

GOOD BOOK CARE GUIDE

GOOD CARE OF BOOKS, STORAGE & HANDLING ADVICE

All books, papers and bindings are prone to injurious influences through the natural ageing process and often through poor storage conditions or mishandling. A few simple tips, that are easy to implement, will go a long way to help you look after such books with renewed confidence and pleasure.

Paper, board and many binding materials are made from organic sources. These are therefore prone to attack and consequent deterioration resulting from mildew and other mould growth, excessive fluctuations in temperature and humidity, direct light, dampness, insect invasion and impurities within dirt and dust that naturally occurs in the atmosphere as well as chemical changes in the structures. Anything you can do to stabilise and safeguard the storage area where books are kept will help extend the useful life of books and papers. For instance:

- **Keep book shelves and cases clean from dust and dirt and lift books away from floor level**
- **Try to avoid excessively hot or dry atmospheres and move books away from hot pipes**
- **Shield books from direct sources of light – particularly sunlight**
- **Watch out for dampness or other ingress of moisture or water**
- **Look out for signs of mildew and mould growth on the outside of bindings and pages**
- **Keep an eye out for signs of insect attack from beetles (bookworms) and vermin**
- **Areas where books are stored should be well ventilated with air freely allowed to circulate around the books**
- **Books should be shelved neither too tightly nor too loosely on book shelves or in book cases**

Leather bindings should be handled carefully but frequently without gloves, as the natural oils in clean human skin helps to keep the leather to stay soft and subtle. To prevent the natural oils within leather from drying out leather bindings can be beneficially treated with a leather preservative. Provided the skin is not too dry and weak, dusty or fragile (crumbling to dust or cracking), a sparsely applied leather dressing will greatly help. We can supply you with a suitable quantity of leather dressing furbish and instructions for its simple but safe application. Just ask us to give you details.

Finally, when handling or moving books take pride and care in your treasured volumes by:

- **Supporting large and heavy books when reading or moving**
- **Don't be tempted to force tight bindings open when using as this puts unnecessary pressure on the bindings and sewing**
- **Apply gentle easing pressure working from the foredge of each page inwards**
- **Gently turn pages and support large pages with both hands**
- **Never use pressure sensitive adhesive repair tapes to effect temporary repairs to paper or binding materials**
- **If your books require any repair or restoration contact us as soon as possible**

If you value your older books and fine bindings but they are in need of repair or restoration why not let us provide you with an individual estimate from our skilled crafts people?