Practical Collection Storage Solutions

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2005 HHI
HERITAGE HEALTH INDEX

59 PERCENT OF INSTITUTIONS SURVEYED
75 PERCENT OF COLLECTIONS IN AREAS TOO SMALL TO SAFELY ACCOMMODATE

65 PERCENT OF INSTITUTIONS SURVEYED
REPORT COLLECTIONS DAMAGE DUE TO IMPROPER STORAGE

WHILE 90 PERCENT OF COLLECTIONS WORLDWIDE ARE KEPT IN STORAGE...

25% OF STORAGE AREAS ARE SO OVERFILLED THAT ONE CANNOT GET FROM ONE END OF THE ROOM TO THE OTHER

IN 1 OUT OF 3 MUSEUMS THERE IS NO DESIGNATED PERSON RESPONSIBLE FOR THE STORAGE AREA

THEFT IS A MAJOR PROBLEM IN 1 OUT OF 10 MUSEUMS

Multi Layered Protection

Storage Areas
Modifications/Improvements
- Building level
- Room level
- Drawer or shelf level
- Object level

Remember: the material in direct contact with the object should be the most stable!

Building Level Resources
- Conservation Assessment Program (CAP)

Room Level Resources
RE-ORG http://re-org.info/en

Drawer/Shelf & Object Resources
www.stashc.com

www.stashc.com
WHAT DO WE MEAN BY “PRACTICAL” STORAGE TIPS?

- CHEAP
- QUICK
- CONVENIENT

Prioritizing

Limited collections care budget?
Determine which portions of your collection are most at risk due to improper storage and tackle those first.

STORAGE FURNITURE

- Cabinets
- Shelving Units
- Racking Systems
- Carts
- Crates

Powder Coated Steel Shelving

Chrome Plated Steel Shelving
Shelf Liners

Storage Furniture: Gasketed & Other Cabinetry

COMPACT ROLLING STORAGE RACKS FOR PAINTINGS

Ceiling Supported
Floor Free Standing
Floor Supported
Convertible

TEXTILE STORAGE: ROLLED compact storage

PAINTINGS BIN WITH RODS

Modular Powder coated steel Painting Storage Bins
Sold in 12" increments Adjustable shelving height
Wood Shelving

HANGING PAINTING
STORAGE:
Wall mounted racks

TEXTILE STORAGE:
ROLLED: alternative

TEXTILE STORAGE: FLAT
on shelves

Rehousing: useful tools and equipment

Materials for Safe Storage

All the white stuff: choose undyed, unbleached textiles and wash before use

Don’t be penny wise and pound foolish!
Materials Testing - The Oddy Test

- The Oddy Test

Control (above) Failure (below)

Material subjected to high temp & RH with metal coupons.
Significant corrosion indicates a problem.

Polyethylene Foam

- Ethafoam®
- Volara ®
- Cellucushion
- Minicell

Triangular Backer Rod

Many sizes and uses, as above can be used to make support ring for ceramic storage

Teflon Tape
Polyester Batting

Polyester Batting can be used to Tyvek pillows to pad out creases or areas in need of support. The pillows at left are moccasin forms.

Corrugated Polypropylene Board (Coroplast®)

Pre-made tab and slot construction

Acid-Free Corrugated Paper Board

"I got a container question"

Look for 1, 4 or 5
**Hot Melt Glue**
- Ethylene vinyl acetate copolymer
- Low temperature hot melt glue for paperboard and foam
- High temperature hot melt glue for Coroplast

**CONTAINERS**
- Folders
- Enclosures
- Bags
- Boxes
- Drawers
- Trays
- Subdividers
- Jars & Vials

**Bags**
- A box is a storage container that has sides that are usually taller than the object. Various kinds include ones with a lid, clamshell style with lid, no lid, or a drop-front.
- Write number on outside of box on two adjacent sides;
- Use with bumpers to provide support
- Cushion when needed
- Use with dividers (board or paper accordion for example)
- Use with layered trays inside to increase object density
- Good for fragile objects like glass or coral

**Boxes**
- A tray is a kind of box with low sides. If the sides are high enough to protect the full object, we often call it a box. If there are no sides at all, we call it a pallet.
- This custom tray is made from Coroplast and tri-rod ethafoam

**Trays**
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**More Trays**
Outfitting Trays: Blocking Items Using Tri-Rod

Supports
- Pallets
- Papers & Boards
- Tubes
- Rigid Supports
- Malleable Supports
- Mannequins
- Hangers
- Taxidermy

Palette Solutions
A pallet is a flat sheet of stiff archival board like blueboard or Coroplast that is the foundation for securing an object. It has no sides, unlike a box or tray. Twill tape ties are often used to attach the item/s

Palettes for Boxes

Tubes

Malleable supports
Malleable supports: Bean Bags

Backer rod supports

Padded hangers

Old School method: removable, washable sewn 100% cotton muslin cover

Covers

• Shelving covers
• Object covers

Textile Covers
Corrosion intercept bags for metals storage

Object covers with scavengers for metals storage
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