

Strategies for Advancing Hidden Collections Webinar 5

Overcoming project hurdles: Approaches to identifying and managing collection red flags

Speakers: Jessica Bitely and Yvonne Ng

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See also: [Scenarios](#)

Notes and Chat History, Swingate Public Library scenario

Notes

Thinking about the Swingate Public Library:

List as many risks to people from the collections as you see

- Mold - which can lead to respiratory problems
- Nitrate film
- Firearms
- Falling stacked items
- Dust mites and other insects
- Mouse and other animal droppings
- Stress of too many problems

List as many risks to the collections as you see

- Water and flooding
- Vinegar syndrome
- Pressure of stacked items
- Deterioration of collection items, including animals eating portions of the collection
- Acidic storage boxes

From your list, identify 1 thing in each area that is a particular concern

- Immediate health hazards
- Lack of security
- Problems with photos which could cause a donor to remove items from the collection, causing a risk to institutional reputation
- Deterioration of objects

Chat History

Jessica Bitely: Please identify as many risks *to people* that you see in the Swingate collections.

Cherry: respiratory problems

Joan Naturale: MICE

Joan Naturale: MOLD

Dee Gallo: Mold in the shoe box

Allison Young: Mouse droppings, the stuffed animal;

Joan Naturale: CHEMICALS

Geoffrey Reynolds (Hope College): nitrate film fire

Joan Naturale:FROM STUFFED WATER FOWL
Michelle Schabowski:Nitrate film
Amanda Strobel Wise | Rock County Historical Society:Presence if mold, and mousey evidence
Joan Naturale:FIREARMS
Katharine Rapkin:falling stacked items
Shawna Gandy:firearms and first aid kits
MonaLisa Whitaker:mold, mildew, vermin
Amanda Strobel Wise | Rock County Historical Society:Unstaffed income of objects may mean things that no one knows is even there
Sarah Oswald:stress
MonaLisa Whitaker:probably dust mites
Dee Gallo:Would people try things in the first aid kt?
Geoffrey Reynolds (Hope College):stress of too many things to fix
Allison Young:The negative reflection on the library, as well
Robin Grunwald:Microbials, VOC, allergins, ...
Dee Gallo:Spider!
Jessica Bitely>List as many risks to the collections as you see
Carol Creager:water/flooding
Dee Gallo:Risks to photos and textiles
MonaLisa Whitaker:deterioration of paper, negatives
Katharine Rapkin:album deterioration
Purdue University Archives:vinegar syndrome
Geoffrey Reynolds (Hope College):pressure from stacked items
Allison Young:Bad smell indicates something's not going well in that one box
Shawna Gandy:frass/pests
Amanda Strobel Wise | Rock County Historical Society:Animal contact with paper could mean that they have eaten parts of the collection, prior storage in acidic containers, mixing of objects that should be stored separately
University of Cincinnati - HSL:off-gasing
Cherry:loss to cultural content
Geoffrey Reynolds (Hope College):acidic storage boxes
Jessica Bitely:From your list, identify 1 thing in each area that is of particular concern & why
Katharine Rapkin:Immediate health hazards to people (patrons and workers) handling materials
Geoffrey Reynolds (Hope College):lack of security to the room and the contents
Dee Gallo:Problems with photos -- if the donor's relative is taking them back, things must be bad
Robin Grunwald:humidity
Amanda Strobel Wise | Rock County Historical Society:Loss of public trust to keep the objects donated
MonaLisa Whitaker:health to people handling the objects; deterioration of objects (may be lost)
Dee Gallo:WWII firearms could be valuable and don't seem to be under any security