

Editorial

A recent issue of *Humanities* (December 1980), published by the National Endowment for the Humanities, featured an article on conservation by Ann Russell, director of the New England Document Conservation Center. The title of the article, "The Quiet Disaster," had the usual Armageddon-like tone for articles on this topic. A similar article, which appeared in *The Chronicle of Higher Education* (May 30, 1978), was entitled "Damage in the Stacks."

In this issue, we present an essay that describes the Council on Library Resources' long interest in and generous support for research on various aspects of the conservation/preservation problem. Among the impressions that will be left with a careful reader of this essay is that "the problem" is, in fact, an apparently infinite complex of many discrete problems—of physical chemistry, of lighting design, of environmental pollution and control, of engineering, and so forth.

Given our success as a profession in shaping the technology of computing (hardware and software) to resolve problems of bibliographic control, one wonders if we can assemble a different but equally diverse array of resources and skills to address conservation, for it will surely require as sustained an effort to preserve the twentieth century's bibliography for the twenty-first.

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