

The University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Rare Book and Manuscript Library Mold Remediation

AIC Book & Paper Group
Archives Conservation Discussion Group 2009

Melissa Straw
mstraw@illinois.edu
Contract Conservator
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

The project in numbers

Summary of Hours of staff labor (not including outside vendor) as of 5/2009

	Conservation/ Preservation	RBML	Administration	Facilities	Total
preliminary	293	128	21	18	460
cleanup	348	1,587	0	0	1,935
ongoing	109	769	2	0	175
<i>Total</i>	<i>750</i>	<i>2,484</i>	<i>23</i>	<i>18</i>	<i>3,275</i>

Total Project Costs

BMS CAT cleaning	\$800,000
equipment (dehumidifiers/vacuum/dataloggers)	\$4,440
stabilization supplies + pamphlet binders	\$38,610
staff time (equivalent \$ as of 5/2009)	\$58,223
<i>Total</i>	<i>\$901,273</i>

Various Numbers from the Project

- 300,000+ items vacuumed
- 31,000 yards of string tie
- 6,200 archival pamphlet binders
- 1,100 pairs of gloves
- 1,000 sheets of binder board
- 800 Tyvek suits
- 200 pounds of microfiber cloths
- 25 extension cords
- 20 gallons of Microban
- 12 Microtrap 2000 Air Filtration units
- 8 Nilfisk HEPA vacuums

Challenges

- Security
- Compact shelving
- Lack of electricity in vault area
- No elevator between the two levels
- Various non-book formats
 - Framed artwork
 - Audiovisual materials
 - Sculptures
- Nature of materials
 - Age
 - Fragility
 - Incunabulum
 - Vellum distortion