

# Photo Preservation





# Why preserve?

Photographs age and deteriorate naturally over time! They may seem like permanent things but no matter when the photograph was captured or how it was printed they're fragile things that can easily be harmed by something such as the oils on your fingers!

In many cases preservation is an act of prevention and there's no better (or cheaper!) way to keep those memories safe than to focus on preventing harm and deterioration!





# Meet the most common causes of deterioration!



**Lighting!**



**Storage!**



**Pests!**



# Lighting!

- Natural and UV lighting can damage photographs.
- Using frames with UV light protection or plexiglass can reduce the amount of damage caused by light.
- Display photos in areas with low lighting such as walls not directly facing a window.





# Storage:

- Keep photos in places that aren't too hot, humid, dry, or experience extreme shifts in temperature.
- Too hot or humid and the photos can decay and face other risks such as mold, water damage, and pests.
- If it's too cool or the humidity is too low then the photos can curl and crack.
- Basements, attics, and storage units aren't the best places for storage.





# Acid, Oils, and Chemical Reactions Oh My!

## Acid Free:

One of the best ways to ensure your photos stay a while is investing in acid free archival quality items!

- It's recommended to use mylar sleeves or acid free paper envelopes. Depending on your storage the envelopes may be the preferred way because Mylar sleeves can trap humidity. You can also write on them in pencil!
- It's also smart to store photos in acid free archival quality boxes or photo books.





# Acid, Oils, and Chemical Reactions Oh My!

## Your skin has oils!

- Clear sleeves that provide a barrier for handling.
- If you don't invest in a protective barrier then it's best practice to always wash your hands with soap and water before touching the photo and to try and avoid touching more than the corners because the dirt and oils on your fingers can actually damage the photo over time.
- While you can't see through paper envelopes they also provide protection during handling.

