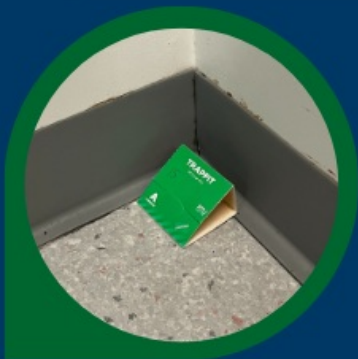


University of Glasgow Archives & Special Collections

Key Preservation Activities

Temperature & Humidity Control

Temperature and Humidity control is critical to preserving the variety of materials in the collections. Careful monitoring is combined with a progressive energy-conscious methodology. For example, the buildings natural 'seasonal drift' – the varying conditions during the seasons – has been used alongside a revised control strategy for the HVAC system with the aim of achieving a more stable environment with lower levels of energy use. This is preferred over the tight temperature and humidity controls which, when they fail, can result in rapid and extreme fluctuation that can be damaging to collections.



Pest Management

There are a multitude of insect and animal infestations that can harm collections. Efforts to monitor and address increased activity through environmental control are preferred over aggressive eradication. Insect and rodent traps are often checked, and they assist in a qualitative and quantitative analysis of the pests that may imperil the collections. Insect and rodent traps are checked regularly and quarterly reviews of pest activity produced. Booklice and silverfish are particularly damaging to collections and while it may be impossible to eradicate these pests completely, careful monitoring can help direct more specific interventions to address acute problems.

Physical Storage

Pressures on physical storage require an ongoing process of analysis and organization. Incoming collections are carefully assessed to identify condition issues, treatment or housing interventions that may be required, and suitability for the collection. While it is not feasible to enclose all materials within the space available due to their type, size and condition, where possible, enclosures are made from archive-grade materials (especially durable and containing no harmful chemicals) to provide an additional layer of protection.

