Overcoming Risk in Shared Print Programs

EAST Members Meeting, October 2019

ReCAP
The Research Collections and Preservation Consortium

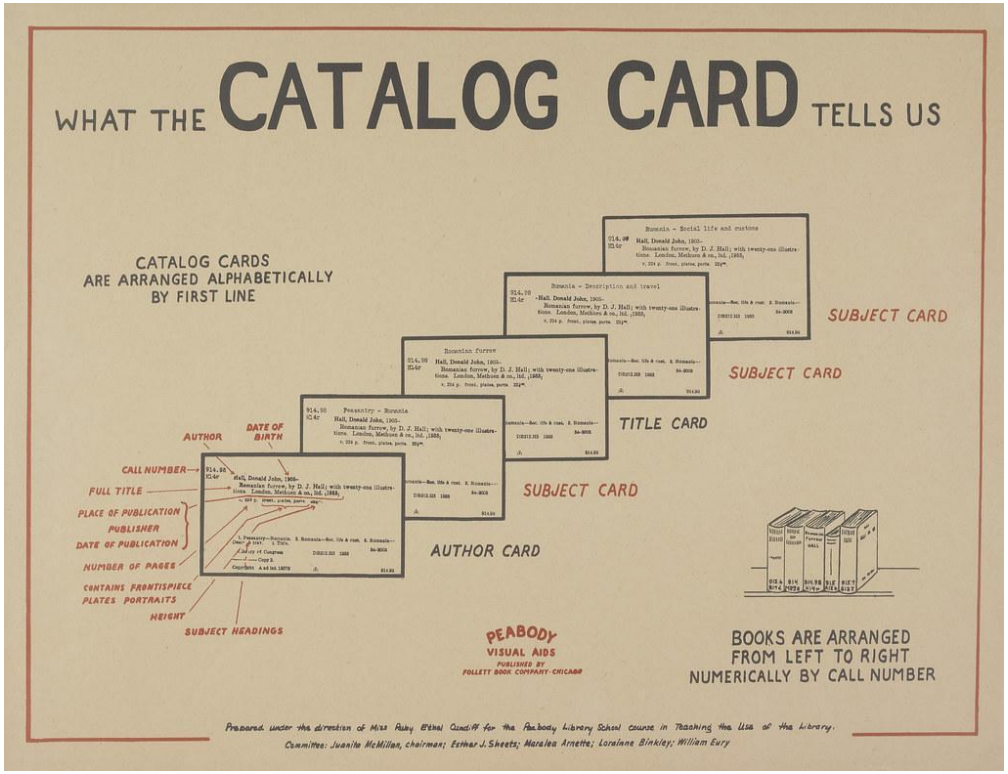
ReCAP
The Research Collections and Preservation Consortium

