



National Leadership Grant for Museums Research Project and Questionnaire

In August, the [Institute of Museum and Library Services](#) awarded IPI a National Leadership Grant for Museums to support a three-year research project designed to identify the most cost-efficient and environmentally responsible methods of preparing paper-based collection objects for transit and display. It will be the first research project to collect environmental data from multiple museums' shipping crates simultaneously. Laboratory experiments will include testing the safety and relative humidity buffering capacity of common crate packing and sealed frame package materials. Research will also involve identifying and testing new biodegradable and more environmentally responsible materials as possible replacements for materials currently in use for crate packing and sealed frame packages. As part of the first phase of this project IPI is distributing a questionnaire to inform a current inventory of commonly used materials for sealed frame package components. These materials will be evaluated for cost and environmental waste comparisons, and performance tested under different environmental conditions.

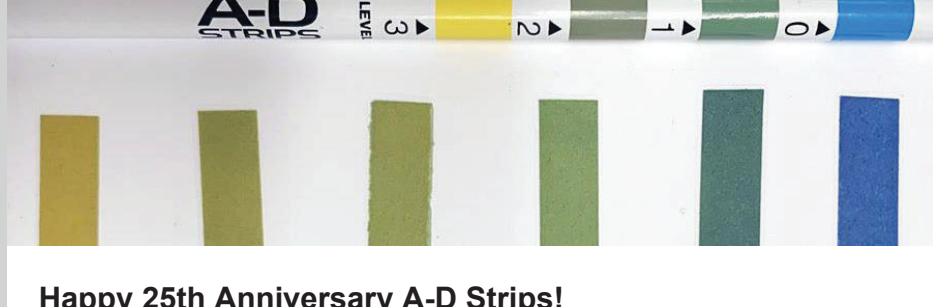
[Read more about the project](#) and [complete the questionnaire](#).



Field Study on Environmental Management During the Pandemic

IPI is conducting a field study about changes to mechanical systems implemented by collecting institutions in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The field study includes an online questionnaire and direct consultations with several institutions. Our goals are to understand how mechanical system changes impacted preservation conditions in collection spaces and to identify factors that contributed to successes or challenges. The information collected will be used to further develop guidance on implementing changes to mechanical system operations in emergency scenarios and while planning for long-term sustainability measures. Please consider completing the field study questionnaire if your institution implemented changes to mechanical systems serving collection spaces in response to the pandemic. At the conclusion of the questionnaire you will have the opportunity to register your institution for possible inclusion in a no cost, in-depth evaluation with IPI's environmental management consultants. Several institutions will be selected for a remote consultation process that will further inform the field study and help participating institutions advance preservation environmental management goals.

[Complete the field study questionnaire](#)



Happy 25th Anniversary A-D Strips!

In 1995, A-D (Acid Detecting) Strips were launched after years of research into the stability of photographic film made of cellulose acetate. A-D strips provide a simple, safe, and inexpensive testing method for detecting, measuring, and recording the severity of "vinegar syndrome." Most importantly, A-D Strips are essential to preservation planning for acetate-based collections. Vinegar syndrome is a term used to describe the chemical deterioration of acetate film causing the emission of a strong vinegar (acetic acid) odor, and ultimately shrinkage and channeling. In 1997, IPI received a Technical Achievement Award from the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences for developing A-D strips. Today, they continue to be used around the world to condition and monitor acetate film collections, and inform preservation planning and decision making.

[Learn more about A-D Strips at FilmCare.org](#)



Doug Nishimura Retires This Month

After 34 years of valuable contributions to preservation research and educational activities, Doug Nishimura is retiring this month. At the start of his tenure Doug focused on understanding the vulnerabilities of silver-based image materials, a topic that combines his passion for chemistry and photography. In the 1990s, Doug's mathematical analysis skills made essential contributions to IPI's new approaches to quantifying collection risks and rates of deterioration. He was instrumental in the development of preservation metrics such as IPI's Preservation Index, and life expectancy predictions for film base and chromogenic color materials. Doug has also taught undergraduate and graduate courses about the preservation of photographs at RIT since 1989. Those of us that are fortunate to have worked with Doug, know of his generosity as both a teacher and colleague. As an RIT retiree Doug will be retaining his email address (dwnpgh@rit.edu) and we encourage you to reach out directly to join us in sharing well wishes for his retirement.

Staff Announcements

Angelique Armstrong, product support specialist since 2011, left IPI to pursue new opportunities, and Jennifer Burger, research technician on digital print preservation projects, has accepted a new position as Director of [Deborah Ronnen Fine Art](#). Join us in wishing Angie and Jen well as they pursue new opportunities and endeavors.



Looking Ahead

In this final newsletter of 2020 we introduce new projects, celebrate milestones, and share well wishes. As we begin drawing this 35th anniversary year to a close, we look ahead to the next 35 years with hope and optimism. Soon, IPI will conduct a search to hire a new research leadership position, Director of Research. We will launch updates to our eClimateNotebook software that include support for a wider range of monitoring devices, and a new graphing interface. We will also launch an entirely redesigned Graphics Atlas. Check [IPI's website](#) for updates between newsletters, and help support our mission to enhance the preservation of collections in libraries, archives, and museums by [making a gift to IPI](#).

Upcoming Events and Funding Opportunities

Online Environmental Management Workshop

Applications are being accepted for an online environmental management workshop designed to guide participants through the process of implementing a sustainable environmental management program. The workshop is four days long with two sessions per day from 10am-12pm ET, and 1pm-3pm ET, and will be offered on the following dates:

- **December 7-10, 2020** (deadline for application: November 19, 2020)
- **January 11-14, 2021** (deadline for application: December 17, 2020)
- **February 8-11, 2021** (deadline for application: January 21, 2021)

To learn more and apply, visit: ipisustainability.org/workshops.html.

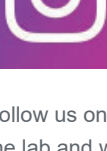
Sustaining Cultural Heritage Collections Grant Deadline

This year applications to the [Sustaining Cultural Heritage Collections \(SCHC\)](#) grant program in the Division of Preservation and Access at the National Endowment for the Humanities are due **January 14, 2021**. This important program offers funding to support sustainable preventive conservation strategies in cultural institutions. IPI environmental consulting services have been a component of many successful SCHC projects.

Christopher Cameron, Sustainable Preservation Specialist, and Kelly Krish, Preventive Conservation Specialist, lead IPI's [preservation consulting services](#) that assist institutions with improving their preservation environments while making them more energy efficient. If you are considering submitting a proposal that requires environmental consulting services, [please contact us](#).

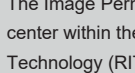
Preservation Assistance Grants for Smaller Institutions

January 14, 2021 is the deadline for submitting applications to [NEH for Preservation Assistance Grants](#). If you are considering applying for funding to support consultations with preservation professionals about establishing environmental monitoring programs or improving preservation environments and have questions about IPI's services in these areas [please contact us](#).



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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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