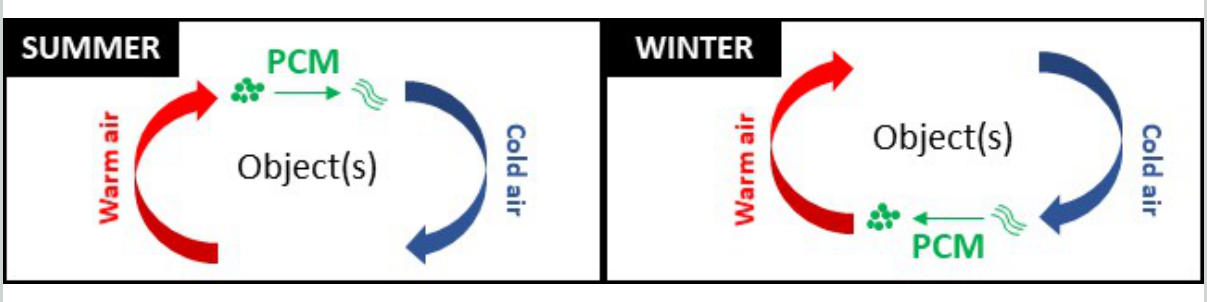
RIT | College of Art and Design
Image Permanence Institute
Newsletter : March 2026

A new version of
eClimateNotebook®
is live!

eClimateNotebook Relaunch

A new version of **eClimateNotebook**, IPI's web-based software for analyzing environmental data and informing sustainable preservation decision making, was launched in February! Our focus for the new design was an improved user experience, and an upgraded infrastructure to support future features and new functionality. A new pricing model accompanied this launch and we have created a **price comparison for software and hardware costs associated with 3 years of monitoring** at each new subscription level.

The new Enterprise subscription allows an organization to have multiple accounts within a single subscription, and is designed for organizations monitoring multiple buildings and/or sites. For instance, the ideal University subscription might include 3 accounts to monitor: 1) the University library, 2) the University museum, and 3) the University archive. Subscription administrators can access all three accounts and assign access for data managers and data analysts. To augment your environmental monitoring program, IPI also offers consulting services to regularly review environmental data with environmental management teams. **Contact us** to discuss how we can support your data analysis routine.



Phase Change Materials Research Grant

We are excited to announce that IPI and the **Department of Packaging Science** at RIT have been awarded a grant from **Getty** to support a 3-year research project that will evaluate the potential of phase change materials (PCMs) to locally manage temperature control in collection microenvironments during display, storage, and transit scenarios. As our understanding of the material science of collections has developed over the decades, it is now widely recognized that the majority of museum and archive collections can be safely exposed to some degree of dynamic change to their immediate environment, broadening the recommended range of temperature and relative humidity set points in collection spaces while continuing to meet preservation goals. Through a series of laboratory tests designed to simulate hourly and daily temperature changes experienced in uncontrolled or partially-controlled collection environments, the project will investigate three different microclimate applications for phase change materials, namely 1) vitrines for objects on open display, 2) storage enclosures for temperature sensitive objects in collections, and 3) sealed frame packages for local temperature control during display and transit.

Call for Applications:
Getty Global Art & Sustainability Fellowship

IPI is currently accepting applications for its second **Getty Global Art & Sustainability Fellow**, a 2-year Fellowship funded by a grant from Getty. For this Fellowship, we are seeking applications from candidates with an educational background in mechanical engineering, building physics, data science, preservation science, or related field. Applicants must also demonstrate an interest in preservation science and cultural heritage preservation. The goal is to identify a Fellow with engineering skills who is interested in pursuing research on topics such as energy monitoring, the role collection materials can have on temperature and relative humidity management, or energy saving strategies/materials that have proved successful in other fields, but not yet tested or evaluated for collection environments.

Learn more

2026 Webinars

This Spring, IPI will present three webinars that focus on different sustainable approaches to managing relative humidity in collection spaces. These webinars are supported by a Getty Global Art & Sustainability Fellows grant, are free to attend, and will be presented by Emily Bernal, IPI's first Art & Sustainability Fellow:

Implementing Seasonal Relative Humidity Set Points: April 23
Seasonal relative humidity (RH) set points offer a practical way to maintain established preservation conditions while responding to seasonal changes in outdoor climate. This webinar introduces the concept of seasonal RH management and will share a case study of how the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art implemented and manages seasonal RH set points in exhibition and collection spaces.

Register

Implementing Broader Annual Relative Humidity Ranges in High Density Storage Spaces: May 21
High-density archival storage environments present unique opportunities for managing relative humidity (RH) because large volumes of boxed and bound materials absorb and release moisture slowly over time. This webinar will focus on how the hygroscopic nature and sheer volume of organic archival collections contribute to RH management.

Register

Reducing Extreme Relative Humidity Conditions in Historic Houses Through Passive Environmental Management Approaches: June 25
Historic house museums often experience extreme seasonal and short-term fluctuations in relative humidity due to building characteristics, exposure, and limited mechanical systems. This webinar introduces passive environmental management strategies through case studies of how the Morris County Park Commission has reduced environmental risk across historic houses and collection spaces using low-cost, data-driven approaches.

Register

Webinar Series: Thermodynamics in Collection Spaces
In the Fall, IPI will offer a new webinar series designed for preservation professionals who would like to develop a foundational understanding of the thermodynamic principles that govern what happens in storage and display environments and why these phenomena matter. This webinar series will be presented by Marvin Cummings, IPI Research Scientist.

Learn more and register

IPI at AIC-CAC Joint Meeting in April

Connect with IPI team members at the **American Institute for Conservation's (AIC) 54th Annual Meeting**, a joint conference with the **Canadian Association for Conservation of Cultural Property (CAC-ACCR)** in Montreal. IPI will be in **booth 305** of the exhibit hall Thursday, April 30th and Friday, May 1st.

Also on May 1, IPI research scientists will present *Investigating the Prevention of Mold Germination in Museum Collections During Sustainable Operations and Emergency Response*, a summary of IPI's ongoing mold research funded by an Institute of Museum and Library Services National Leadership Grant for Museums.

Read the full abstract

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The Image Permanence Institute® (IPI) is an academic research center within the College of Art and Design at Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT) dedicated to supporting the preservation of cultural heritage collections in libraries, archives, and museums around the world.

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