



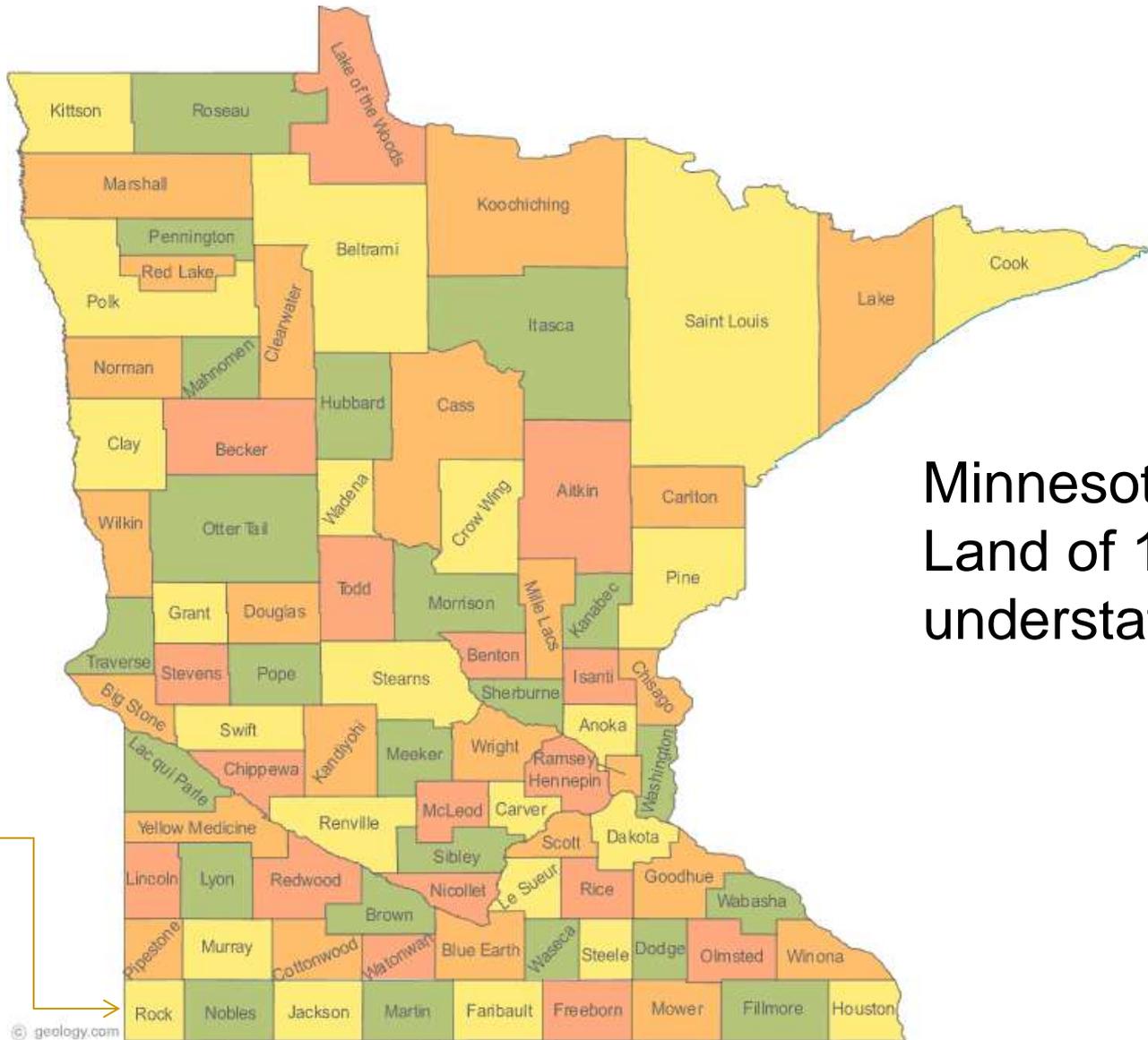
THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

