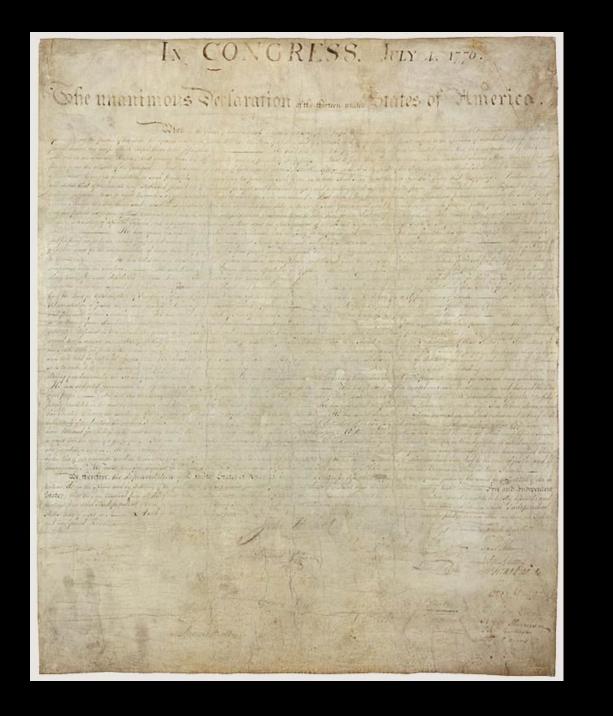
Determining and Communicating Environmental Requirements

Doris A. Hamburg

National Archives and Records Administration March 16, 2006

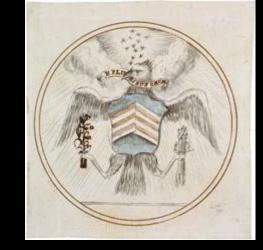
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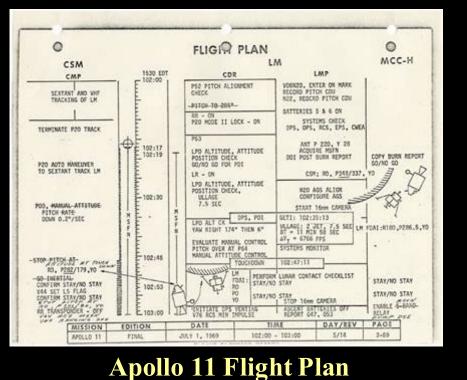




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Check for the Purchase of Alaska



Original Design of the Great Seal of the United States (1782)



Louisiana Purchase Treaty



Winslow Homer Key West, Hauling Anchor, 1903 National Gallery of Art



PUBLICLAW 89-110

8, 1564

Eighty-ninth Congress of the United States of America

AT THE FIRST SESSION

Began and held as the City of Washington on Monkey, the Joards day of January, one thousand nine hand-of and siny-fee

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Voting Rights Act

Gift to President Reagan from President of Algeria



President Lincoln

TO THE DORMSHIP OF THE DATED STREET.

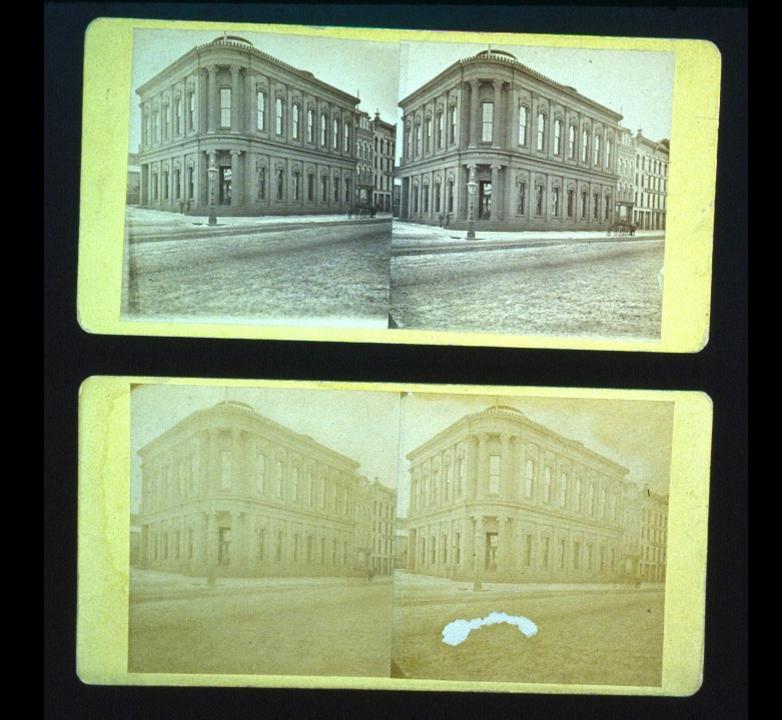
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President Roosevelt's Day of Infamy speech following Pearl Harbor





