

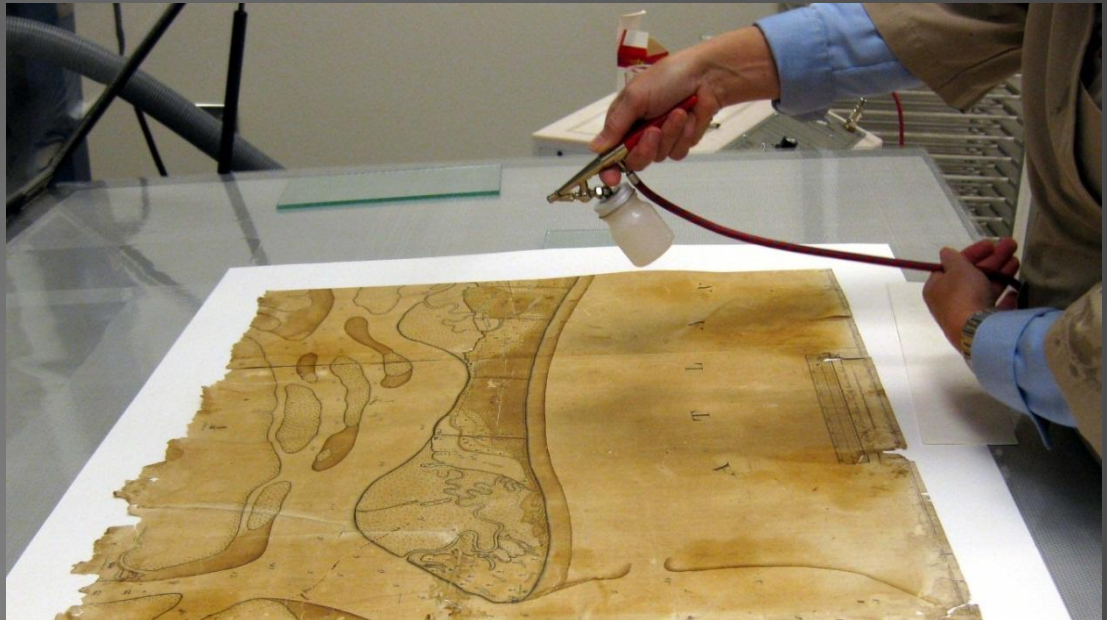
TIPS FOR CHOOSING A CONSERVATOR

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Connecting to Collections
Webinar

Heritage Preservation

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The Georgia Archives

PRESERVATION

The range of activities an institution undertakes to extend the life of its collections



CONSERVATION

physical stabilization or treatment of cultural heritage items that are damaged or deteriorated

DEFINITIONS

- ▶ Restoration – treatment with the goal of restoring an item to its original appearance
- ▶ Conservator - professionals who perform the treatment of cultural property
 - ▶ Graduate school training
 - ▶ Apprenticeship training with an experienced conservator

CONSERVATORS

- ▶ Many specialties
 - ▶ art on paper
 - ▶ books
 - ▶ paintings
 - ▶ photographs
 - ▶ electronic media
 - ▶ textiles
 - ▶ furniture
 - ▶ archaeological and ethnographic objects



AMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR CONSERVATION (AIC)

- ▶ Professional organization that represents conservators
- ▶ Code of ethics for treatment
- ▶ No certification for conservators
- ▶ Categories of membership
 - ▶ Associate
 - ▶ Professional Associate
 - ▶ Fellow
- ▶ <http://www.conservation-us.org/>

WHERE DO CONSERVATORS WORK?


- ▶ Large museums, libraries and archives
- ▶ Regional conservation centers
 - ▶ ARCC – Assn of Regional Conservation Centers
 - ▶ RAP – Regional Alliance for Preservation

<http://www.rap-arcc.org/>

- ▶ Private practice



WHEN IS A CONSERVATOR NEEDED?

