



Syracuse University  
Libraries

**Book Repair Basics for Libraries**  
**June 2, 2020**  
**Panhandle Library Access Network**

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Marianne S. Hanley is the Preservation Librarian for Syracuse University Libraries.



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**Aims and Scope of this Presentation**

- Familiarize viewers with different aspects of circulating collections book repair for school, public, and academic library staff by using descriptions of techniques, images and videos.
- This presentation should not be construed as a how-to workshop, it presents options for your own hands-on explorations.
- Not aimed at treatment of rare, valuable, or special collections items
- Resources for training will be provided at end.

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### Circulating Collections Repair at Syracuse University\*

- Materials retained for long-term
  - Weeding of collections very selective
  - Part of East Coalition & Hathi Trust
- Selection criteria for repair
  - From circulation, proactively from heavily used areas of the collections
- Types of treatments
  - Simple repairs (tip-ins, hinge tightening, ...)
  - Spine repairs (rebacking)
  - Rebinding (sent to commercial bindery)



\*and many other research / academic libraries

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### Public and school library context

- Materials not necessarily retained for long-term
  - Circulated, repaired, circulated, repaired, circulated, weeded...
- Often minimal to enable a few more circulations...
  - Don't address complex structural issues
- More likely to use self-adhesive products rather than wet adhesives...
  - Require less infrastructure and training
  - Quicker



Kapco Easy Hold- strengthen hinges

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### What we will cover

- Tools
- Adhesives and other materials
- Cleaning/Smells
- Simple repairs
  - Mending tears, tip-ins, hinge tightening
- Spine repairs
  - Simple "quick and dirty"
  - Replacing missing spines
  - Self adhesives
  - Glues...



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## Tools

- Scissors
- Box cutter
- Spatula
- Lifting Knife
- Acrylic Rod
- Bonefolders (2)
- Brushes (2)
- Safety Ruler
- Cutting mat
- Glue
- Wax paper



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## Book Protection, like Self Adhesives

- Book Covers- rigid cover
- Tapes-
- Label Protectors
- Repair & Reinforcement
- Companies will offer kits



SUL Preservation YouTube page  
<https://youtu.be/evt9jnmFja0>

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## Adhesives /Archival Tape

Archival PVA, like Elmers but different consistency  
 --Filmoplast P and other archival tapes



Jade 403 Adhesive



Acid free archival tape

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MENDING TEARS  
Video 1



## Book Repair Basics Page Tear Repair

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### Tip-ins

- Used to reinsert loose pages
- Used when inserting replacement pages
- Run a very narrow bead of adhesive (PVA) along spine edge, insert into gutter and align, apply pressure and let dry.
- If tipping-in replacement pages, use double-sided so as not to add excessive bulk and split the textblock.



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## Book Repair Basics Page Tip-ins

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### Hinge Tightening

- Loose or "shaken " hinges are one of the leading causes of a further breakdown of the structure of a book
- Hinge tightening quick and easy
- Minimal tools needed
  - bonefolder
  - acrylic rod/knitting needle
  - glue



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## Book Repair Basics

# Hinge Tightening

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### Materials to clean books

- Dirt/Dust
- Mold
- Soot
- Accretions (sticky or waxy deposits)
  - \*Try smoke sponge\*



Pencil marks- electric eraser  
Adhesive eraser

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### How To Remove the Smell

Remove the musty smell from books, papers and textiles with this reusable Book Deodorizer.

Use a similar amount to the object being freshened.

Leave object in sealed container for two weeks.



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### Spine Repairs -Before



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### Taped Spine Repairs

- Using tape to reinforce weakening spine to get a few more circs
- DO NOT use on books being permanently retained
- Quick and dirty, doesn't hold up well with heavy use
- Can be damaging especially if needed to be removed
- Doesn't require special adhesives



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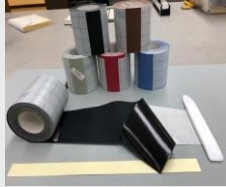
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### Taped Reback/Spine Repair when boards are attached

Tape used is Filmoplast T  
High-quality fabric backed with a long lasting archival acrylic adhesive. \$15-\$30  
Spine stiffener is 10point folder stock



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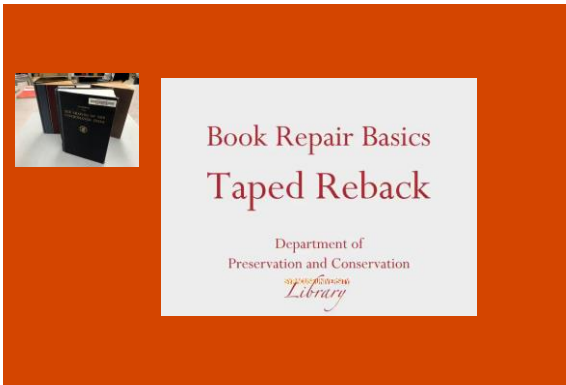
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**Book Repair Basics**  
**Taped Reback**

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### Full "reback" when boards are detached

- Outside board is pulling away/ detached from the text block
- Need to re-attach boards back to the book
- 10 point folder stock for the spine stiffener
- Buckram Book Cloth
- Cambric/Spine Lining Cloth (to be glued)



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## When to consult a conservator

- If the item is of historic or intrinsic value and significance.
  - If the repair is above your skill level.
    - Know your limitations
  - To find a conservator see the
  - American Institute of Conservation AIC
  - <http://www.culturalheritage.org>
- The proper care and maintenance ensure future generations can enjoy them.



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## Appendix 1-Selected Workshops

- **Preserve This**- Specializes in online preservation courses and topics related to preservation and collections care for librarians, archivists and related fields. <https://preservethis.org>
- **LYRISIS**- Offer Live webinars, free information sessions, and demonstrations of software and services. <https://www.lyrasis.org/services/Pages/Classes.aspx>
- **NEDCC** Northeast Document Conservation Center- Low cost webinars and workshops, Free On Demand Programs. <https://www.nedcc.org/preservation-training/training-currentlist>
- **NEFLIN** Northeast Florida Library Information Network- workshops and webinars
- **Northwest Central**-A continuing education network for library staff <http://nwccentral.org/>
- **Amigos Library Service**- Know & Go Series of Webinars <https://www.amigos.org/>

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## Selected Vendors

These vendors stock supplies for repairing circulating collections items.

- Gaylord Archival- [www.gaylord.com](http://www.gaylord.com)
- Kapco- [www.kapco.com](http://www.kapco.com)
- Brodart- [www.shopbrodart.com](http://www.shopbrodart.com)
- Talas- [www.talasonline.com](http://www.talasonline.com)
- Hollinger Metal Edge- [www.hollingermetaledge.com](http://www.hollingermetaledge.com)
- Demco - [www.Demco.com](http://www.Demco.com)

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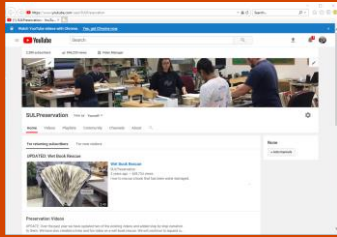
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[www.youtube.com/SULPreservation](http://www.youtube.com/SULPreservation)



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Thank You

Feel free to contact me with questions @ [mhanley@syr.edu](mailto:mhanley@syr.edu)



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