



Celebrating 35 years of
preservation research



IPI Operations Update

IPI staff restarted limited on-campus operations in June. Given New York State guidelines and Rochester Institute of Technology's [Workplace Safety Plan in response to the COVID-19 pandemic](#), IPI staff will continue working on campus on a limited basis until further notice. All campus operations are active, including on-campus research activities, product sales, and testing services, but staff are also working remotely as much as possible to handle all essential needs. Should you require assistance or have questions related to ongoing business, please [contact us](#).

Growth Planning in Support of Cultural Heritage Preservation and Institutional Sustainability

Thank you to everyone who contributed to our research and business assessment activities over the past ten months including online surveys, strategic conversations and working meetings with internal and external constituents, and an extensive evaluation of IPI's existing business and fundraising practices.

In March and April, we hosted three working meetings that collectively engaged colleagues from academic libraries, conservation research centers, conservation and library science training programs, conservation regional centers, federal cultural institutions, fine art museums, and national membership organizations to inform IPI's research agenda and strategic growth planning for 2021 and beyond. The agendas and roundtable discussions for those meetings were informed by the responses we received to our November 2019 survey. In May, we received more than 460 responses to an additional survey about environmental monitoring preferences. In June, we concluded our assessment activities.

One of the immediate outcomes of our thorough assessment is the decision to explore new possibilities for datalogger enterprises related to IPI's work in preservation environmental monitoring and management. While we investigate new opportunities in this area, we have halted the production of PEM2® dataloggers and our inventory of dataloggers is limited. We continue to support and service PEM2s in the field and recently added enhancements to PEM2® technical support to improve those services, as shared in our [May newsletter](#). Our goal is to maximize the positive impact of IPI's environmental data analysis software, consulting, and hardware services to support the field in sustainable preservation environmental management. In that respect we also continue to focus on strengthening IPI's unique, web-based, preservation environmental management and analysis software, eClimateNotebook®, and have initiated efforts to expand the compatibility of eClimateNotebook® with a variety of monitoring devices.

IPI's mission remains to support the preservation of cultural heritage collections in libraries, archives, and museums. We will continue to do so by leading an active preservation research program that informs and advances professional-level education and training activities, publications, consulting services, and the development of practical preservation resources and tools. There are many exciting opportunities to support IPI's core mission while also strengthening institutional sustainability.

Your use of and investment in IPI services, resources, and tools supports our preservation research program. A successful growth plan will address current preservation field needs that IPI is uniquely qualified to meet while also supporting long-term institutional sustainability at IPI. We are grateful for the funding provided by [The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation](#) to support our assessment efforts and to our colleagues at [Graham Pelton](#) for their partnership through the process. We look forward to sharing future updates as we transition from our assessment work to growth plan implementation.



Introducing Dr. Meredith Sharps

We are thrilled to introduce our new Research Scientist, Dr. Meredith Sharps. Meredith joined IPI in June after a postdoctoral fellowship at the Smithsonian Institution's Museum Conservation Institute, where she conducted collections-based research in the microanalysis laboratory. Meredith has a PhD in chemistry from the University of Oregon, where she gained experience in a variety of material characterization methods while studying nanomaterials used in lithography applications. Her position at IPI includes managing the operation of IPI's testing services and performing research related to materials used for the storage, transport, and display of cultural heritage collections.



Research Symposium and Workshop Cancellations

Given the nature of the ongoing global pandemic, IPI has cancelled the *2020 Vision: Current and Future Research in Cultural Heritage Preservation* symposium scheduled for October 14-15 2020. We considered moving the event online, but after careful deliberation determined it was best to cancel for 2020. While we are disappointed not to have the opportunity to host you in 2020, IPI's 35th anniversary year, we are considering hosting a research symposium in October 2021. We recognize that many events planned for 2020 have been rescheduled for 2021 and therefore it may not be the best year for us to host an event. We will make a final decision in January 2021 about whether or not to host a research symposium later that year. The advance inkjet preservation workshops

scheduled to occur in conjunction with the symposium were also cancelled. We do plan to partner with the Foundation for Advancement in Conservation (FAIC) in offering an in-person workshop on that topic in 2021.

Temperature



Relative Humidity (RH)



Dew Point



Preservation Environmental Management Webinars

Recordings of our recent two-part environmental management webinar series funded by the [National Endowment for the Humanities](#) are available online.

Series I includes 3 webinars that introduce the basics of environmental management and implementing an environmental management program.

Series II includes 2 webinars that explain how to analyze and interpret meaning from environmental data and how to create appropriate action plans based on that data.

Recordings for all 5 webinars are [available here](#).



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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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