

Videotape guide

The Texas Commission on the Arts has published *Videotape Identification and Assessment Guide*. Written by Mona Jimenez and Liss Platt, with the assistance of Sarah Stauderman and others in the video community, this 55-page online guide offers practical advice about managing video collections for non-video experts. It starts with pictures and identifying characteristics for 15 tape formats (ranging from two-inch Quad to Digital 8) continues by covering risks to videotape longevity, simple methods of condition assessment, and basic preservation actions, and finishes with a glossary and lists of useful publications, organizations, vendors, supplies, and sources of funding.

The guide is available free-of-charge at www.arts.state.tx.us/video/. It can be accessed either by individual section or as a complete document in PDF.

Publishers' bindings Web site

The University Libraries of the University of Alabama and the Libraries of the University of Wisconsin-Madison have created *Publishers Bindings Online 1815-1930: The Art of Books (PBO)*. As described on its homepage, *PBO* is a digital collection of decorative bookbindings that strengthens a growing interest in this common object *the book*. It will eventually contain images of and descriptive information about approximately 5,000 publishers bindings. Those bindings can be searched by keyword or subject headings that pertain to the decorations on the covers and endpapers. The Web site also will contain documentation to support teaching and research (such as a bibliography, glossary, and biographies) and identifying marks of designers. *PBO* is available at bindings.lib.ua.edu.

Jane Hedberg is preservation program officer at Harvard University Library, e-mail: jane_hedberg@harvard.edu; fax: (617) 496-8344

Conservators beyond borders

Conservators Beyond Borders is a nascent not-for-profit relief organization, based in the United States, intending to provide emergency assistance to cultural institutions affected by natural and man-made disasters. It will supply trained conservators to at-risk or damaged libraries, archives, and museums regardless of race, creed, religion, political affiliation, or financial constraint. The conservators will offer preventive conservation assessments, disaster recovery consultations, and training in triage methodologies for all types of cultural objects. This group is actively seeking funding and attempting to create an international communications network to facilitate emergency alerts and coordinate responses.

For more information or to become involved with the work of the group, contact Randy Silverman, Preservation Librarian, University of Utah, Marriott Library, Salt Lake City, UT 84112-0860; phone: (801) 585-6782; fax: (801) 585-3464; e-mail: randy.silverman@library.utah.edu.

Quick updates

The MIC (Moving Image Collections, pronounced *mike*) Web site has moved from Georgia Tech to the Library of Congress. The new URL is mic.loc.gov.

Preserving Photographs in a Digital World, the weeklong workshop offered by the George Eastman House, the Image Permanence Institute, and the Rochester Institute of Technology in Rochester, New York, is scheduled for August 20-25, 2005, and August 19-24, 2006. For more information, see www.imagepermanenceinstitute.org/sub_pages/8page10.htm.

The National Library of Australia's Web site, Preserving Access to Digital Information (PADI), has 12 digital preservation topics with numerous subtopics defined by introductory essays and elucidated by links to relevant articles. For more information, see www.nla.gov.au/padi/. ❧