



Article: Further Studies in Digital Print Preservation (Abstract)

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Abstract: Further Studies in Digital Print Preservation

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According to a 2009 survey of museums, archives, and libraries, the vast majority of cultural heritage institutions now have modern, digitally printed materials (e.g. inkjet, color electrophotography, dye sublimation) within their holdings. Most of these institutions have also reported seeing signs of deterioration among these new collection materials including abrasion, fade, yellowing, bleed, and other types of damage. A thorough understanding of the chemical and physical properties of these materials from the time of their creation and throughout their usage lives will be critical to their preservation. The Image Permanence Institute (IPI) has previously reported on its research into several aspects of the permanence of digitally printed materials including their thermal stability, their sensitivities to ozone exposure, the effects of low and high humidity, their resistance to abrasion, and potentially harmful interactions with enclosures. Since the last report, IPI has completed several additional studies on the stability of these materials including their sensitivities to light and the air pollutant nitrogen dioxide, their resistance to scratch (which does not always correlate with abrasion), their ability to withstand damage during water disasters such as floods, and adverse effects from common mounting adhesives (such as staining and bleed). The results from each of these new areas of study will be explained, and their impact on care strategies discussed.

Additionally, while much as has been learned in these previous investigations, the road to developing a set of best practices for the preservation of these materials is still filled with obstacles. These include development of a common terminology, advanced identification methods, and effective damage mitigation strategies. The pathway to overcome these barriers as well as IPI's current and future work in this area will be summarized.

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