



SAVING YOUR Treasures

A Website about what you can do to protect and preserve the things of importance in your life



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Newspaper Clippings

Newspapers are generally printed on poor quality paper that is not meant to last. It contains acids and other chemicals from wood pulp and the paper making processes that contribute to its rapid deterioration. It quickly turns dark and becomes very brittle. Although conservators can slow down these changes, eventually the paper will inevitably become very brittle and fragile. Deteriorating newspapers will also cause any other documents nearby to discolor and loose strength over time. (Newspapers printed before the mid 1800's will be on better quality paper and will survive longer.)

The best course of action for most news clippings and newspapers is to photocopy them onto acid free, lignin free paper. Keep the photocopies as more permanent records and dispose of the original clipping. If you must keep the original clipping or newspaper, it should be housed in an acid free lignin free folder with a sheet or interleaving paper that will absorb acids as the newsprint produces them. This type of paper is called MicroChamber® and is made by Conservation Resources, www.conservationresources.com/Main/S%20CATALOG/MicroChamber.htm. The interleaving paper will need to be replaced periodically as it absorbs its capacity of volatile acids.

If you want to display newspapers or clippings, scan the originals and print out copies on acid free paper for display. These copy prints will be the same color as the originals but will last longer and can be used safely for display. You will have the information on the copy print and also in electronic form and can make as many "duplicate" copies as you need for display and for sharing with others.

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