- ▶ Provide assistance after an emergency or disaster
 - ▶ Answer general questions about collections care
 - ▶ Conduct a needs assessment or condition survey
 - ▶ Contract conservation treatment
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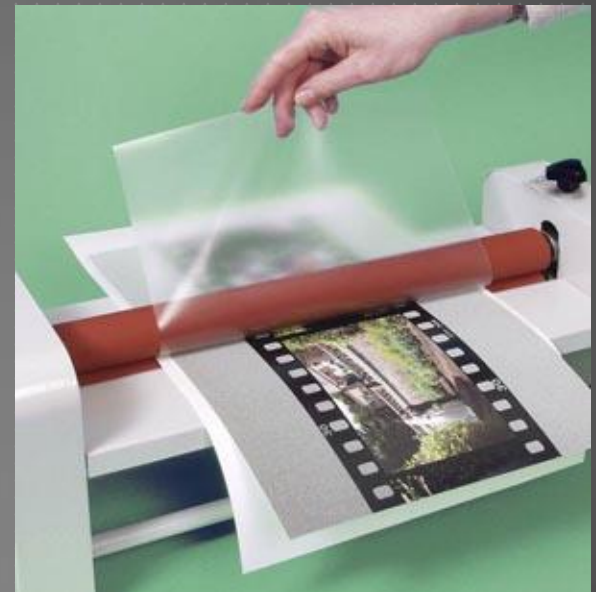
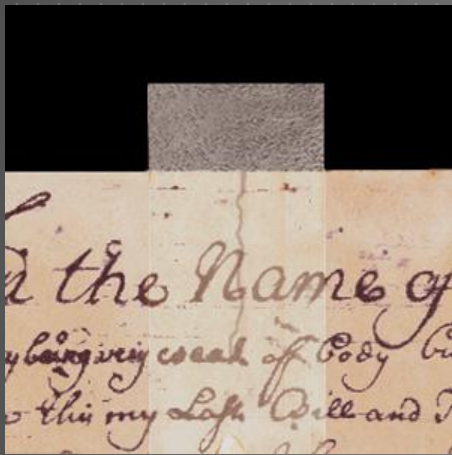
ESTABLISHING TREATMENT PRIORITIES

- ▶ Needs assessment survey
 - ▶ Condition, value, use
- ▶ Exhibition
- ▶ Digitization
- ▶ Damaged items identified through use
- ▶ Special projects
 - ▶ Grants, donor funding



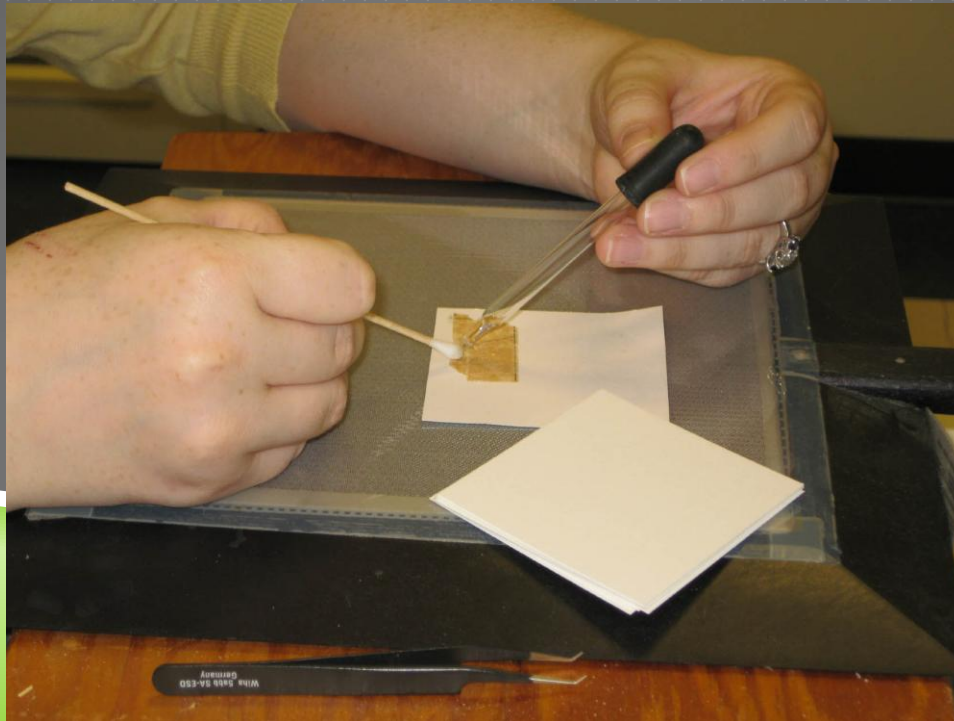
DO NOT “DIY”

