Book Repair Basics for Libraries

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Introductions

- **Peter D. Verheyen**, Head of Preservation and Conservation
  - Began with circulating collections repair while work-study student at Johns Hopkins. Followed by binding and rare book conservation training and career.

- **Marianne Hanley**, Assistant Conservator
  - Manages circulating collections rehousing and repair unit, trains and supervises work-study students in repair, and is learning further aspects of conservation.
Aims and scope of this presentation

- Familiarize viewers with different aspects of circulating collections book repair for school, public, and academic library staff by showing:
  - Basic descriptions of techniques, images, and video

- This presentation should not be construed as a how-to, hands-on workshop.
- Not aimed at treatment of special collections items
- Resources for training will be provided at end.
Circulating collections repair at Syracuse*

- **Materials retained for long-term**
  - Weeding of collections very selective

- **Selection criteria for repair**
  - From circulation, proactively from heavily used areas of the collections

- **Types treatments**
  - Simple repairs (tip-ins, hinge tightening, ...)
  - Spine repairs (rebacking)
  - Rebinding (sent to commercial bindery)

* and many other research / academic libraries
Public and school library context

- **Materials not necessarily retained for long-term**
  - Circulated, repaired, circulated, repaired, circulated, weeded..

- **Often minimal to enable a few more circulations...**
  - Don’t address complex structural issues

- **More likely to use self-adhesive products rather than wet adhesives...**
  - Require less infrastructure and training
  - Quicker
What we will cover

- **Tools**
- **Adhesives and other materials**
- **Simple repairs**
  - Mending tears, tip-ins, hinge tightening
- **Spine repairs**
  - Simple “quick and dirty”
  - Replacing missing spines
    - Self adhesive
    - Glues…
Tools

- Bonefolder
- Scissors
- Box cutters and other knives
- Awl
- Straight edge
- Cutting mat
- Brushes
Adhesives – Tape 1

- NO duct or packing tape, rubber cement, gluesticks...

Images courtesy of Suzy Morgan
Adhesives – Tape 2

- Archival PVA, like Elmers but formulated to be more flexible
- Filmoplast and other “archival” tapes
Simple repairs

- Page tears and tip-ins
Mending tears

- Align parts of tear
- Prefer using Filmoplast P mending tape as it is thinner and more flexible, making it less likely to cause paper to tear adjacent to repair.
- Full width of roll not needed for most repairs
  - Recommend cutting in half before applying
- Reversible, to a point. Water soluble, but adhesives bonds tighter over time.
Page tip-ins

- Used to reinsert loose pages
- Used when inserting replacement pages
- Run very narrow bead of adhesive (PVA) along spine edge, insert into gutter and align, apply pressure and let dry.
- If tipping-in replacement pages, make sure they are double-sided so as not to add excessive bulk and split the textblock. Larger numbers of pages can be glued together first, then inserted into textblock when dry.

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Page Tip-ins

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Click to view video on YouTube
Hinge tightening
Hinge tightening

- Loose or “shaken” hinges, one of the leading causes of a further breakdown of the structure of a book
- Hinge tightening quick and easy
- Minimal tools
  - Bonefolder, knitting needle, glue
- See also:

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Hinge Tightening

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Click to view video on YouTube
Taped spine repairs I

- Using tape to reinforce weakening spine
  - DO NOT use on books being permanently retained
    - Quick and dirty, do not hold up well with heavy use
    - Can be damaging especially if needing to be removed
  - Does not require special adhesives
  - Can be combined with hinge tightening.
Spine repairs II

- **Self-adhesive bookcloth**
  - Good for simple repairs when boards still well attached and book spine solid.

- **Buckram with glue**
  - Stronger cloth and better when boards are detached...

Filmoplast T (at right) and Archival Products’ C-cloth slit to custom widths. 10pt folder stock for spine-stiffeners.
Simple “reback” when boards attached

- Self-adhesive bookcloth or buckram (to be glued)
- 10 pt. folder stock for the spine stiffener
Simple “reback” when boards attached

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Taped Reback

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Click to view video on YouTube
Click here for glued with buckram variant
Full “reback” when boards detached

- Buckram and spine lining cloth (to be glued)
- 10 pt. folder stock for the spine stiffener

See book at right for exterior
Full “reback” when boards detached

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“Full” Reback

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Click to view video on YouTube
When to consult a conservator

- If the item is of historic or intrinsic value and significance.
  - A well-intentioned repair can cause irreparable damage.
- If the repair is above your skill level.
  - Know your limitations

To find a conservator see the American Institute of Conservation.
Appendix 1 – Selected workshops

- Check with your local/regional library consortia and your closest research library preservation department for hands-on workshops or other training opportunities in your area. Below are a few links to sample opportunities.

- **Amigos**
  - Book repair workshop supplies list
  - Book repair workshop

- **California Preservation Program**
  - See also InfoPeople

- **Lyrasis**

- **NE Florida Information Network** (NEFLIN)

- **Northeast Document Conservation Center** (NEDCC)

- **Northwest Central** (Pacific Northwest)
Appendix 2 – Recommended videos

- **Amigos**
  - Mending a Book with Book Repair Tape
  - Hinge Tightening Instructions

- **DEMCO inc**
  - 25 videos – most use tapes for repairing headcaps, spines, tears...

- **SUNY New Paltz Library**
  - Book Repair - Spine Repair Part I
  - Book Repair - Spine Repair Part II

- **American University Library**
  - How To Repair a Book Spine

- **University of North Carolina Health Sciences Library**
  - Tip-ins
Appendix 3 – Manuals and guides online

- Pamphlets
  - Three Basic Book Repair Procedures – Instructions for three simple, non-invasive repair techniques produced for ALA by Carole Dyal and Pete Merrill-Oldham

- Departmental Manuals
  - Alaska State Library – Conservation Book Repair
  - Cornell University Library – Extensive series of manuals including basic circulating collections repair
  - Dartmouth College Library - A Simple Book Repair Manual
  - Indiana University Library – Online Manual

- Listservs
  - Book_Arts-L – General book arts and bookbinding listserv that often has discussions on binding structure, adhesives, and materials.
  - CoOL – Home of the Conservation Distlist. THE resource for conservation topics in all disciplines
  - PADG – Listserv of the ALA/ALCTS group formerly known as the Preservation Administrators Discussion Group. Good place to ask about workshops...
Appendix 4 – Selected vendors

- These vendors stock supplies for repairing circulating collections items, most with a large selection of self-adhesive products like tapes...

- Brodart
- Demco
- Gaylord Bros.
- Kapco
- TALAS: a great source of specialized tools
- University Products
Thank you

Please feel free to contact us with questions at

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http://library.syr.edu/about/departments/preservation

See also our Resource Guide and YouTube channel.

http://researchguides.library.syr.edu/preservation (Includes these slides and video)

http://www.youtube.com/user/SULPreservation