Adequate Number of Copies

https://pixabay.com/photos/chess-white-pawns-parts-pawns-game-1672569/

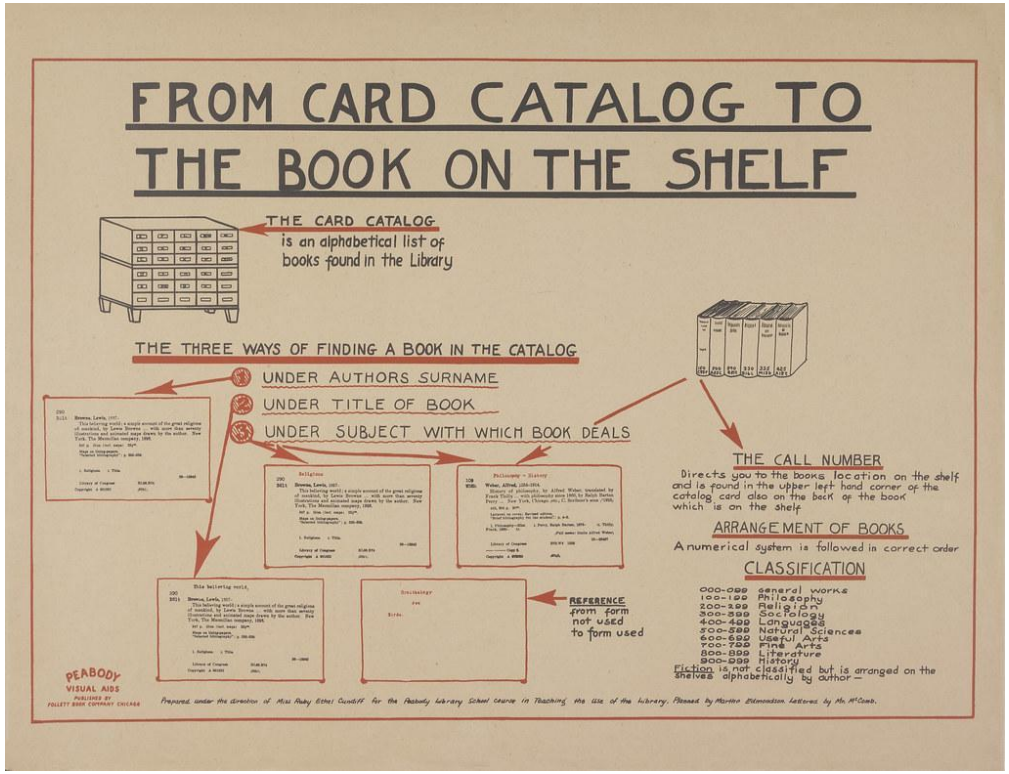
ReCAP
The Research Collections and Preservation Consortium

Record Quality & Accuracy



https://www.flickr.com/photos/68103485@N05/6197933357

Cataloging & Validation



https://www.flickr.com/photos/68103485@N05/6208388149

ReCAP
The Research Collections and Preservation Consortium

Retention Commitments

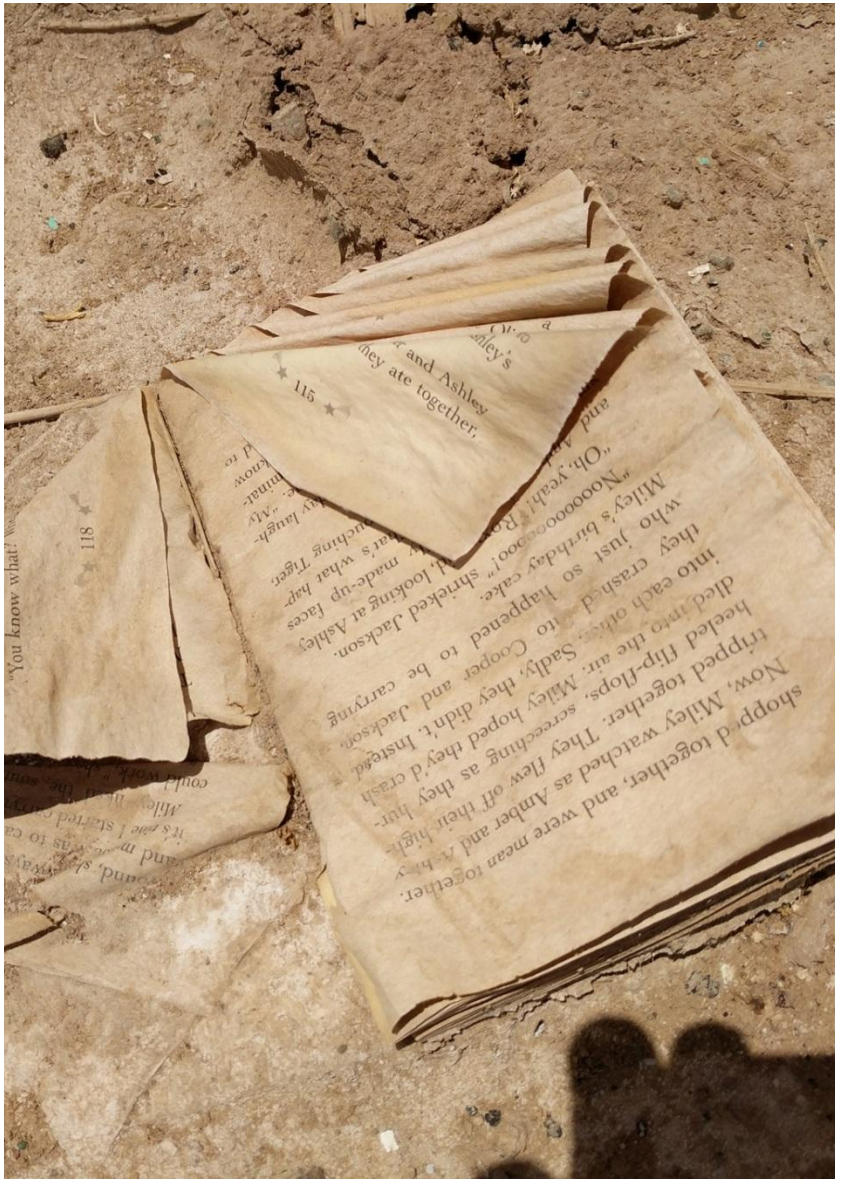
https://www.flickr.com/photos/denimdave/3329233875

