

# Optimal Preservation Environments: 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