- ▶ Deacidification sprays
- ▶ Tape repairs or lamination
- ▶ Home remedies for preservation of paper



CONSIDERATIONS

- ▶ Treatment is very time intensive
- ▶ Treatment is expensive
- ▶ Your object (or the conservator) may have to travel
- ▶ Risks associated with treatments



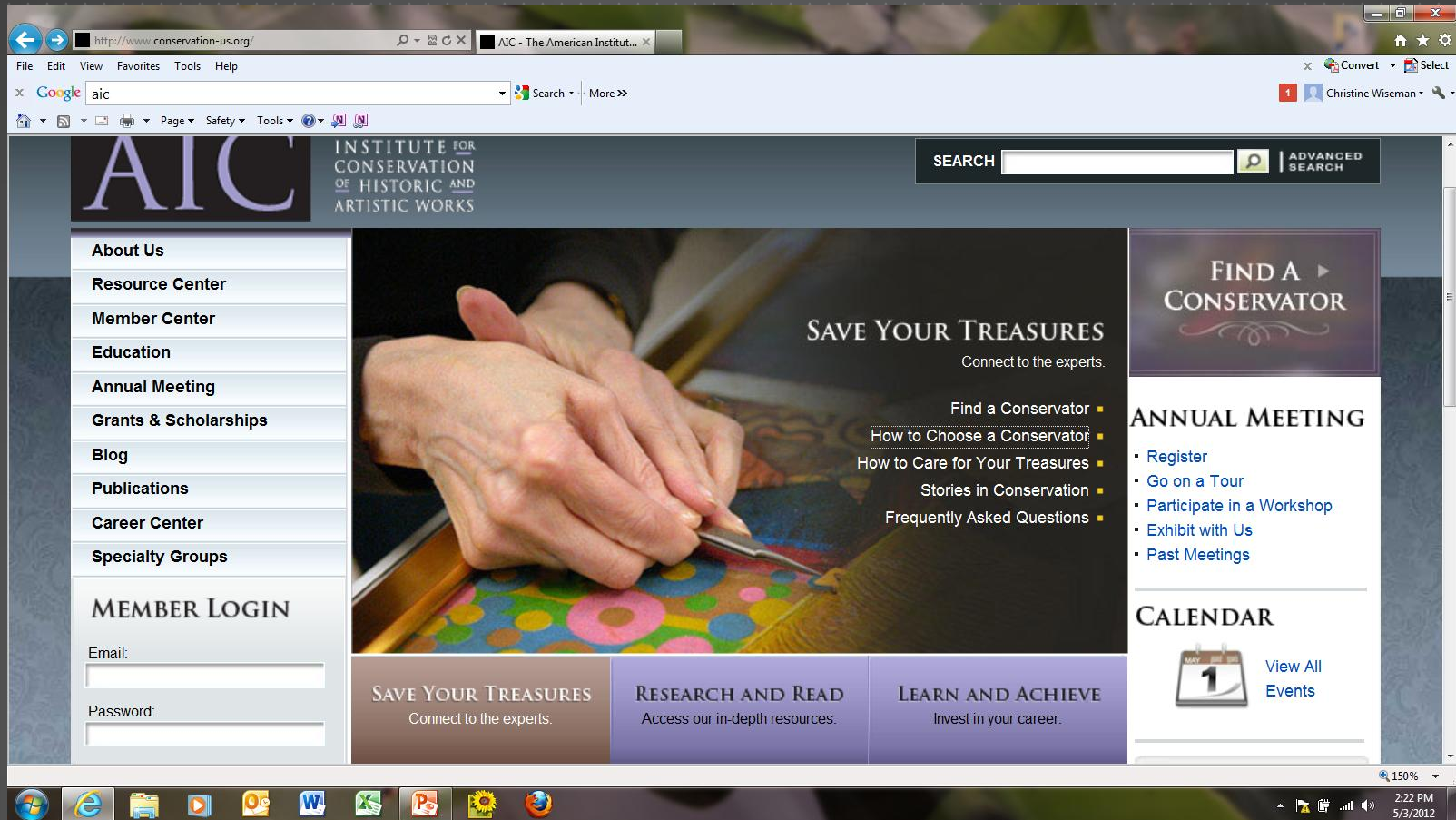
GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

