

NDLF update

The National Digital Library Federation (NDLF) decided in June 1996 to become a charter organization and to focus its efforts in three major areas of digital resource development: 1) "discovery and retrieval" (improving ease of access and searching across heterogeneous digital collections), 2) "intellectual property rights and economic models" (implementing a common rights policy for the collections included in the NDLF which would encourage participation), and 3) "archiving of digital information" (fostering commitment to the preservation of NDLF digital collections). These initiatives emerged during the past year as important prerequisites for building a successful network of digital resources that is "consistent, coherent, and high quality."

Current NDLF participants are: the Library of Congress, the National Archives and Records Administration, New York Public Library, the Commission on Preservation and Access, and the University Libraries of California-Berkeley, Columbia, Cornell, Emory, Harvard, Michigan, Pennsylvania State, Princeton, Southern California, Stanford, Tennessee-Knoxville, and Yale.

For more information, consult the NDLF Web site at <http://lcweb.loc.gov/loc/ndlf>.

NEDCC mounts homepage

The Northeast Document Conservation Center (NEDCC) in Andover, Massachusetts, has mounted a new homepage on the World Wide Web. As of this writing, it describes NEDCC staff, training opportunities, publications, and services (conservation, preservation microfilming, photographic reproduction, disaster assistance and field services). It also includes an extensive section of frequently asked preservation questions, connections to related internet resources, and information on funding sources for preservation. The homepage may be found at <http://www.nedcc.org>.

PSC frames new research agenda

The Preservation Science Council (PSC) of the Commission on Preservation and Access has developed six new projects with which it hopes



to encourage scientific research. The topics are: 1) developing methods for providing optimum environmental conditions at the lowest cost, using existing HVAC equipment, 2) testing the longevity of adhesives used in library binding, 3) understanding the speed at which books, tapes, and films equilibrate to changes in temperature and relative humidity and how enclosures may slow the rate of

equilibration, 4) using a life cycle cost analysis tool to manage the costs of maintaining collections of paper, film, and magnetic media, 5) determining the effect of repeated paper recycling on the strength and color of the resulting paper, and 6) creating a low-cost, comprehensive, computer-based system for delivering and analyzing environmental information.

PSC is composed of 15 preservation administrators from major libraries or archives and five scientists. It was charged with developing a realistic research agenda that will address serious preservation needs, target important cultural materials, produce meaningful results, and generate management tools that can be readily used by the profession.

For more information, contact Maxine Sitts, Commission on Preservation and Access, 1400 16th St., N.W., Suite 740, Washington, DC 20036; phone: (202) 939-3402; fax: (202) 939-3407.

Book repair manual now on the Web

Dartmouth College Library has mounted a manual of simple book repairs on the World Wide Web. It covers guiding principles, parts of a book, tools, setting up a repair area, identifying materials appropriate for repair, and instructions for ten repairs (including torn pages, hinge repair, corner cover repair, wet books, and hinge tightening). It can be found at <http://www.dartmouth.edu/~preserve/tofc.html>. ■

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