

ABDUR RASHEED

Recent Trends in Book and Paper Conservation

Abstract

Paper based materials have been used extensively in recording history and expressing one's thoughts, ideas and expressions. These annals are arranged in the form of codices and scrolls, are often manuscripts in various government libraries, repositories, museums and private collections. A challenging responsibility is to care for the collection and to preserve it for future generations.

This paper provides an insight to the nature of collections of paper-based materials in various repositories in India and the modus operandi of storage custodians. All regions have their own climatic conditions, and according to these conditions, custodians use traditional practices. Some tested and effective practices will be covered in the paper.

Books made of paper and other cellulose material are susceptible to deterioration due to acidity, fluctuating relative humidity, high temperature and light. Previously, cellulose acetate foil for lining paper was used and then later, it was abandoned; cellulose acetate foil was replaced by Japanese tissue paper lining. The present use of this treatment will also be highlighted.

In the final segment of this paper, recent developments in prevention, the use of acid free paper and archival boxes (made of acid free mount board) and their efficacy will be incorporated.