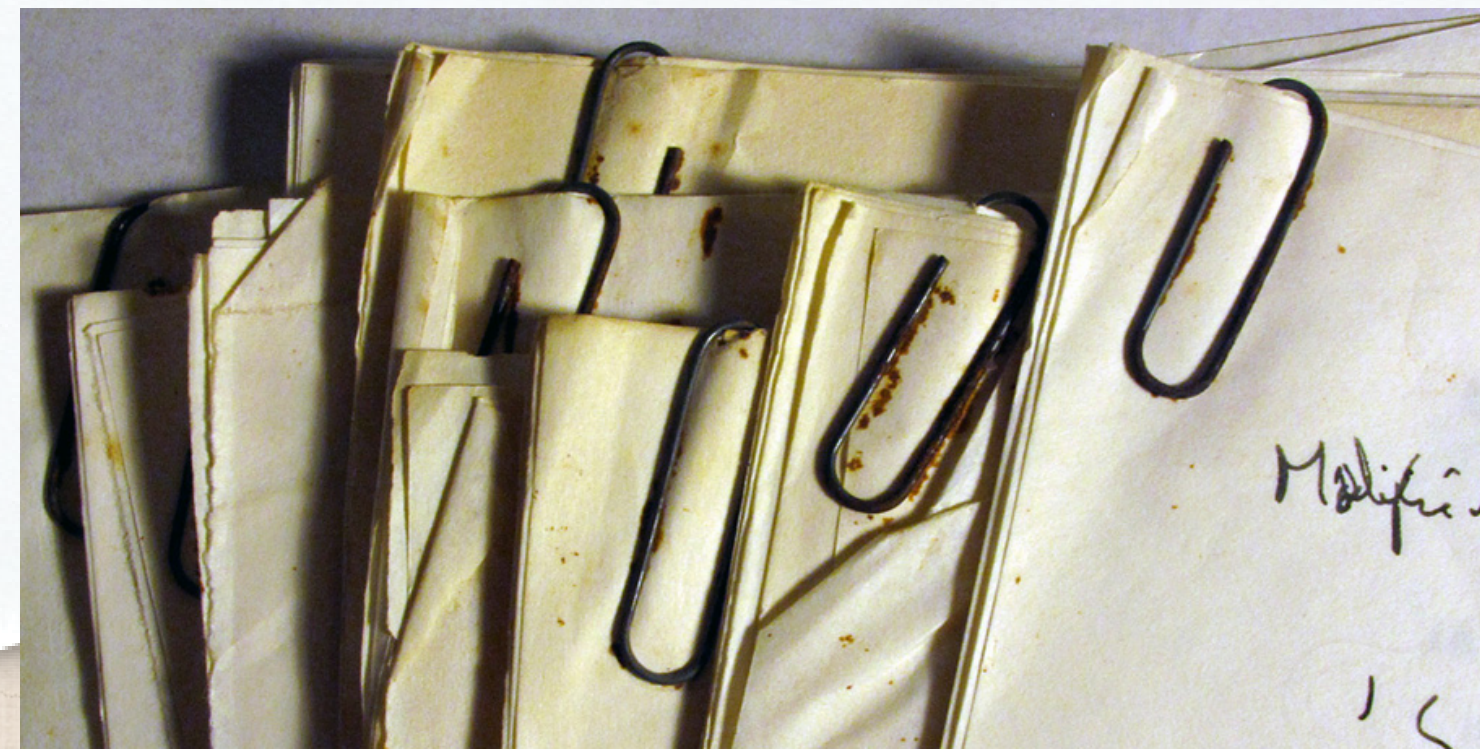




# Acid, Oils, and Chemical Reactions Oh My!

## Chemical Reactions

- It's suggested to always write on photos with pencil while they rest on a hard, flat surface to avoid puncture.
- Avoid using things such as rubber bands, metal paperclips, and staples because they can create chemical reactions that result in parts of the photograph being eaten away, stained, or rusted.







# Display!

What's the point of having your child's school photo or paying for a professional photoshoot for your pet if you don't display them? So here are some tips on how to keep them looking as wonderful as they day you got them.

- Keep away from windows and areas where they will receive a lot of light.
- Use a clear layer between the photo and the glass to prevent it from sticking to the glass.
- Quality frames can do a lot to accentuate the photo as well as protect it from future damage.





## Silverfish

- Thrive in dampness so if you notice them then you may have a humidity problem or potential water damage.
- Love to eat the emulsion on photos and leave little holes everywhere.
- They also eat paper and glue.



## Booklice

- Eat mold and can eat paper and photos and can leave small holes.
- They don't tend to cause a severe amount of damage but are a sign that environmental conditions are bad.



## Cockroaches

- These are the worst of the common pests. They won't necessarily eat through your collection, although they can, but they can create enough dirt, waste, and sanitary problems that you may have to throw the collection out due to sanitation reasons.
- Near impossible to eradicate without a professional.





