

Katrina Burch
Fellowship paper

This summer I was awarded the Mildred Bissinger Preservation and Conservation fellowship and I able to work on some very interesting projects. This brief paper will look at those projects and how they will help me later on in my career as an archivist.

The first project that I worked on was re-housing the Hutchison collection. The reason this needed to be done was that the collection has active vinegar syndrome. This syndrome, which is contagious, is the deterioration of the cellulose acetate negatives. Re-housing the negatives that are not damaged will help keep them from deteriorating further by being further from the acidic envelopes. Understanding and working on this project will help me later in my career by giving me first-hand experience in dealing with vinegar syndrome, as well as, seeing it in person. Knowing how to deal this syndrome is important because many archival institutions have cellulose acetate collections and by having firsthand experience with them will give me a good base to deal with any acetate collection.

The second project I worked on was learning Japanese Tissue repair. Learning this will help me further in my career by giving me knowledge on how to repair items with a non-evasive treatment. Knowing how to do Japanese Tissue, along with the materials that go into it, wheat paste, and actual tissue, I will be able to repair items, to help in keeping them together so that they can be used in research.

The third project that I worked on was digitizing reel to reel tapes. This project involved putting the reels on the machine and then using audacity to digitize the tapes into .wav files for storage on a hard drive. By learning this project, it will help me further in my career by knowing to digitize different formats as well as problems that may occur in digitizing them.

The final project that I worked on was building book boxes. These boxes are protective enclosures that keep books, pamphlets, and other materials protected against handling damage. These enclosures are

ones of many different types but the ones I was taught allow for the book to be used as well as the most quality for the material purchased. This will help me in my career choice because it something not everybody knows how to do and so by being able to do it, and do it quickly, protective enclosures can be made to help preserve book collections.