Building Your Preservation Program

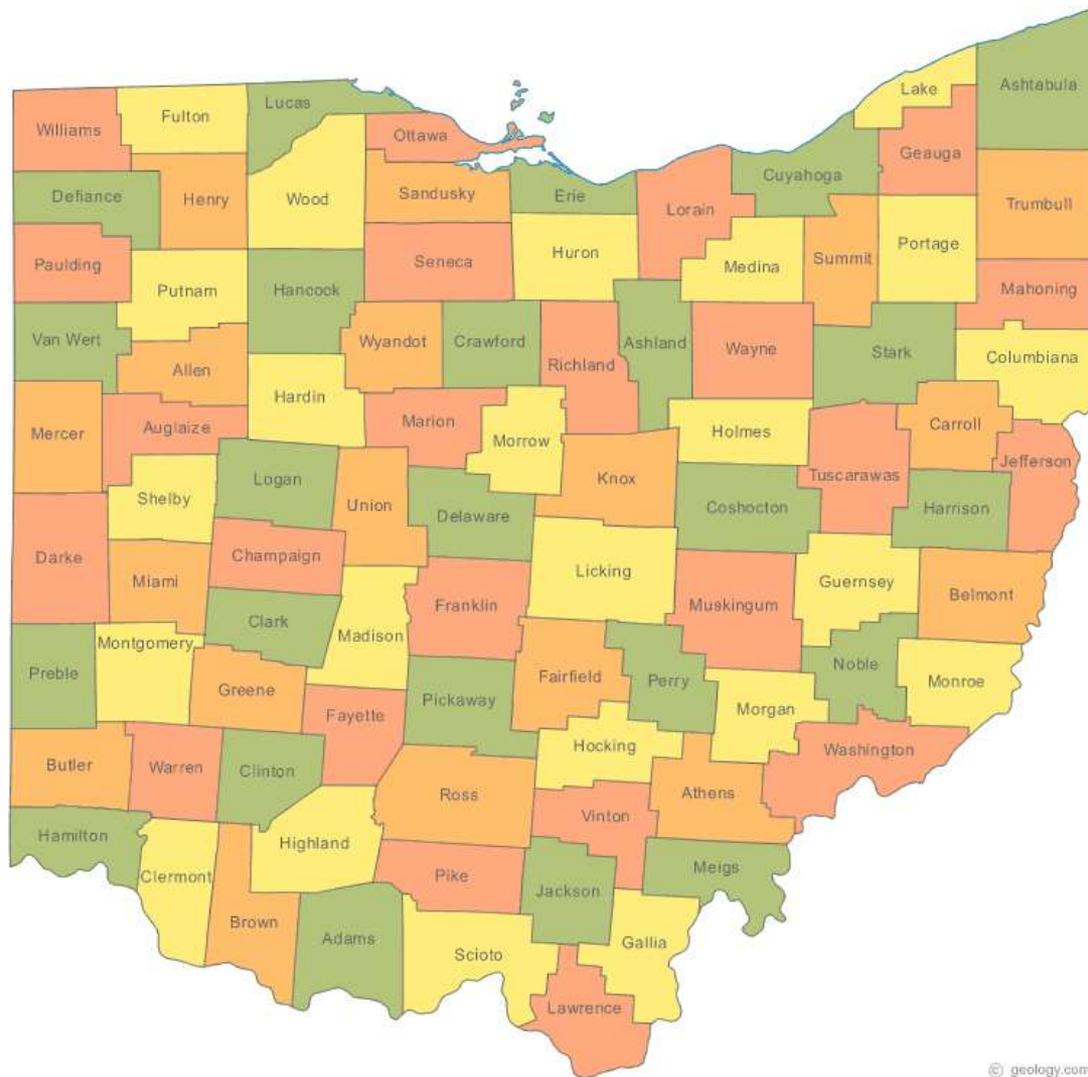
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Rock County



Ohio:
The Heart of It All!

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Building your preservation program ...

Some cultural and historical perspective on our stewardship ...

- Taking a step back to assess our recent history in the management of preservation and conservation efforts, one can see tremendous progress.
- Yet, the scope of need brings us back to learn more and to regroup for continued learning and action.
- A new cultural and industrial revolution has taken place.



Scene: The New York Public Library, 1981



Building your preservation program ...

When the man in the picture still had a comb-over (in 1981)...

- The applied science supporting preservation principles was obscure.
- The marketplace of solutions was immature.
- Our literature documenting technical and management solutions was a range of overly-technical to overly-hyperbolic, not based upon data.
- The community of professionals was small.
- The interest and enthusiasm of practitioners was high, but the technical, management and fiscal solutions hadn't been scaled to the challenges.



Building your preservation program ...

In 1981...

- The applied science supporting preservation principles was obscure.
 - Set points for ambient temperature (T), relative humidity (RH) and levels of light radiation lacked a well-understood rationale.
 - National and international standards – codified applied science and best practices -- had not yet been developed by ANSI, ISO and other bodies for treatment, storage, exhibition, etc. Examples:
 - Plastics were everywhere, but most lacked the knowledge about the problems with plastics such as PVC used in storage.
 - No permanent paper standard. Permalife™ was essentially the only permanent / durable paper
 - Photographic Activity Test (PAT) yet undefined



Building your preservation program ...

In 1981...

- The marketplace of solutions was immature.
 - Commercial library binding remained entrenched with a one-leaf-attachment option.
 - Commercial art framers often used ill-advised techniques and materials.
 - Supplies vendors hadn't yet developed treatment and storage solutions for off-the-shelf use by their customers. (We had only Hollinger and TALAS.)
 - Tools for monitoring T/RH/light conditions were expensive and difficult to obtain.
 - Imaging (photography) was too expensive to address the problems of gray-scale and color objects, leaving us with high-contrast, black-and-white microfilm as a single "solution" to a wide range of preservation-and-access problems.
 - Single-item conservation options were very limited geographically.
 - We were on our own for disaster mitigation strategies.



Building your preservation program ...

In 1981...

- Our (library) literature documenting technical and management solutions was a range of overly-technical to overly-hyperbolic, and not based upon data.
 - Most literature in preservation in the field of librarianship tended to the heart-rending, even emotional, approach.
 - Not until the Yale book-condition study (published in 1985) was there clear documentation about the magnitude and scale of book-paper deterioration.



