



Records & Information Services

Municipal Library Notes - July 2019

Spotlight on LGBT Pride

SPOTLIGHT ON: LGBT Pride

By Christine Bruzzese, Director, Municipal Library

The month of June is celebrated as Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Pride Month since 2000. June was chosen because the Stonewall Inn Riots in New York City began on June 28, 1969. This event is considered by many the beginning of the fight for LGBT rights. To commemorate LGBT pride and the fiftieth anniversary of Stonewall, this article presents some resources from the Municipal Library collection. Also note that in this fiftieth anniversary year, the World Pride celebration took place in New York City on June 30th.

From the vertical files: a 1981 minority report from the City Council Committee on General Welfare asking fellow Council members to reconsider opposition to passing a gay rights anti-discrimination bill. The bill was finally passed by the City Council on March 20, 1986.

VF NYC HOMOSEXUALS



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CITY HALL
NEW YORK, N. Y. 10007

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NEW YORK CITY
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Council of the City of New York
Committee on General Welfare
Minority Report on Intro. #1017

Local Law 2 of 1986 forbidding discrimination against sexual orientation



112-42
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LOCAL LAWS
OF
THE CITY OF NEW YORK
FOR THE YEAR 1986

JUL 23 1986

31 CHAMBERS STREET
NEW YORK CITY

No. 2

Introduced by the President (Mr. Stein), (by request of the Mayor and the Comptroller); also Council Members Clark, Dryfoos, Eisland, Friedlander, Gerges, Greitzer, Harrison, Katzman, Maloney, Messinger, Michels, Pinkett, Robles, DiBrienza and Horwitz—

A LOCAL LAW

To amend the administrative code of the City of New York, in relation to unlawful discriminatory practices.

Be it enacted by the Council as follows:

Section 1. Legislative declaration. The council reaffirms its finding and declaration articulated in the law establishing the city commission on human rights that in the city of New York, with its great cosmopolitan population consisting of large numbers of people of diverse backgrounds, beliefs, and ways of life, there is no greater danger to the well-being of the city and its inhabitants than the existence of groups prejudiced against one another and antagonistic to each other. It further reiterates that prejudice, intolerance, bigotry, and discrimination occasioned thereby threaten the rights and proper privileges of the city's inhabitants and menace the institutions and foundation of a free democratic state.

The council notes that, throughout the history of the city, many New Yorkers have encountered prejudice on account of their sexual orientation. In some instances, the prejudice has impaired access to employment, housing, and other basic necessities of life leading to deprivation and suffering. In addition, it has fostered a general climate of hostility and distrust, even to the point of physical violence against those perceived to be homosexual.

The council hereby finds and declares that discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation exists, that it unjustly threatens the well-being of thousands of New Yorkers, and that it should be prohibited in regard to employment, housing, land, commercial space and public accommodations.

In doing so, the council wishes to make clear that it is not the function of this civil rights statute to promote a particular group or community; its purpose is rather to ensure that individuals who live in our society will have the opportunity to pursue their own beliefs and conduct their lives as they see fit within the limits of the law.

§2. Title B of chapter one of the administrative code of the City of New York is amended by adding a new section B1-7.2 to read as follows:

B1-7.2 Unlawful discriminatory practices—sexual orientation. 1. The provisions heretofore set forth in section B1-7.0 as unlawful discriminatory practices shall be construed to include discrimination against individuals because of their actual or perceived sexual orientation.

2. Nothing in this section shall be construed to:

- a. Restrict an employer's right to insist that an employee meet bona fide job-related qualifications of employment;
- b. Authorize or require employers to establish affirmative action quotas based on sexual orientation or to make inquiries regarding the sexual orientation of current or prospective employees;
- c. Limit or override the present exemptions in the human rights law, including those relating to employment concerns having fewer than four employees, as provided in subdivision five of section B1-2.0; owner-occupied dwellings, as provided in paragraph (a) of subdivision five of section B1-7.0; or any religious or denominational institution or organization, or any organization operated for

charitable or educational purposes, which is operated, supervised or controlled by or in connection with a religious organization, as provided in subdivision nine of section B1-7.0;

- d. Make lawful any act that violates the penal law of the state of New York; or
- e. Endorse any particular behavior or way of life.

3. As used in this section, the term "sexual orientation" shall mean heterosexuality, homosexuality, or bisexuality.

§3. This local law shall take effect immediately.

THE CITY OF NEW YORK, OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK, S.S.:

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true copy of a local law of The City of New York, passed by the Council on March 20, 1986, and approved by the Mayor on April 12, 1986.

CARLOS CUEVAS, City Clerk, Clerk of the Council.

