

# Preserving Collections without a Budget: Innovative “Green” Ideas

Stephanie Sussmeier · Jian Wang · Stockton University

## INTRODUCTION

In this digital age, libraries invest much of their money in electronic resources, while their print collections are still in use. The cost of sending damaged books to a commercial binder is getting higher each year. The dilemma of how to prolong the lives of the books with a minimum cost is a constant challenge to libraries. This poster illustrates how Stockton University Library preserves its circulating print collections innovatively by re-purposing everyday items and using recycled library materials. For example, backing paper of barcodes and labels is used as wax paper when adhesive is applied to items; discarded dustjackets patch broken covers with matching colors; unwanted office file folders and hard covers of weeded items serve as book cover replacement; recycled box cardboards are ideal to be used as cutting boards and exhibit materials; no-longer-needed school supplies, together with bamboo BBQ skewers, bricks, needles and threads from staff’s homes are all used as valued preservation tools.

## CONCLUSION

With a “cost-saving” mindset, the staff in preservation save everything they come across; from outdated manual content dividers, to mending-supply order backing boards. Nothing is wasted. The materials also come in handy when used for preservation exhibits. Recycling materials not only saves library resources, but also contributes to a “green” environment. The staff hopes that the “green”-conscious practice can send a message to their library users.

## EVERYDAY ITEMS AND RECYCLED MATERIALS

### Common Bricks & Heavy Books



### ILL Envelopes, Markers, File Folders, Weeded Book Covers, Dustjacket Clippings



### Barcode & Label Paper, BBQ Skewers, Brushes, Catalog Cards, Needles & Threads, Label Boxes



USED  
FOR

### Book Pressing



### Book Pockets, Cover Patching, Housing, Replacement for Book Covers



### Wax & Scrap Paper, Gluing & Sewing Supplies, Holders for Odds & Ends

