BOOKS: LEATHER OR VELLUM COVERS

Priority: Freeze as soon as possible; vellum will distort and disintegrate in water.

Handling Precautions: Do not move items until a place has been prepared to receive them. Do not open or close books or separate covers. Oversized books need to be fully supported; it may only be possible to move one at a time.

Preparation For Drying: Closed books that are muddy should be rinsed before freezing. If air drying is not possible, books should be frozen, preferably blast frozen, as soon as possible. Separate with freezer paper, pack spine down in milk crates, plastic boxes or cardboard boxes lined with plastic sheeting.

Supplies Needed

- bread trays
- dehumidifier
- fans
- plywood sheets
- polyethylene film
- sponges
- silicon release paper
- blotter paper
- extension cords
- freezer or waxed paper
- masking tape
- Hollytex (polyester spunbond fabric)
- scissors
- newsprint (sheets or rolls)
- plexiglass sheets
- pliers, screw driver, tin snips
- polyester film
- milk crates or Rescubes

Drying Procedure: Thermaline or cryogenic drying is a new technique that promises to be the best for leather and vellum bindings. Books should be separated with freezer paper and packed spine down in milk crates or plastic boxes.

Air drying may be used for items that are not very wet. This requires space in an area away from the disaster to spread the books out. Books are stood upright and gently fanned open to dry.

Coated Paper requires that each and every page be interleaved with a non-stick material such as silicone release paper, Hollytex or wax paper.

Oversize volumes must lay flat and should be turned when the blotter is changed. Pages should be interleaved with sheets of uninked newsprint or blotting paper that is changed as it becomes saturated.

Keep the air moving at all times using fans. Direct fans into the air and away from the drying records. Use dehumidifiers as needed to maintain humidity at or below 50% RH.