsterdam, Netherlands, Lucknow: NRLC, 2004; ca. 150 p. (unpaginated) : ill. ; 30 cm., *Reorganizing museum storage taking into account preventive conservation methods : workshop*, Varanasi;Lucknow, India, 20041013-20041028.

*Shelf no. III G 34*

**Etat des réserves: de sérieuses réserves** / Bertin, Jacques. **In:** *Nuances: bulletin d'information de l'ARIPA*, N. 33, 2004, p. 3-6., ill.,

**Abstract/Résumé:** In July 2003, the cultural commission of the French senate reported problems in the current management of collections in public museums. This article comments on this report, emphasizing concerns related to poor storage conditions, inventory, loan, curatorial and conservation activities. The senate report states that a tardy awareness of preventive conservation is detrimental to the collections and that thus far cultural policy has emphasized museum architectural projects, neglecting areas such as the long-term preservation of collections. The author underlines defects in inventory procedures and storage climate conditions. A systematic assessment is required to evaluate the needs and costs for the recovery of appropriate conditions and planning of an adequate conservation policy.

*Shelf no. Per. France 59*

**Perpignan, un projet de réserves externalisées et communes: pour une nouvelle démarche en matière de programmation des collections et de projet de réserves** / Della Monica, Anne; Deloncle, Jacques; May, Roland; Valaison, Marie-Claude. **In:** *Technè: la science au service de l'histoire de l'art et des civilisations*, N. 19, 2004, p. 106-114, ill.,

**Abstract/Résumé:** The city of Perpignan has decided to create a common reserve facility for the collections of its Rigaud Museum of Fine Arts and of the Casa Pairal Museum of Ethnography. This project was tackled with a global methodological approach setting the collections at the centre of the debate. A preventive conservation study of the collections was carried out, from which a working programme for the collections was defined (diagnosis, emergency treatment and consolidations), a transfer operation (packaging, transport), a planning of the storage facility (rooms, furniture) for the administrative authority, as well as training courses for the staff and the modalities of a conservation policy after the project was achieved. Such an approach emphasises the need for a previous and global debate and a real planning for the reserves, which can no longer be considered as a simple storage location.

*Shelf no. Per. France 36*

**Musée du quai Branly collections conservation programme: preventive conservation to match the requirements of a national collection. Workshop organisation, management and treatment protocols** / Naffah, Christiane (ed.), Paris: Musée du quai Branly, 2004; 96 p. : ill., figs., tables ; 26,5 cm.,

**Geographic/Géographie:** France - France

**Abstract/Résumé:** After 1998 mission to establish the new public museum, the Musée du Quai Branly, included the incorporation of a collection conservation laboratory as an integral aspect of the project from the outset. In 2001 it was decided to adopt an approach of systematic preventive conservation based on a process of integrated treatment.

The work began with the preparation of the collections for the move from their original locations - the Musée National des Arts d'Afrique et d'Océanie and the Musée de l'Homme - and was completed with the transfer of the materials to the new exhibition and storage facilities. In the intermediary phases the collections were surface cleaned, photographed for documentation and 3-D modeling, and disinfested. Conservation challenges included the development of protocols and a repertoire of materials for the handling and packing of materials and interventions such as consolidation and fungicide treatment. The work was completed on September 30, 2004, and involved the processing of 300,000 objects of immense diversity in type, techniques, materials, provenance, and time period. Managerial and organizational aspects of the project are described, as well as the full range of conservation techniques that were used.

*Shelf no. III E 172/3*

**The preservation of detached mosaics: addressing storage and transformation problems resulting from the large-scale re-development of the central district of Beirut** / Skaf, Isabelle; Roby, Thomas. **In:** *Les mosaïques: conserver pour présenter? VIIème conférence du Comité international pour la conservation des mosaïques, 22-28 novembre 1999, Arles, France: actes* / Blanc, Patrick (ed); Blanc-Bijon, Véronique (ed). Comité international pour la conservation des mosaïques = International Committee for the Conservation of Mosaics (ICCM) Arles: s.n., **2003**, p. 221-228, ill., *Conférence of the International Committee for the conservation of mosaics*, 7, Arles, France, 19991122-19991128.

**Abstract/Résumé:** The packing, transportation, and permanent storage of more than 700sq. m. of Roman-Byzantine mosaics lifted during excavation in downtown Beirut three years earlier is described. This rescue operation and the pilot treatment of one of the mosaics have demonstrated the potential for their future presentation to the public.

*Shelf no. XI bis 91*

**Rehousing a collection of archaeological textiles** / Peacock, Elizabeth E.; Griffin, Elizabeth. **In:** *The conservator*, N. 22, **1998**, p. 68-80, fig., tables,

**Abstract/Résumé:** In 1996-97, the collection of over 2400 textiles from excavations of the mediaeval cultural levels in the city of Trondheim, Norway, were rehoused for storage and research. The new system had to be compatible with the existing high-density mobile storage units and the demands of a research collection. A review of systems recommended for the storage of archaeological textiles yielded none which could be directly adopted. The modular system which evolved consists of transparent polystyrene crystal boxes with removable museumboard trays covered in cotton/modal jersey knit fabric slipcases. Textiles are held in place by the nap of the fabric. These ready-to-use containers are quick and efficient to assemble, employing no adhesive materials. The textiles are not restrained and are therefore directly accessible from both sides, and can be removed for analysis. Access to the collection is through a computerized textile database which also formed part of the rehousing project.