Practical

Low cost

Short term goals

High Risk Long term goals Low Risk

Most bang for the buck

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Goals

• What are we trying to achieve?

• What are our goals in creating the environment for our collection?

• How long do we wish to keep the collection items? Value of the items?



"...a sworn foe of oblivion" Cassiodorus, 6th century

List of Candidates 30 B.C.-640 A.D. Egypt Photo courtesy Duke University

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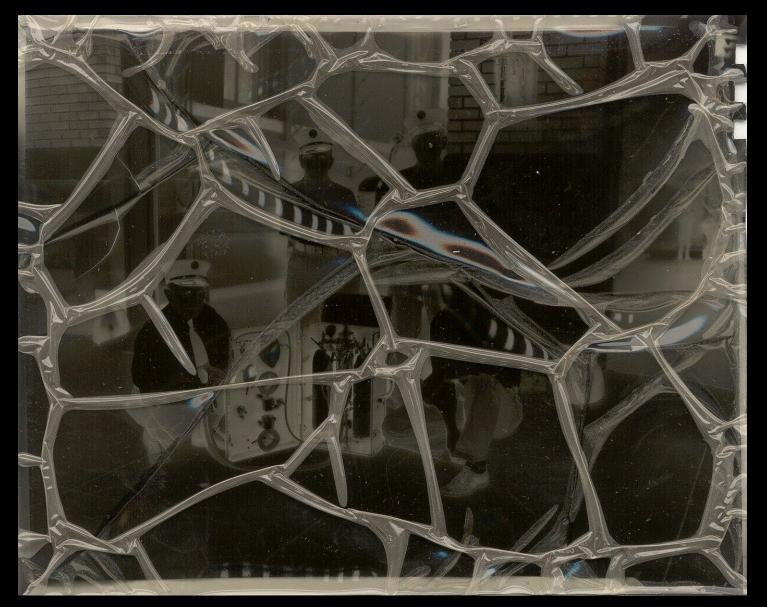
The Collection

What are the materials made of?

What are the stability and vulnerability of those materials?

What is their condition?

What are the needs of the collection so it will be preserved?



Cellulose Acetate Deterioration Photo courtesy, www.ameshistoricalsociety.org





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Alexander Calder *Big Bird*, 1937 Photo courtesy Calder Foundation, New York.







Presidential Gifts





- Does the collection contain a mix of media with diverse chemical and mechanical characteristics and needs?
- What are the condition of the materials?
- How much of the useful life has already been used up?