# Digital Photos

## Digital Storage

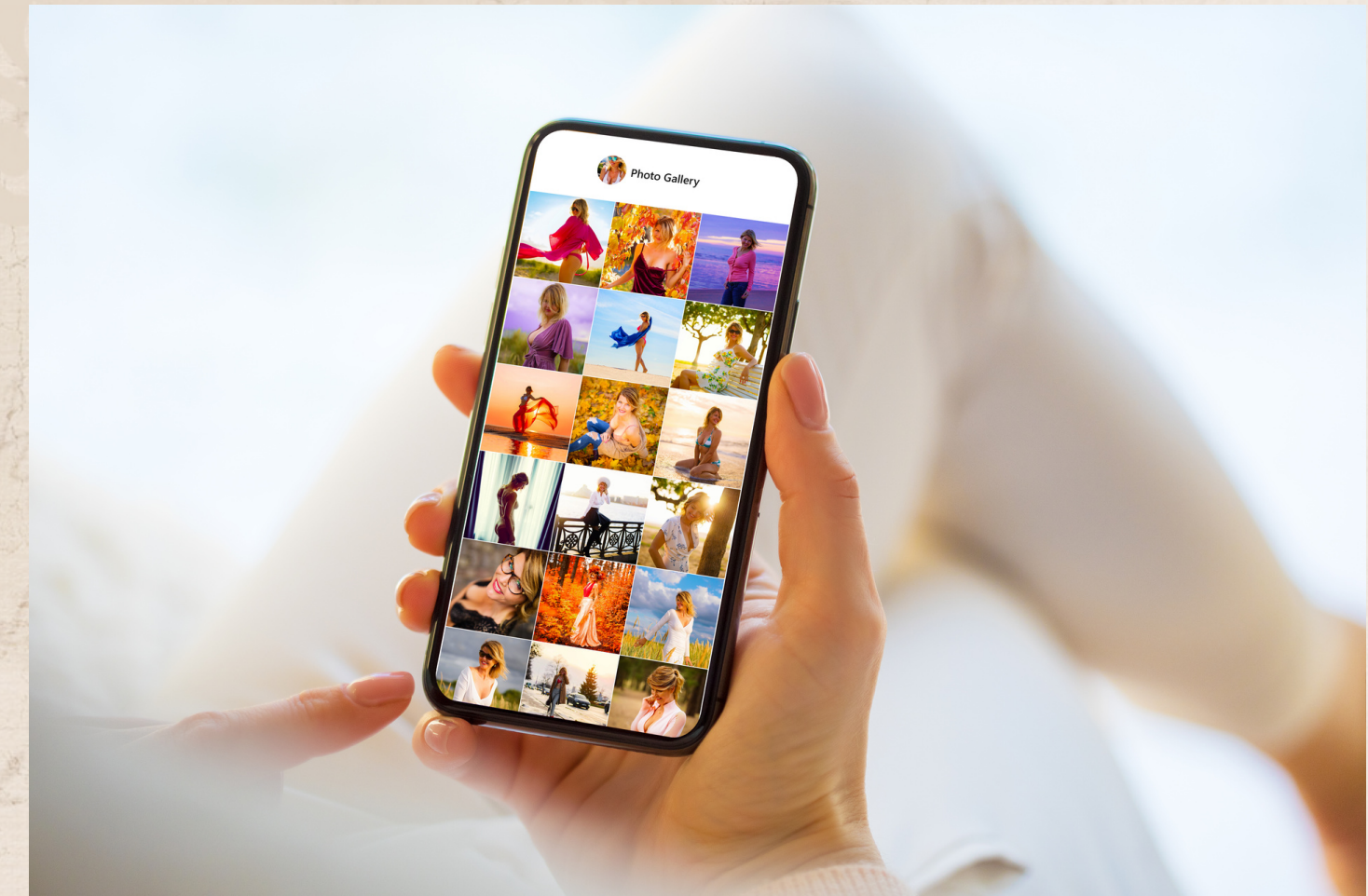
- Think of The Cloud
  - Dropbox, Google Photos, OneDrive, etc.
- This allows photos to be saved directly from your device to an online digital storage space and can be accessed anywhere through an account.

## Websites/Email

- There are websites such as Flickr and Photobucket that allow for digital storage.
- You can also store photos using your email. This may not be the best option for people who need a lot of space.

## External Devices

- Think of thumb drives, external hard drives, and of course multiple electronics such as desktops, laptops, tablets, or even phones.





# Obsolete Technology?

- There's always the chance that the tech you used to store your items will become obsolete. Think of floppy disks, old computer tech, and even the original cell phones and touch screen mp3 players. Even a few iPhones ago may not work as well as they once did so what do you do when you have precious memories on an obsolete device?
  - Having physical spares.
  - Having a professional recover files.
  - Buying a device that allows you to read obsolete technology is another option and can often be the best and simplest options.
  - Reach out to your local library!



# Central Digitization Services

Make an appointment with Central reference staff to use the following digitization options!

- VHS
  - Transfer your old VHS tapes to a digital format!
- 
- Records
  - Make copies or MP3s of your records!
- 
- Photos
  - Scan your physical photos to make digital copies!
- 
- Cassettes
  - Convert your old cassettes into MP3s!
- 
- Film
  - Convert film negatives to a digital format!





# Nelson Digitization Services

Make an appointment with Nelson staff to use the following digitization options!

- VHS
- Photos
- Films
- Books
  - Use their book scanner to create digital versions of your most beloved familial books!







**Thank  
you!**