- ▶ Conservation Assessment Program (CAP)
 - ▶ IMLS grants for needs assessment surveys through Heritage Preservation
 - ▶ <http://www.heritagepreservation.org/CAP/>
- ▶ Museum Assessment Program (MAP)
 - ▶ Grants for museum assessment and planning through the American Association of Museums
 - ▶ <http://www.aam-us.org/museumresources/map/index.cfm>
- ▶ Preservation Assistance Grants (PAG)
 - ▶ NEH grants to small organizations
<http://www.neh.gov/grants/preservation/>

FINDING A CONSERVATOR

- ▶ References and referrals
 - ▶ Area museums, archives, or libraries
 - ▶ Regional conservation or preservation associations
- ▶ American Institute for Conservation
 - ▶ <http://www.conservation-us.org>
 - ▶ referral online database
 - ▶ How to choose a conservator

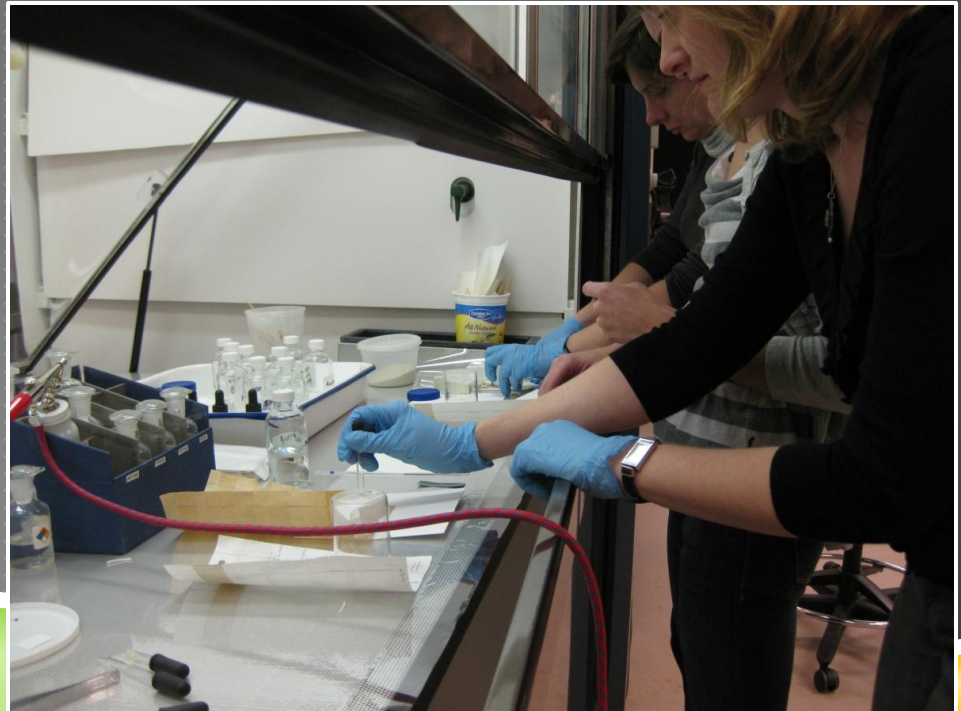
AIC REFERRAL DATABASE



<http://www.conservation-us.org/>

QUESTIONS TO ASK

- ▶ Background and training
- ▶ Professional involvement
- ▶ Number of years of experience
- ▶ Examples of similar treatments
- ▶ References and previous clients
- ▶ Insurance and bonding



