

**Heritage Health Index**

Heritage Preservation and the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) have released the findings of their recent national survey in *A Public Trust at Risk: The Heritage Health Index Report on the State of America's Collections*. This report compiles the survey responses from 3,370 U.S. cultural institutions that collectively hold approximately 4.8 billion artifacts of all types. The findings indicate that storage conditions pose the greatest threat to collections. Approximately 75 percent of the institutions surveyed have no environmental controls in collection areas, and 65 percent reported damage to collections because of improper storage. Approximately 80 percent reported they do not have an emergency plan or staff trained in emergency response. Heritage Preservation calculates that deficiency places more than 2.6 billion objects at increased risk from catastrophic loss. Approximately 80 percent have no paid staff members for collections care, and 70 percent do not have an up-to-date assessment of their collections condition. In light of these findings, Heritage Preservation is urging new efforts to fund preservation of our nation's inheritance.

The entire report is available free-of-charge as a 1.2 MB PDF at [www.heritage-healthindex.org](http://www.heritage-healthindex.org). For more information, contact Moira Egan at (202) 233-0800 or [megan@heritagepreservation.org](mailto:megan@heritagepreservation.org).

**Environmental workbook**

The Image Permanence Institute (IPI) has mounted *Step-by-Step Workbook: Achieving a Preservation Environment for Collections* on its Web site. This 59-page document is a result of IPI's ongoing work in the development of environmental monitoring equip-

ment and software, and training in their use. It covers the importance of environmental monitoring, the process of managing an environment that safeguards collections, the effect of environment on collections natural aging and rates of decay, the nature of buildings and HVAC systems, the evaluation of storage environments, and actions that can be taken to improve collection environments.

The workbook is available free-of-charge for printing or downloading at [www.imagepermanenceinstitute.org/sub\\_pages/CNBworkbook.pdf](http://www.imagepermanenceinstitute.org/sub_pages/CNBworkbook.pdf).

**NARA conference**

Beyond the Numbers: Specifying and Achieving an Efficient Preservation Environment, the 20th Annual National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) Conference, will be held March 16, 2006, in Washington, D.C. This conference will examine how cultural institutions can, despite increasing construction and energy costs and decreasing funds, effectively design and manage appropriate environments for preservation of collections. Speakers include Ernie Conrad of Landmark Facilities Group, Jim Reilly of the Image Permanence Institute, Richard Kershner of the Shelburne Museum, Peter Herzog of Herzog-Wheeler and Associates, Gail Joyce of the National Museum of the American Indian, and Doris Hamburg, Nancy Davis, Linda Blaser, Bryan McGraw, and Ann Seibert of NARA.

The conference costs \$85, with a reduced cost of \$40 for full-time students. An online registration form is available at [www.archives.gov/preservation/conferences/2006/](http://www.archives.gov/preservation/conferences/2006/) and, because space is limited, registration is recommended before March 1. For more information, contact Richard Schneider, Conference Coordinator, National Archives, NWT, Room B-815, College Park, MD 20740; phone: (301) 837-3617; e-mail: [richard\\_schneider@nara.gov](mailto:richard_schneider@nara.gov). *zz*

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