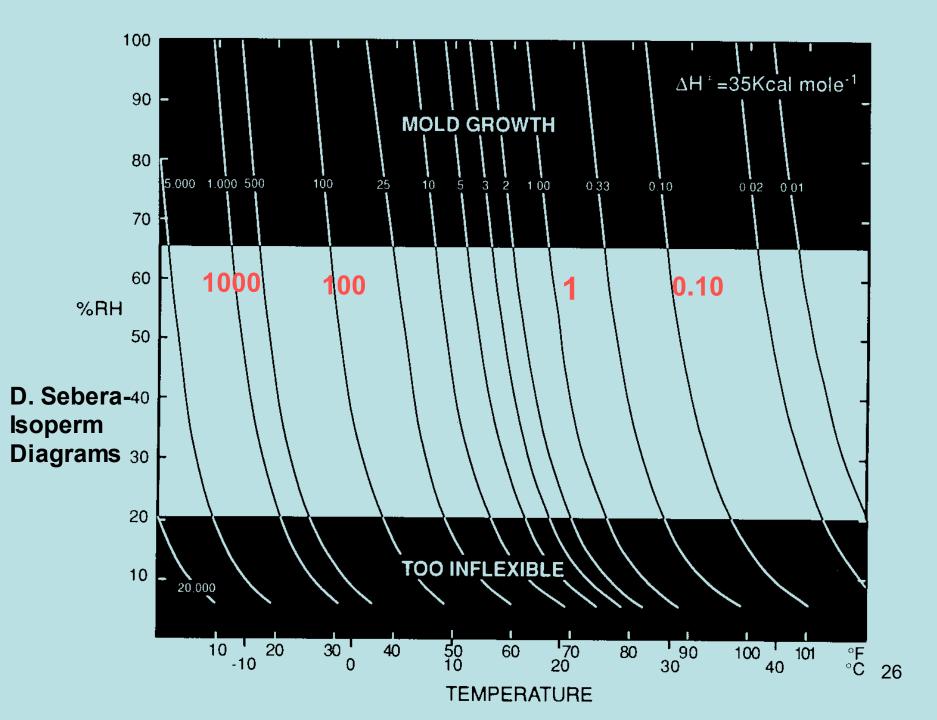
• What is the level of access?

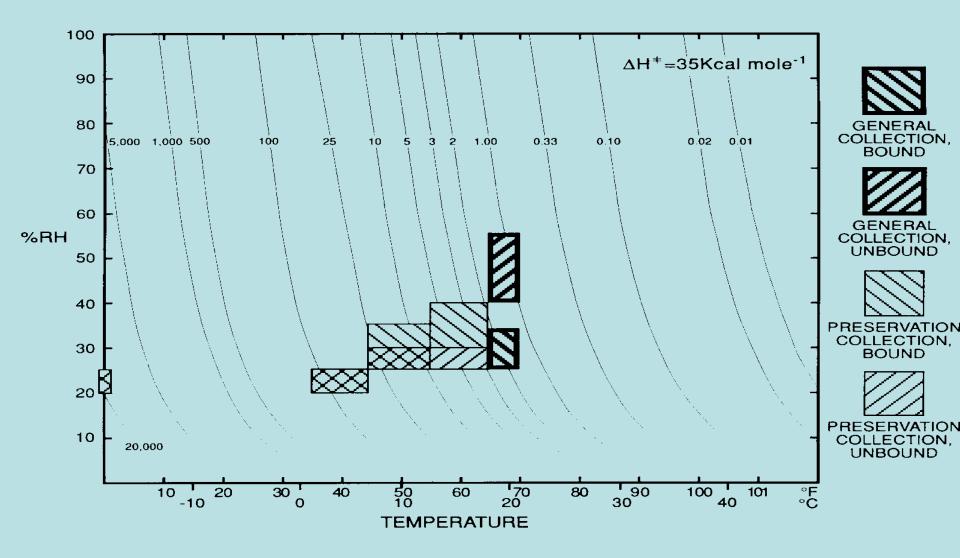
• How will the materials be used?

• Are there cultural considerations?

• What is the geographic and climatic setting?