*Shelf no. Per. IIC 10*

**Archaeological archives: access for all** / Wallis, Jonathan; Pearson, David. **In:** *Archaeological conservation and its consequences: preprints of the contributions to the Copenhagen congress, 26-30 August 1996* / Roy, Ashok (ed.). IIC. London, United Kingdom. London: International Institute for Conservation, **1996**, p. 203-207, fig., *Archaeological conservation and its consequences*, Copenhagen, Denmark, 19960826-19960830.

**Abstract/Résumé:** Oxfordshire Museums are committed to providing access to their collections for the people of Oxfordshire and other interested researchers. This commitment is potentially in conflict with the long-term preservation of the collections. To resolve this conflict various options have been considered. In October 1993 the museum's archaeological collections were rehoused in a purpose-built storage facility, which also contains extensive facilities for conservation, documentation and study. This storage facility offers a range of controlled environments for housing fragile archaeological material. The storage of small finds, particularly archaeological metals, is designed to allow visual inspection without the need for handling. A procedural framework has been implemented that is designed to standardize archive format and content at the time of deposition by archaeological excavators, and to facilitate the transfer of documentation to a computerized database. The database is being enhanced with digitized images of artifacts and extended to enable multimedia public access at museums and libraries throughout the county. This approach will maximize access while reducing the risk of physical damage to fragile objects.

*Shelf no. VII D 146*

**Ekthese kai apotheyse moyseiakon antikeimenon...** / Stamatopoulou, Eugenie. **In:** *Archaiologia*, N. 86, **2003**, p. 59-63, ill., tables,

**Abstract/Résumé:** The construction materials (wood, paper, textile, varnishes, pigments, synthetic membranes and foamy rubber) used for the exhibition and storage of museum collections may function as factors of serious damage of the sensitive items. Lists of materials and the sort and extension of erosion that may cause as well as the groups of sensitive museum collections are presented in this article, while the proper construction materials that must be chosen and used are mentioned. Finally, solutions are given for the restoration and upgrading of the storage and exhibition systems of museum objects, aiming at the partial or total elimination of the damage, which may be caused to these objects by unsuitable construction materials.

*Shelf no. Per. Grèce 3*

**Upgrading the Ghana National Museum storage area.** / Labi, Kwame Amoah. **In:** *La conservation préventive. ARAAFU, Paris, 8,9 et 10 octobre 1992.*, Paris: ARAAFU, **1992**, p. 129-136, (*Conservation restauration des biens culturels*), *La conservation préventive*, Paris, France, 19921008-19921010.

**Descriptors / Mots-clés**

**Subject/Sujet:** Museum; storage - Musée; depot

**Abstract/Résumé:** Les collections déposées dans les réserves du Musée National du Ghana y étaient improprement entreposées et conservées; une intervention étant nécessaire et urgente, une expertise fut réalisée par l'ICCROM et un projet de sauvegarde des collections associant les deux organismes fut mis au point. Ce projet fut établi après une soigneuse évaluation des collections, des réserves, du personnel et de ses besoins en matière de formation, des équipements et des budgets. Il inclut la formation du personnel et la mise en place de programmes de maintenance et d'entretien. La mise en conformité des réserves a nécessité trois mois de travaux, exécutés par le personnel local auquel se sont associés des enseignants et des Étudiants, ainsi que des enseignants venus de l'étranger. Cet article détaille les éléments essentiels de la réhabilitation des réserves, qu'il synthétise en un tableau. Il présente ensuite le programme de maintenance et les moyens envisagés pour l'appliquer.

*Shelf no. XXI 292*

**Improving storage and access of the State Library of Victoria's large glass plate negative collection** / Nousala, Susu. **In:** *The imperfect image: photographs their past, present and future. Conference proceedings: Papers presented at the Centre for Photographic Conservation's first international conference... Windermere, 6th-10th April 1992* / The Centre for Photographic Conservation. London, United Kingdom. London: The Centre for Photographic Conservation, **1992**, p. 105-109, *The imperfect image: photographs their past, present and future*, Windermere, United Kingdom, 19920406-19920410.

**Abstract/Résumé:** Since 11th February 1856, the State Library of Victoria has been collecting a wide variety of books, manuscripts, maps and pictures. During this time the new technology of photography was rapidly developing and this was the beginning of a very extensive and valuable collection of photographic material. Currently much of the glass plate collection has little or no appropriate access. Providing safe access to the public would require the development of several large operations. Firstly, the general condition of the collection needed to be assessed. Secondly, conservation work would eventually be required and finally, the provision of a system for safe accessibility had to be developed. The photographic survey was designed, developed and commenced in August 1990 to assist in the assessment of conservation priorities and treatments. Information sort early on the survey showed that large scale copying, cleaning and storage programmes where needed immediately if access was to improved at all.

*Shelf no. XXIV C 105*