



HARRY RANSOM CENTER

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The University of Texas at Austin

Internship in Preservation and Conservation

The intern in this position will have direct access to the Ransom Center's collections and to Preservation and Conservation's equipment, tools, and supplies. With the guidance of the Senior Conservator of Photographs, the intern will collaborate with conservators as well as preservation technicians. The intern will participate in projects focused on caring for collections in accordance with the highest standards of preservation and care.

Employer/Organization Description:

The Harry Ransom Center is an internationally renowned humanities institution that contributes significantly to the reputation of The University of Texas at Austin as one of the leading research universities in the world. The Center's exceptional collections provide insight into the range of creative expression of writers and artists engaged in literature, photography, film, art, and the performing arts. Visitors experience the collections through research, exhibitions, publications, digital initiatives, and a wide variety of programs.

Possible Learning Outcomes:

- Become familiar with conservation and preservation principles.
- Gain experience and familiarity with basic conservation and preservation procedures and techniques within a library-archive-museum environment.
- Design and construct housing solutions for collection items for permanent storage.
- Distinguish high-quality archival materials used for long-term storage of collections.
- Learn how to safely handle rare books, manuscripts, photographs, and other collection materials.

Possible tasks/responsibilities:

- Collaborate with conservators and preservation technicians in constructing protective enclosures appropriate for specific collection materials.
- Assist conservators and preservation technicians with lab maintenance and organization, and supply-room inventory.
- Participate in collections surveys as needed.
- Collaborate with conservators in minor treatment projects and use of specialized equipment.
- Assist conservators with treatment research and special projects.

Preferred Qualifications:

- Manual dexterity and familiarity with artists' materials.
- Interest in art, humanities, art history, and/or chemistry, physics, and/or biology.
- Attention to detail.
- Strong time management and organization.
- Excellent verbal and written communication skills.
- Comfortable working independently as well as under direction.
- Ability to climb stairs, lift, and move boxes of supplies on a pallet jack.