Professional Certificate in Paper and Ink Conservation

Treatment Techniques for Paper

Treatment Techniques for Paper in the Professional Certificate in Paper and Ink Conservation
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This explanation covers key terms and vocabulary related to treatment techniques for paper in the Professional Certificate in Paper and Ink Conservation. It is divided into several sections, including:

* Introduction
* Examination and Analysis
* Cleaning
* Mending and Support
* Flattening and Humidification
* Disbinding and Rebinding
* Encapsulation and Housing
* Storage and Handling
* Digitization and Imaging
* Conclusion

Examination and Analysis

Examination: The process of visually inspecting an object to assess its condition, construction, and materials. This can include using magnification, such as a microscope, to see details that are not visible to the naked eye.

Non-destructive testing (NDT): A group of techniques used to examine an object without causing damage. Examples include ultraviolet (UV) and infrared (IR) light examination, which can reveal hidden details such as previous repairs or alterations.

Analytical testing: The use of scientific methods, such as chromatography or spectroscopy, to identify the materials and techniques used in the creation of an object. This information can be used to inform treatment decisions and to better understand the object's history.

Imaging: The use of cameras and other equipment to create visual records of an object, which can be used for documentation, examination, and analysis. This can include techniques such as raking light, which can reveal surface texture and details, and X-ray radiography, which can reveal internal structure.

Cleaning

Dry cleaning: The process of removing dirt and surface contaminants from an object using a dry, non-abrasive method. This can include using erasers, brushes, or vacuum cleaners.

Wet cleaning: The process of cleaning an object using a liquid, such as water or a solvent. This can be done by immersing the object in the liquid or by using a swab or sponge to apply the liquid to specific areas.

Aqueous cleaning: A type of wet cleaning that uses water as the cleaning agent. This can be done by immersing the object in water or by using a spray or mist.

Solvent cleaning: A type of wet cleaning that uses a chemical solvent as the cleaning agent. This can be done by immersing the object in the solvent or by using a swab or sponge to apply the solvent to specific areas.

Mending and Support

Mending: The process of repairing tears, breaks, and other damage to an object. This can include using adhesives, such as wheat starch paste, to reattach torn pieces or using Japanese paper to fill in missing areas.

Support: The process of providing additional structural support to an object to prevent further damage or to help it maintain its shape. This can include using hinges to attach pages to a book binding or using corner reinforces to strengthen the corners of a document.

Tear repair: A specific type of mending used to repair tears in an object. This can include using adhesives to reattach torn pieces or using Japanese paper to fill in missing areas.

Flattening and Humidification

Flattening: The process of removing wrinkles, creases, and other distortions from an object. This can be done by using heat, weight, or humidity to relax the fibers in the paper and allow them to return to their original shape.

Humidification: The process of adding moisture to an object to make it more pliable and easier to flatten. This can be done by using a humidification chamber or by using a humidifier to create a moist environment around the object.

Blotter washing: A type of humidification that uses blotters, which are absorbent sheets of paper, to slowly and evenly add moisture to an object. This is a gentle and controlled method that can be used to humidify and flatten fragile or valuable objects.

Disbinding and Rebinding

Disbinding: The process of separating the pages or sections of a bound object, such as a book or

manuscript, so that they can be treated individually.

Rebinding: The process of reassembling the pages or sections of a bound object and attaching them to a new binding. This can be done using traditional methods, such as sewing, or using modern methods, such as adhesive binding.

Encapsulation and Housing

Encapsulation: The process of enclosing an object in a transparent, protective sleeve, such as a polyester film or mylar sleeve. This can be done to protect the object from environmental factors, such as dust, light, and pollutants, and to make it easier to handle and display.

Housing: The process of providing a container or enclosure for an object to protect it from environmental factors and to provide support during handling and storage. This can include using drop-spine boxes or clamshell boxes to store flat objects, or using custom-fit trays to store three-dimensional objects.

Storage and Handling

Storage: The process of safely storing an object to protect it from environmental factors and to prevent damage. This can include using archival quality storage materials, such as acid-free boxes and folders, and storing objects in a stable, controlled environment, such as a temperature and humidity regulated storage room.

Handling: The process of safely handling an object to prevent damage. This can include using gloves to protect the object from oils and dirt from hands, and using support tools to hold the object during examination and treatment.

Digitization and Imaging

Digitization: The process of creating a digital copy of an object using cameras, scanners, or other equipment. This can be done to create a permanent record of the object, to make it accessible to a wider audience, or to allow for non-destructive examination and analysis.

Imaging: The use of cameras and other equipment to create visual records of an object, which can be used for documentation, examination, and analysis. This can include techniques such as raking light, which can reveal surface texture and details, and X-ray radiography, which can reveal internal structure.

Conclusion

This explanation has covered key terms and vocabulary related to treatment techniques for paper in the Professional Certificate in Paper and Ink Conservation. It has discussed examination and analysis, cleaning, mending and support, flattening and humidification, disbinding and rebinding, encapsulation and housing,

storage and handling, and digitization and imaging. Understanding these terms and techniques is essential for conservators working with paper-based objects.

In summary, conservation of paper-based objects requires a deep understanding of the materials, techniques and processes used in their creation, as well as the agents of deterioration that may affect them. Conservators use a variety of treatment techniques to clean, repair, and stabilize objects, while also taking into account their historical, cultural, and aesthetic significance. The goal of conservation is to preserve the original object as much as possible, while also making it accessible for study, exhibition, and use.

A conservator must be able to assess the condition of an object, select the appropriate treatment techniques, and carry out the treatment in a way that is safe, effective, and reversible. They must also be able to document their work and communicate their findings to other professionals, as well as to the public. The terms and techniques discussed in this explanation are essential for anyone working in the field of paper conservation.