

General Comments on Preservation

(continued)

- All audio and video tape will deteriorate with time—about 20 years or less
 - Hastened by poor environment
 - Keep cool and dry
- Copying to CD????
- Film (slides, 16 mm, etc.) lasts a long time.
 - Keep cool and dry
 - Clean
 - Some color dyes will fade

Environmental Conditions Summary

- Light
- Temperature (20° C.) 24/7/365
- Humidity (40% to 50%) 24/7/365
- Air circulation -- Fans
- Cleanliness
- Careful handling
- Do nothing that cannot be reversed

Remember, you have a special stewardship responsibility to properly care for those materials under your control. Do all that is possible to protect and preserve what God has allowed to come into your care.

III. Digital Issues

Digital Issues

- Prior to around 2000, limited Adventist material available electronically
- Digital formats not stable or permanent the way paper is—5 years vs. 100 years
- Digital needs to migrate to next generation or risk obsolescence
- Physical medium (disk or tape) lasts longer than ability to read it
- Medium changes (floppy disk to thumbdrive)

Archiving verses Archives

- Archiving, the verb
 - Back up of computer files
 - Intended life is a few minutes to several years
- Archives, the noun
 - Place where materials are kept from several months to many years
 - Intended life is a few years to forever

Digital Summary

- Wonderful tool
- Obsolete in a short time
- Migrate or upgrade = time and money
- Need to use digital all we can
- Be aware of limitations
- Be prepared for migration
- If something is of permanent value, keep in paper format if at all possible

IV. Conclusion

Conclusion

- YOU, Adventist librarians and managers of special Adventist heritage collections, are the ones we must rely on to collect Adventist materials now while they are available.
- The scholarly world relies on YOU to manage what you have in ways which will preserve them for longer use and make them available to the widest range of researchers possible.

Conclusion (continued)

- YOU need to become more aggressive in seeking out Adventist sources from within your union or division territory
- NAD based organizations not able to be comprehensive world-wide
- YOU are where the “rubber meets the road.” “Where the action is”

Conclusion (continued)

- YOU are the ones who need to manage the collections you do have to ensure its continued availability
- This may require special regulations and limits on use
- Remember YOUR stewardship responsibility when people get upset. Get higher administrative support
- YOU have stewardship of precious, costly, and hard to get materials

Conclusion (continued)

- YOU are the ones who can provide an environment friendly to the preservation of the physical medium.
- Light, temperature, humidity, pests, cleanliness, and wear and tear are largely within YOUR control.
- YOU have stewardship of precious, costly, and hard to get materials.

**YOU are the ones who hold
the future of our Adventist
heritage materials in your
hands.**

**Do all YOU can to preserve
this material while it is
available—that is NOW.**

Issues in Collecting and Preserving

Seventh-day Adventist Materials

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