

Biodeterioration of Cultural Property: A Bibliography

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INTRODUCTION

The field of biodeterioration of cultural properties is extremely diverse. The diversity is apparent in not only the materials to be dealt with but in the sources of publications. Publication sources range from readily available scientific literature to specialized conservation symposia. During the course of more than a decade of research in the field of biodeterioration, the senior author has spent a considerable amount of time amassing literature for projects and realized the need for a more efficient and faster method of locating biodeterioration literature. Specialized libraries, like those in conservation organization or museum conservation departments often provide a good source for this literature, but require much searching through individual publications. A major attempt by the Conservation Information Network, a consortium of international conservation organizations administered by the Getty Conservation Institute to provide biodeterioration references (some 2400 out of 100 000+ conservation references) is, unfortunately, only partially successful. The CIN biodeterioration bibliographic database has 30–40% duplicate references (data files were combined from four major conservation organizations) and too broad a keyword index so that this bibliography has been compiled to assist the scientist and conservator working in this field in locating and tracking the relevant literature.

Many of the papers referred to herein have been found to be useful to the senior author during a decade of research in this area. The bibliography has included in it a selection of general texts for introductory information for non-biologists. Also, a conscious attempt was made to include extensive references taken from the conservation field. Most of the references date from the last 25 years, although a handful of historical references will be found. The conservation references were mainly derived directly from the following libraries: The Conservation Center of the New York University's Institute of Fine Arts, The Objects Conservation Department of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, and The American Museum of Natural History — all in New York, also, to a lesser extent, the Conservation Information Network, a bibliographic database, administered by The Getty Conservation Institute, Marina del Rey, California.

The bibliography is organized alphabetically by first author, numbered, and keyworded. A keyword index is provided to assist in finding relevant references. The complete bibliography is available on a dBase III-compatible format, or as an ASCII file, both on 3½"-IBM format PC disks, from the senior author.

The majority of the references have been abstracted in English language sources. Regrets for the omission of potentially important communications from sources or languages less readily available.

We hope that this bibliography will assist in advancing research efforts in this field. Omissions, corrections, suggestions, or new work, may be brought to the attention of RJK, for inclusion in any future bibliographic updates.

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