



**TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION**  
*real places telling real stories*



## Collections Protection



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## Curatorial Facility for Artifact Research (CFAR)



## Purpose Of the Webinar

Facilities like CFAR exist in order to safeguard artifacts from potential damage and to slow the deterioration of collections.



Today, we're going to discuss some of the threats to your collection so you will know how to best prepare for them.



## Threats to Collections

- Light
- Fluctuating temps and humidity
- Improper storage
- Natural disasters
- Human-caused disasters
- Atmospheric pollutants
- Poor handling
- Pests



## Light



Starr Family Home parlor with window coverings and UV filtering film



Leather book faded by light



UV Light Filtering Film



Light Meter



## Temperature and Humidity



Standard thermostat found in most businesses and homes. They typically only convey temperature.



Digital humidity reader. A less expensive option for measuring humidity.



Digital hygrometer. It measures humidity and is a more expensive option.



## Improper Storage



What's wrong in these photos?



## Natural and Man Made Disasters



Hurricane damage



Roof leak



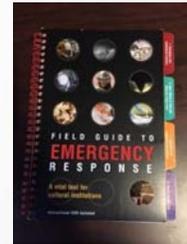
Piano damage caused by AC overflow in attic



Sprinkler heads



Fire suppression system



Always have an emergency plan in place!



## Atmospheric Pollutants



Exhibit area at Fort McKavett. This site is in a dry climate and if not cleaned several times a month, a fine layer of grit and dust accumulate.



Dust cover



Vacuuming through a screen



## Poor Handling



Good!



Bad!



## Pests



Roaches



Evidence of rodents



Insect damage



## Let's Get Specific!

We've talked about what poses threats to a collection, now let's look at how these threats can affect some of the artifacts commonly found in your collections.



## Documents and Photographs



Photos in original acidic sleeves and improperly stored.



Example of an archival box with photos inside of it



Proper encasing of photos



Documents in Mylar sleeves



## Encapsulation

1890s camp lot map of Confederate Reunion Grounds



Before treatment. Map has water damage and has been improperly stored.



After conservation. Map has been gently flattened, cleaned, and encapsulated in a mylar custom-made folder.



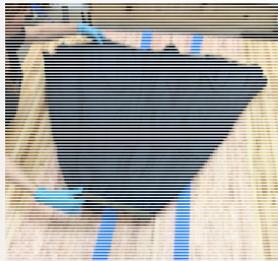
## Textiles: Clothing and Quilts



Preparing a costume for storage



Carpets wrapped in muslim and rolled on archival storage tubes.



Archival padded hanger



Flat costume storage



## Metal Objects



Metal tools conserved and bagged for storage.



Encasing small metal pieces in archival quality bags



Recently restored tractor at Sam Rayburn House



## Mixed Media



Chest consisting of metal, leather, and pasteboard.



Trunk opened and exposed to sunlight in order to kill mold.



## Museum Services at the THC

The Museum Services Program of the Texas Historical Commission enables small history museums to better carry out their missions by helping them to increase their capacity for meeting professional standards. We do this by providing:

- Free consultations
- Training
- Communication

Please contact us with any questions you may have about the webinar or anything else museum related.

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<http://www.thc.texas.gov/preserve/projects-and-programs/museum-services>



## Question and Answer Time

Today we discussed the different types of threats to your collections and talked about the common types of artifacts found at your museum or historic site that may face these threats.



Now it's your turn to ask questions!

**Please use the chat or discussion box on the right hand side of your screen.**

Thank you for your participation in this webinar!



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