

Achieving an Optimal Preservation Environment: A Shared Goal

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The First Thing You Need to Know...

- Is that you can't do it alone



The Answer: A Team Effort

- Environmental management involves multiple stakeholders
 - Cross-disciplinary in nature
 - Requires buy-in from administration
 - Facilities and preservation work together
 - Collections staff must be represented
 - Communication and negotiation necessary

Environments Affect Every Aspect of Institutional Life

- Human comfort
- Productivity
- Collection health
- Energy & capital costs
- Building envelope
- Overall budget



Environmental Management

- Is the natural province of facilities staff
 - Who typically have their own
 - Separate reporting chain
 - Work schedules and culture
 - Close relationship to capital planning and construction
 - Encompass multiple sub-specialties
 - Controls technicians / building operators
 - Maintenance mechanics
 - Purchasing



Collections Care

- Is the natural province of conservators, preservation administrators, curators, who typically have their own
 - Separate reporting chain
 - Culture



Creating an Optimal Preservation Environment

- Requires an active, ongoing collaboration
- Partnership between collections care and facilities management



Essentials of the Collaboration

- Collections care takes the initiative
 - Inertia and budget realities notwithstanding
- Respect for cultural differences
 - Facilities culture
 - Hierarchical
 - Action oriented
 - Reactive to human comfort complaints and malfunctions
 - Largely male

Essentials of the Collaboration

- Collections care culture
 - Meetings and planning
 - Low budget
 - Accustomed to deferring environmental questions to other authority
 - Not trained in environmental management or HVAC operations
 - Largely female

The Information All Team Members Need

- How collections are affected by environment
- T, RH, and Dew Point
- HVAC fundamentals
- Energy consumption
- Your building's characteristics



What the Team Does

- Negotiates
 - The best tradeoff between all factors
 - Best for collections
 - Achievable in your climate and buildings
 - Acceptable for the occupants of the space
 - The least energy-consuming

Fear Not

- It *is* possible