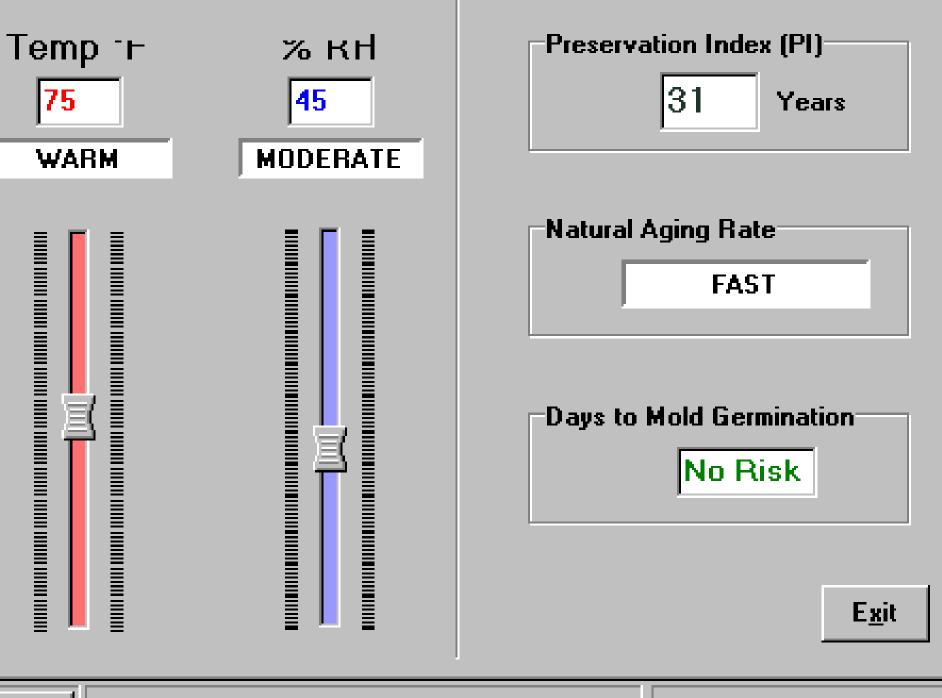
- Is there an existing structure that affects potential options?
- What type of facility is involved: archives, vault, research library, historic house, warehouse?





Environmental Guidelines for the Storage of Paper Records William K. Wilson

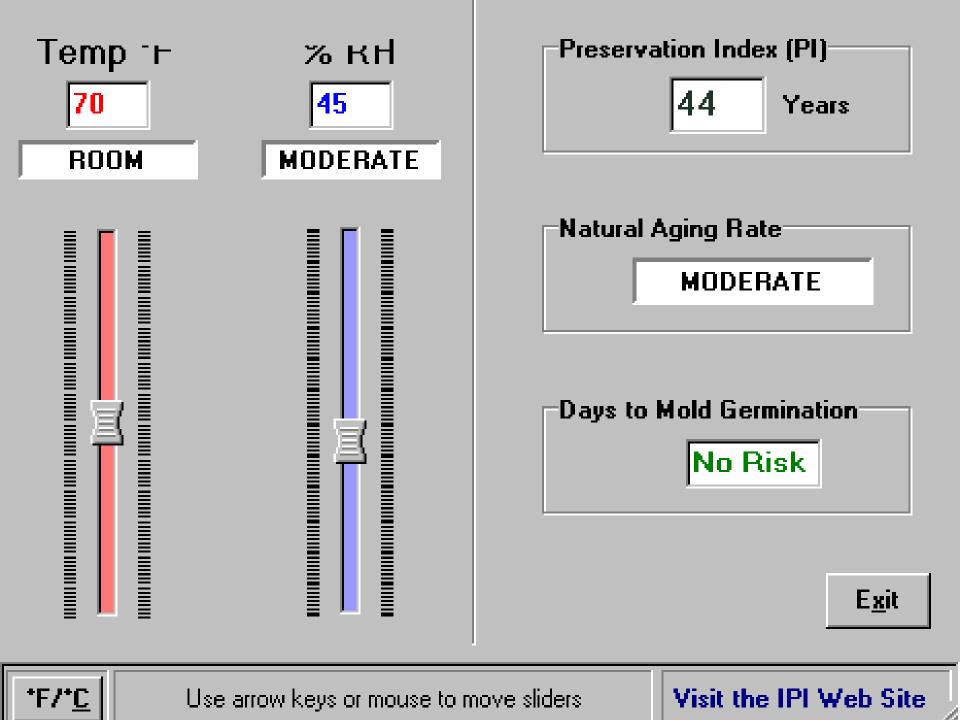
NISO TR01-1995 National Information Standards Organization