Withdrawal & Last Copy Policies

https://www.publicdomainpictures.net/en/view-image.php?image=11968&picture=unique-concept

ReCAP
The Research Collections and Preservation Consortium

Loss Rates



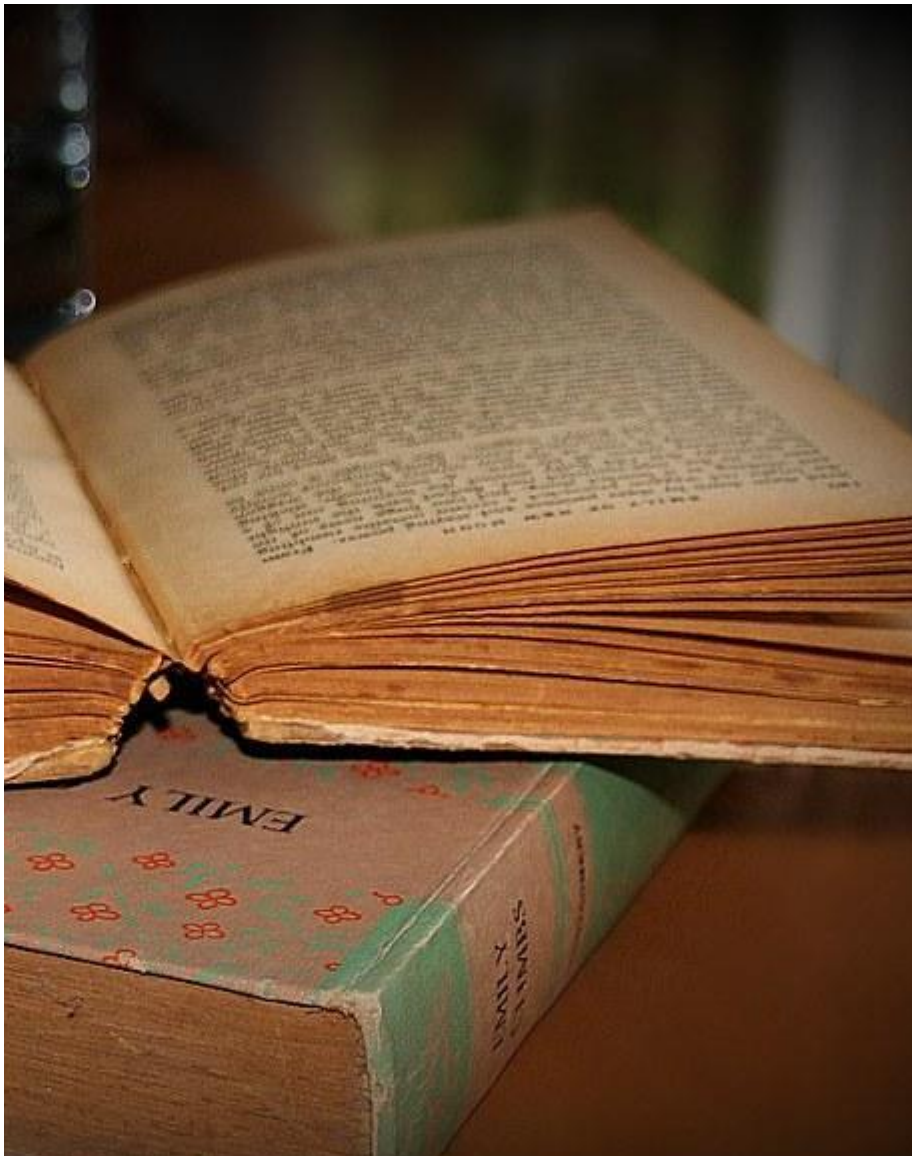
https://www.needpix.com/photo/1530668/book-old-grunge-literacy-literate-illiterate-read-trash-garbage