WHAT TO EXPECT

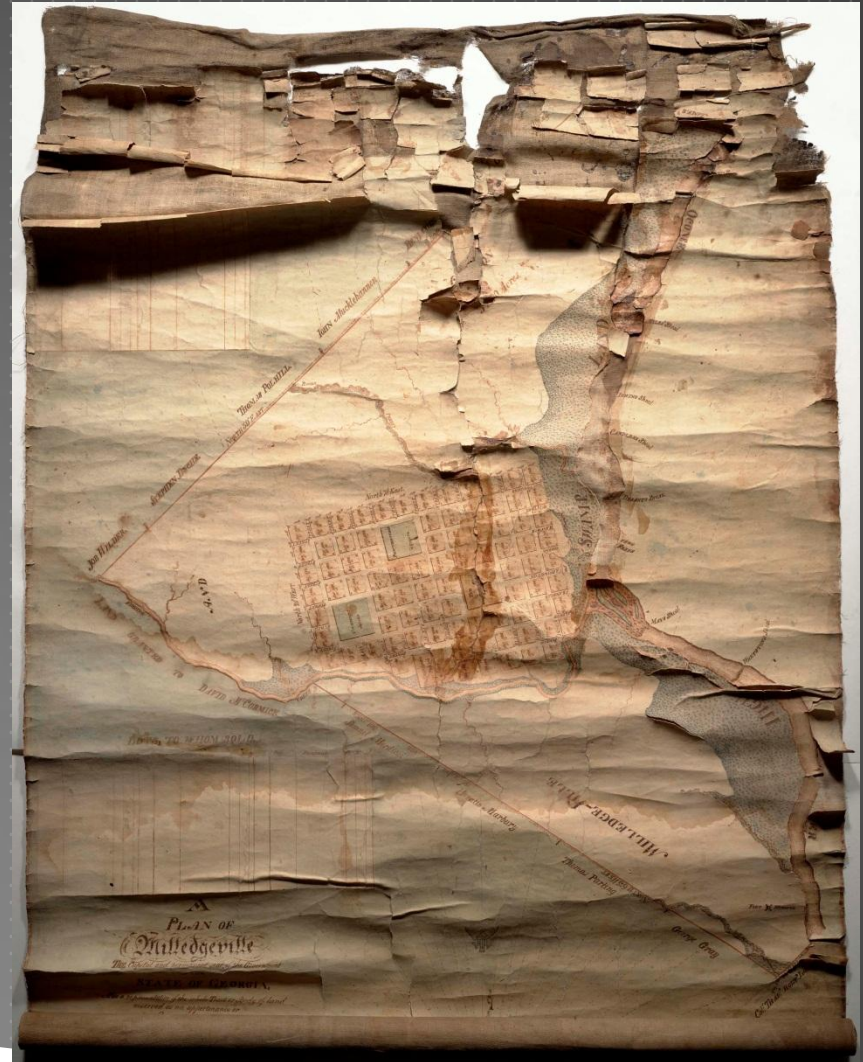
- ▶ Stabilize rather than “restore”
- ▶ Proposed treatment estimate
 - ▶ Examination and condition assessment
 - ▶ Outline of procedures to be undertaken
 - ▶ Time estimate
 - ▶ Cost



WHAT TO EXPECT

- ▶ Documentation
 - ▶ Written report
 - ▶ Before and after photography

Plan of Milledgeville, GA
1808
Before Treatment



QUESTIONS?

Plan of Milledgeville, GA
1808
After Treatment



CONTACT INFORMATION

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