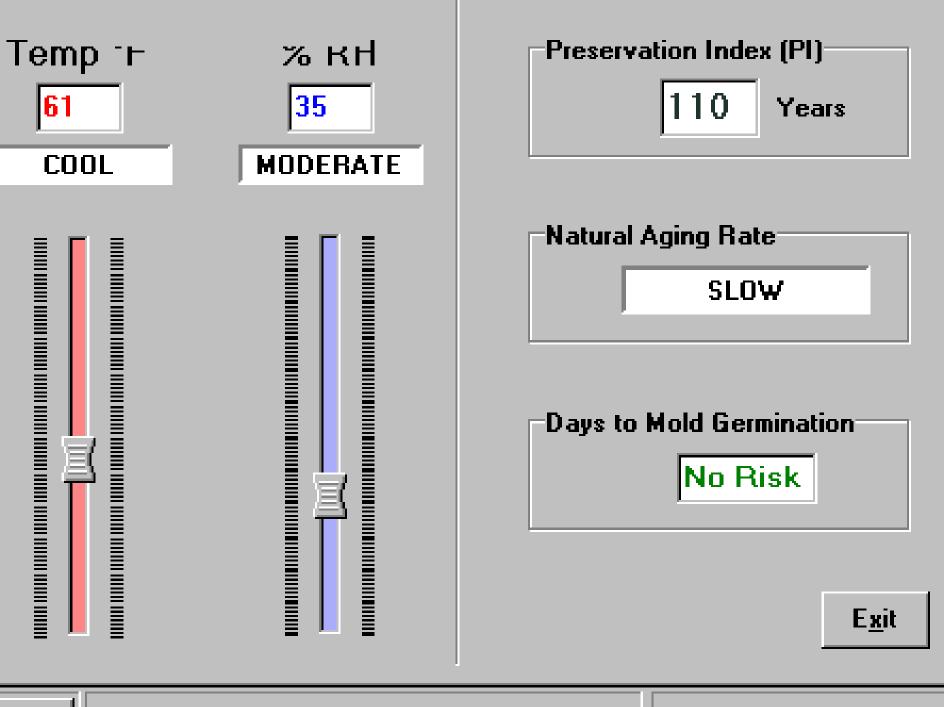


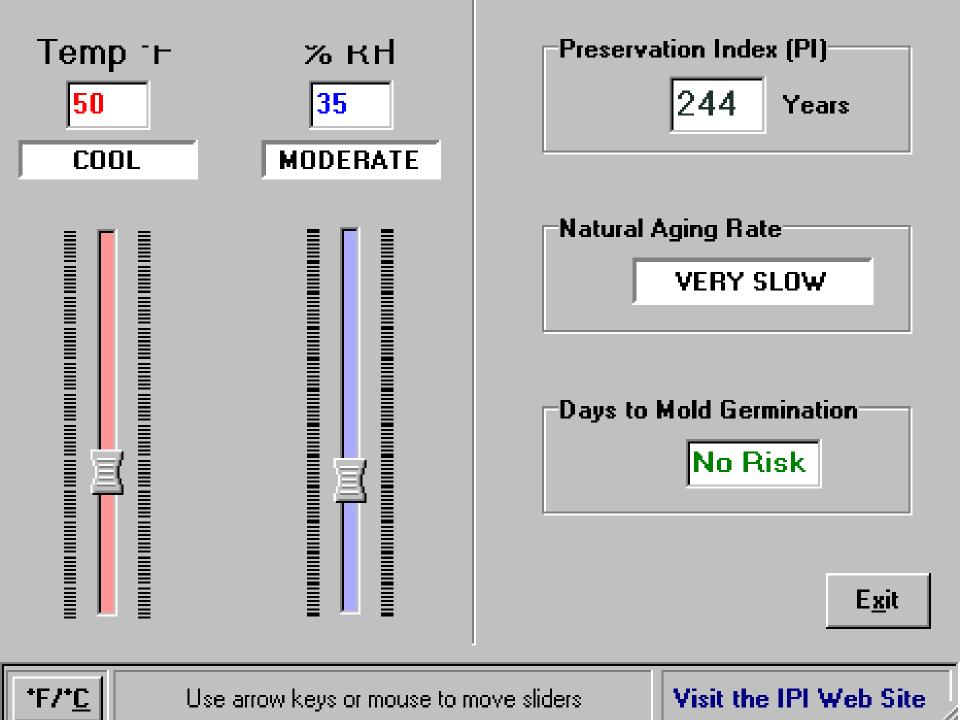


Use arrow keys or mouse to move sliders

Visit the IPI Web Site











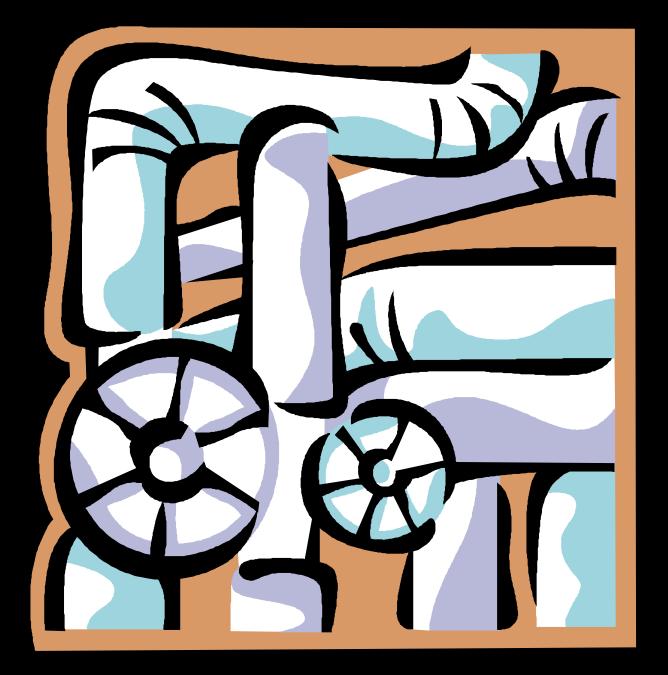


NARA scientists performing research and materials testing

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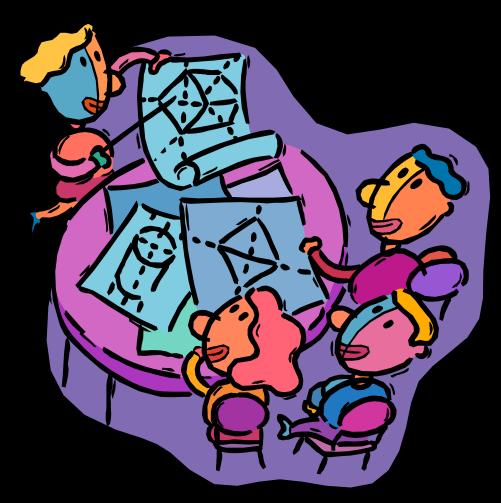




How Do We Proceed?

- We need to know our goals for preserving our collections.
- We need to know what the collections need to satisfy the goals for preserving the collections
- We need to consider in our long term planning the fact that as collections deteriorate they lose "value" and the costs to preserve increase
- We need to consider that the storage environment has the greatest potential to minimize preservation costs over the long term

- We need to acknowledge that there are limitations to energy and to budgets
- We must weigh the competing demands for resources with our priorities
- We need to know how building architecture and environmental systems can work together in an interrelated and supportive manner to create the most cost effective storage environments for the collections we are preserving



We need to bring all these considerations together to engage in a dialogue, working as a team that includes engineers, architects, conservators, archivists, curators, project managers and others.

Creative, cost effective solutions

- Dialogue
- **Balance**
- the goals and priorities for the collections
- the risks to collections and buildings
- realities of budgets and energy