Storage Condition

https://pixabay.com/photos/snowhotel-the-door-corridor-ice-3981126/

ReCAP
The Research Collections and Preservation Consortium

Current Condition



https://www.flickr.com/photos/53368913@N05/6388123751

Assessing the Physical Condition of the National Collection

- Amount Awarded: $540,000
- Duration Jan 2019 – May 2022
- Mellon Foundation Funding
- Description:

The research project will provide data to objectively assess the condition of the books held in the United States by performing an in-depth scientific analysis on a representative sample.

The physical, chemical and optical data will help ensure that large-scale withdrawal of materials does not compromise the overall robustness of cultural heritage collections, informing the shared print, preservation and digitization communities.

ReCAP
The Research Collections and Preservation Consortium

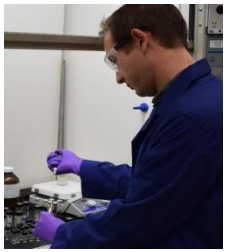
Research Library Partner Institutions

- Cornell University
- University of Miami
- University of Washington
- Arizona State University
- University of Colorado at Boulder

- Data librarian and statistician from EAST (formerly Northeast Regional Library Print Management Project) contributing to the data analysis

ReCAP
The Research Collections and Preservation Consortium

Test Methodology



- Size exclusion chromatography (SEC)
  - Measures the molecular weight that corresponds to loss of physical integrity in paper.
- Ultraviolet / Visible spectroscopy (UV/VIS)
  - An optical measure of the difference between volumes held in different locations, (potential for moving towards completely non-invasive)

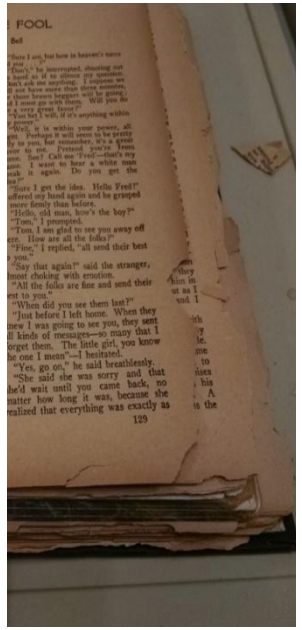
- Acidity - pH
  - The PRTD developed mini-pH test using a much smaller sample than previously required
- Tensile testing
  - A far better predictor of paper stability than the commonly used fold test.
- Infrared Spectroscopy (IR)
  - IR spectra measures specific changes at the molecular.
  - *We can instantly see if the volumes are made from the same paper.*

Field evaluations or “stack tests”

