

Simmons GSLIS Conference on Preservation Education

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Small Group Discussion Facilitated by Maureen Sullivan

## **1. Core Competencies for the Master's Graduate in the "Cultural Heritage Domain"**

Understanding of the importance of disaster planning and the resources needed

Knowledge of:

- storage and housing
- environmental control
- care and handling of materials
- collections care and maintenance
- treatment
- selection for preservation, including surveys
- nature of materials
- reformatting
  
- how and why people learn
  - the difference between education and training
  
- risk management analysis
  - be able to put a value on collections
  - understand the real value of collections
    - beyond the monetary value
    - as a resource for research and learning
  - identify risk factors

See the importance of "new ways of thinking"

## **2. Some Ideas to Pursue**

Define the core competencies

Masters' level

All librarians should have

The Preservation specialist should have

Others/technicians

Define levels of competency -- track these on a grid

- What all need to know
- What the preservation administrator needs to know
  - Offer intensive coursework that leads to a certificate (SAA Academy model)
- What the conservator needs to know

Note: Winterthur, Buffalo, and Texas are programs to look at

Provide hands-on experience, e.g., a Co-op program like the one at Northeastern U.

Focus on a Master's level program that includes history, archives and libraries

- Preservation is the common denominator
- Define the core philosophy, practices and procedures
- Encompass both digital and analog