Identification and Preservation of Photographic Collections

CARLI Preservation Working Group
AudioVisual Preservation Forum
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\textbf{TIMELINE OF MAJOR PHOTOGRAPHIC PROCESSES}

- **Prints**
  - Heliograph 1826
  - Daguerreotype 1839-60
  - Salted Paper Prints 1840-60s
  - Cyanotype 1840-1920 (popular 1880-1920)
  - Wet Collodion 1851
  - Platinotype 1881-1930s
  - Tintype 1855-1900
  - Ambrotype 1855-65
  - Albumen 1850s-1920 (popular 1850-95)
  - Carbon 1861-1940
  - Silver Gelatin 1880 - present
  - Color 1946

- **Negatives**
  - Calotype paper negatives: 1841
  - Glass plate negatives: 1851 (wet) 1871 (dry)
  - Film Negatives: 1903 (nitrate), 1923 (diacetate), 1955 (polyester)
  - Roll Negatives: 1889
  - Color Negatives: 1936

- **Transparencies**
  - Lantern Slides/Glass Slides: 1850 (popular 1870) - 1950s
  - Autochromes: 1907
  - Film Slides: 1950s
WEB RESOURCES

Library of Congress (http://www.loc.gov/preserv/pubscare.html#photo)
   Caring For Your Photographic Collections
   Care, Handling, and Storage of Photographs: Bibliography.
   Care, Handling, and Storage of Photographs: Information Leaflet.
   Care, Handling, and Storage of Photographs: Standards.
   Care, Handling, and Storage of Photographs: Supplies.

NEDCC (http://www.nedcc.org/resources/leaflets.list.php)
Chapter 5, Photographs:
   A Short Guide to Film Base Photographic Materials: Identification, Care, and
   Duplication Types of Photographs
   Care of Photographs
   Creating Long-Lasting Inkjet Prints
   Preservation of Photographs: Select Bibliography

National Archives and Records Administration (NARA)
Guide by Formats: http://www.archives.gov/preservation/formats/
Processing of Scrapbooks and Photographs:
Cold Storage: http://www.archives.gov/preservation/storage/cold-storage-photos.html

Image Permanence Institute http://www.imagepermanenceinstitute.org/
Traditional and Digital Print Stability:
http://www.imagepermanenceinstitute.org/shtml_sub/consumerguide.pdf
Common Forms of Deterioration
http://www.archivaladvisor.org/shtml/gal_deterioration.shtml

American Institute for Conservation (AIC)
Photographic Materials Group (photographic conservators)
http://206.180.235.133/sg/pmg/

Canadian Conservation Institute (CCI)
http://www.preservation.gc.ca/howto/articles/photos_e.asp

Other Resources
**PAPER RESOURCES** (from the Library of Congress Preservation Office)


Canadian Conservation Institute. Notes. There are eight notes that pertain to photograph care:
- N2/5 Using a Camera to Measure Light Levels.
- N15/3 Display and Storage of Museum Objects Containing Cellulose Nitrate.
- N16/1 Care of Encased Photographic Images
- N16/2 Care of Black and White Photographic Glass Plate Negatives.
- N16/3 Care of Black and White Photographic Negatives and Film.
- N16/4 Care of Black and White Photographic Prints.
- N16/5 Care of Colour Photographic Materials.
(May be ordered in English or French at http://www.cci-icc.gc.ca/).


http://www.imagepermanenceinstitute.org/shtml_sub/cat_pubs.asp#careid


**STORAGE GUIDELINES**

**Environment**

- RH (relative humidity) should be low (30-40%) and constant
- Temperature
  - Should be low and constant
  - For color and cellulose based film prone to accelerated deterioration use COLD storage (below freezing) but be aware of condensation issues.
  - For storage of most other photographic formats, use COOL storage (50-60°F/10-15°C)
- Light
  - Dark storage ideal, necessary for color, cyanotypes, slated paper prints, and poorly fixed albumen and silver gelatin
  - If exhibited or stored with exposure to light, limit to 200-400 lux

**Environment**

- “archival”
- pH (<7.0, 7.0, >7.0)
- Lignin-free
- Buffered
- Unbuffered
- High Alpha-Cellulose Content
- Permanent Paper

The infinity symbol inside a circle identifies a publication printed on paper that will last for several hundred years. The paper meets the criteria set forth in American National Standard for Information Sciences - Permanence of Paper for Printed Library Materials, ANSI Z39.48-1992.

- LE (Life Expectancy)
- Photographic Activity Test (PAT)