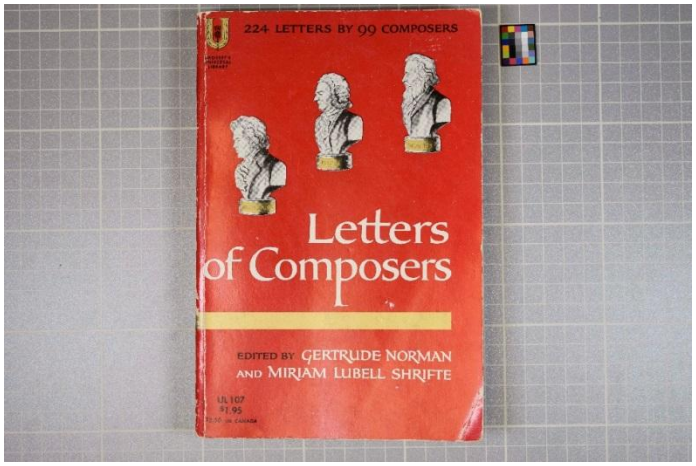
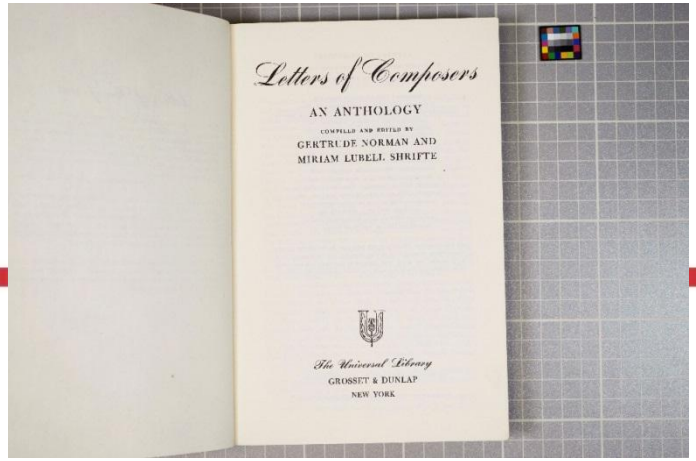
- In addition to laboratory tests, this study will feature a series of field evaluations or “stack tests” designed to assess the relative condition of monographs in the stacks, without requiring them to be brought to the laboratory

- Stack tests have three further constraining factors. *They must be:*
  (1) inexpensive, so that they can be readily available at multiple sites,
  (2) quick, so that their results can be useful in decision-making
  (3) simple to perform

- *Tests will include*:
  - pH pen/other — to assess the accuracy and ease of use
  - Optical test using an inexpensive (potentially a phone app)
  - Fold or bend testing for strength



ReCAP
The Research Collections and Preservation Consortium

Visual & Bibliographic Assessment

Book Condition Checklist										
Sample ID										
Institution										
Page Removed										
Title										
Author										
Volume/Edition										
Copyright/Publication Date										
Publisher										
Dimensions (height)										
Enclosures (if any)										
Description										
Binding:										
☐	Original	☐	Leather	☐	None					
☐	Paperback	☐	Publishers Cloth	☐	Missing					
☐	Softcover	☐	Library bound	☐	Other:					
☐	Overall Color:	Red	Orange	Yellow	Blue	Green	Purple	Black	White	Multi
Leaf Attachment:										
☐	Sewn	☐	Adhesive							
Textblock:										
☐	Printing ink	Black	color	☐	Obvious Multiple Papers					
☐	Illustrations			☐	Tipped-in Additions					
☐	Paper:	Calendared		☐	Other:					
Condition	Would the Library lend it?									
Cover:										
☐	Worn edges	☐	Warped			☐	Label			
☐	Damaged corners	☐	Damage:	loss	lifting	powdering	☐	Faded		
☐	Torn	☐	Partially detached:	front	back	Spine	☐	Other:		
☐	Stained	☐	Obvious repair							
☐	Broken Spine	☐	Notations							
Textblock:										
☐	Written annotations:	Major	Minor	☐	Stained	☐	Textblock separation			
☐	Uncut			☐	Foxing	☐	Paper edge discoloration			
☐	Unbimmed			☐	Water damage	☐	Obvious repair			
☐	Changes in ink (eg. Fading, offset, strike-throughs)			☐	Brittle /crumbling	☐	Other:			
☐	Corner/page loss			☐	Loose pages	☐	Inserts			
☐	Paper color:	White	Cream	Apparent overall yellowing