

Preserving Family Treasures

Special Collections Division
Akron-Summit County Public Library
60 S. High Street, Akron, Ohio 44326
speccollections@akronlibrary.org

Sometimes we are fortunate enough to have family treasures such as photographs, documents, books and other memorabilia that have been passed down to us from previous generations. Frequently, these items are extremely fragile, and without proper storage, will deteriorate more quickly. The library offers many sources that provide information about the preservation of historic items. Additionally, there are numerous professional institutions that offer helpful advice on their websites about preservation and conservation.

Print Resources available at the Akron-Summit County Public Library

(search the library [catalog](#) for availability):

- *Archive Photography: How to Photograph Oversize Photos, Curled Documents, and Heirloom Treasures* by Gary W. Clark, 2014.
- *How to Archive Family Keepsake: learn how to preserve family photos, memorabilia and genealogy records* by Denise S. May-Levenick, 2012.
- *Preserving Your Family Photographs* by Maureen A. Taylor, 2010.
- *Photographs of the Past: Process and Preservation* by Bertrand Lavedrine, et al., 2009.
- *Saving Stuff: How to Care for and Preserve Your Collectibles, Heirlooms, and Other Prize Possessions* by Don Williams and Louisa Jaggar, 2005.

Free Electronic Resources:

- American Institute for Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works, Caring for Your Treasures:
www.conservation-us.org/about-conservation/caring-for-your-treasures#.U6HfbJTlobk
- Library of Congress:
www.loc.gov/preserv/familytreasures/index.html
- National Archives & Records Administration:
www.archives.gov/preservation/family-archives

Conservation

You may have in your possession a very valuable item that you believe needs the attention of a **professional conservator**. Certified conservators can be located using the American Institute for Conservation's "Find a Conservator" link, which provides a complete guide to choosing the right conservator: www.conservation-us.org/about-conservation/find-a-conservator#.VD19g5RdWqs

For consultation about **old and rare books** that you might have, you may want to try finding a rare book dealer on the Northern Ohio Bibliophilic Society's website: <http://nobs.nobsweb.org>

If you have historic **photographs** in your collection that are very damaged and in need of reprinting, there are a number of local professional photograph restoration businesses:

- Dodd Camera <https://doddcamera.com/photo-restoration-and-archiving>
- Photo Imaging Lab <http://www.photoimaginglab.com/>
- MAVZPIX Photo Art Studio <http://www.mavzpix.com/>

Archival Suppliers:

- Archival Methods www.archivalmethods.com
- Gaylord Brothers www.gaylord.com/c/Preservation
- Hollinger Metal Edge Archival Supplies www.hollingermetaledge.com
- Light Impressions www.lightimpressionsdirect.com
- University Products www.universityproducts.com

Retail Stores:

Not all of the products sold from craft stores will be safe and appropriate. You will have to know what kind of storage you want and read the packaging of each item for terms like: acid-free, lignin-free or archival quality.

- Jo-Ann Fabrics & Crafts
- Michael's
- Hobby Lobby
- Pat Catan's
- Office supply stores

The persons and organizations listed above are provided for informational purposes only. The library does not recommend any conservator or vendor, nor guarantee their work or products.