Peter Waters in
Smithsonian (1978)



Building your preservation program ...

In 1981...

- The interest and enthusiasm of practitioners was high, but the technical, management and fiscal solutions hadn't been scaled to the challenges.
 - Conservation scientists seemed to speak only to one another only rather than to practitioners in the fields of art, archives, historical societies and libraries.
 - We had a tremendous need for management tools for practical applications in the field.



Building your preservation program ...

In 1981...

- The community of professionals was small.
 - “Preservation is a series of technical problems with management solutions.”
(Patricia Battin, 1990)
 - Most practitioners managing preservation efforts were self-taught and highly-motivated to learn; but formal training was very limited.



From... The New York Public Library, 1981



... to ...The Ohio State University, 2013



Building your preservation program ...

We've come a long way ...

- We have solid applied science behind our preservation principles.
- The marketplace is replete with tools and technologies.
- Our literature documents technical and management solutions: we have moved beyond hyperbole.
- The community of professionals is considerable.
- The experience, interest and enthusiasm of practitioners is strong, and a new generation is fully engaged.



Building your preservation program ...

Remind me, why are we in “preservation boot camp” this week? (*Your* participation here ...)

- ?
- ?
- ?
- ?
- ?



Building your preservation program ...

Some possible responses to “*why are we in ‘Preservation Boot Camp’ today?*”

- To get some new ideas about resources.
- To partner with others for joint activities.
- To bring home new approaches.
- To find out where the money is.
- To remind ourselves that there is a helluva lot of material in our care.
- To re-invigorate a new group of recruits!!



Building your preservation program ...

We've come a long way ...

- We have **applied science** behind our preservation principles. For example:
 - Library of Congress-sponsored “isoperm” studies document the science behind lower temperature (T) and relative humidity (RH) set points for storage.
 - The Image Permanence Institute (IPI) created management tools such as the PEM2 datalogger and the Preservation Calculator.
 - Association of American Museums (AAM) publishes guidelines for exhibitions, etc
 - International standards are published based upon applied science and industry norms, from business continuity (ISO 22301) to permanent paper (ISO 9706)
 - Mycologists document dangers inherent with fungal outbreaks.
 - HVAC professionals increasingly understand the preservation environment to match “green building” features and preservation.



Building your preservation program ...

We've come a long way ...

- The **marketplace** is replete with tools, services, and technologies. For example:
 - Library binderies (such as The HFGGroup) have responded to libraries' needs for more enlightened binding techniques and related conservation services.
 - Supplies vendors offer a wide range not only of supplies and equipment, but also of practical and applied techniques and advice.
 - Reformatting vendors – digitization services – provide competitive and high-quality conversion of analog to digital, with enhanced preservation and access to nearly every format from paper to film to magnetic media.
 - The disaster response industry – Belfor, BMS-Cat, Cotton, Polygon -- has an excellent record in assisting heritage institutions.
 - Free off-the-shelf software such as dPlan empowers anyone to begin.



Building your preservation program ...

We've come a long way ...

- Our **literature** documents technical and management solutions: we have moved beyond hyperbole.
 - Nearly all one needs can be found in networked resources such as
 - Conservation Online (CoOL)
 - Library of Congress, National Archives & Records Administration
 - State Library of Ohio
 - Our journal literature
 - Weblogs at leading institutions
 - Free or low-cost “webinars” are easily found.



Building your preservation program ...

We've come a long way ...

- The **community of professionals** is considerable.
 - Nationally: LoC, NARA, NPS, ALA/ALCTS/PARS, SAA, AAM, ASSLH, Heritage Preservation, others
 - Regionally: CCAHA, NEDCC, Lyrisis, others
 - Consortial and NGO entities with common goals such as the Digital Preservation Network, Midwest Archives Conference
 - Within Ohio:
 - Society of Ohio Archivists
 - Ohio Preservation Council
 - State Library of Ohio
 - Intermuseum Conservation Association
 - New preservation professionals bring a rich combination of soft skills, highly-technical skills, inquisitiveness, and enthusiasm.



Building your preservation program ...

We've come a long way ...

- The **experience, interest and enthusiasm** of practitioners is strong.
 - A new generation is fully engaged, yet exhibits a maturity of approach.
 - “Preservation” routines are widely accepted, understood and practiced, especially among archivists and special collections professionals.
 - Preservation of born-digital and converted-to-digital content has forced more system-based, life-cycle-management approaches.
 - We gain experience with shared storage of duplicative print collections.



Building your preservation program ...

“A lot of guys” would consider these big next steps as priorities in a future preservation program

1. Tackle a good business continuity / disaster mitigation plan.
2. Put effort into an improved storage environment.
3. Learn more about good collections care strategies locally.
4. Plan ways to make your collections and services increasingly available, usable and valuable to your community.
5. Make and keep friends everywhere and always – from the custodians to the chairman of board.



...1981! ...



“Stewards of cultural heritage, you have nothing to lose but your combs!!”

– with apologies to Karl Marx





THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

From Boot Camp to ... Commencement!

Thank you!

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