The Challenges of Conservation & Preservation in Hawai‘i
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Introduction
The environmental climate of Hawai‘i offers specific challenges for the preservation and conservation of library and archival materials. This poster identifies those challenges, makes recommendations for prevention of damage and discusses the importance of ethical responsibility when digitizing indigenous collections in libraries and archives.

Environmental Factors
- Year-Round Warm Temperatures
- Insects and Pests
- Humidity and Mold
- Ultraviolet Light
- Volcanic Smog (VOG)
- Seasonal Floods

Human Factors
- Poor handling & carelessness (pets/food/liquids/markings)
- Shelving (Placement and shelf material)
- Adhesives (Tape/Glue)
- Library Architectural Design

Recommendations
- Maintain an ideal temperature of 70°F in archive/library.
- Reduce humidity to 50-55% by using dehumidifiers.
- Freeze all incoming materials to rid items of insects and pests.
- Cover windows and fluorescent light tubes with UV filtering film or install UV filtering Plexiglas.
- Workshops/flyers/YouTube videos aimed at incoming students/patrons on proper handling of materials.
- Preservation Week participation.
- Design with good air circulation, but not open to the elements (i.e. Sinclair Library).
- Store in archival acid-free boxes only.
- Digitization of special collections to limit handling.

References


Ethical Digitization of Indigenous Materials
- Openly discuss proper care, display, storage and handling of sensitive materials with originating culture.
- Create and maintain trust and a respectful relationship with the originating community.
- Establish policies and guidelines for culturally sensitive items, which are respectful of indigenous views.
- Keep in mind that images of ceremonial rituals are not intended to be viewed by the uninstructed.
- Create open dialogue to return items to originating community and/or offer care and storage with legal guarantee that items will not be misused.

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