CERTIFICATION PURSUANT TO MUNICIPAL HOME RULE LAW § 27

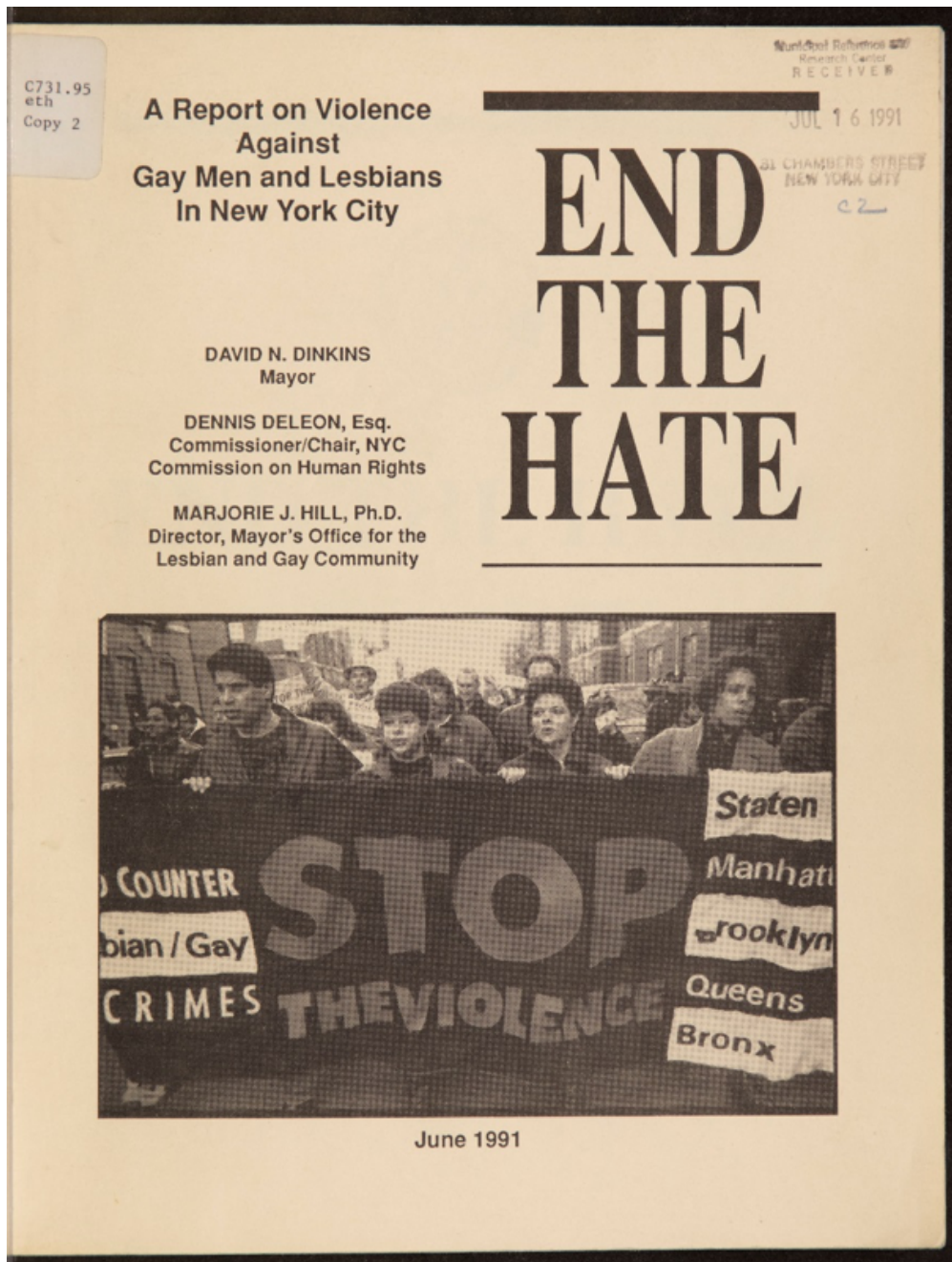
Pursuant to the provisions of Municipal Home Rule Law § 27, I hereby certify that the enclosed local law (Local Law 2 of 1986, Council Int. No. 2) contains the correct text and, received the following vote at the meeting of the New York City Council on March 20, 1986: 21 for, 14 against.

Was approved by the Mayor on April 2, 1986.

Was returned to the City Clerk on April 2, 1986.

HADLEY W. GOLD, Acting Corporation Counsel.

Report from the New York City Commission on Human Rights dated June 1991: "End the Hate: a Report on Violence against Gay Men and Lesbians in New York City."



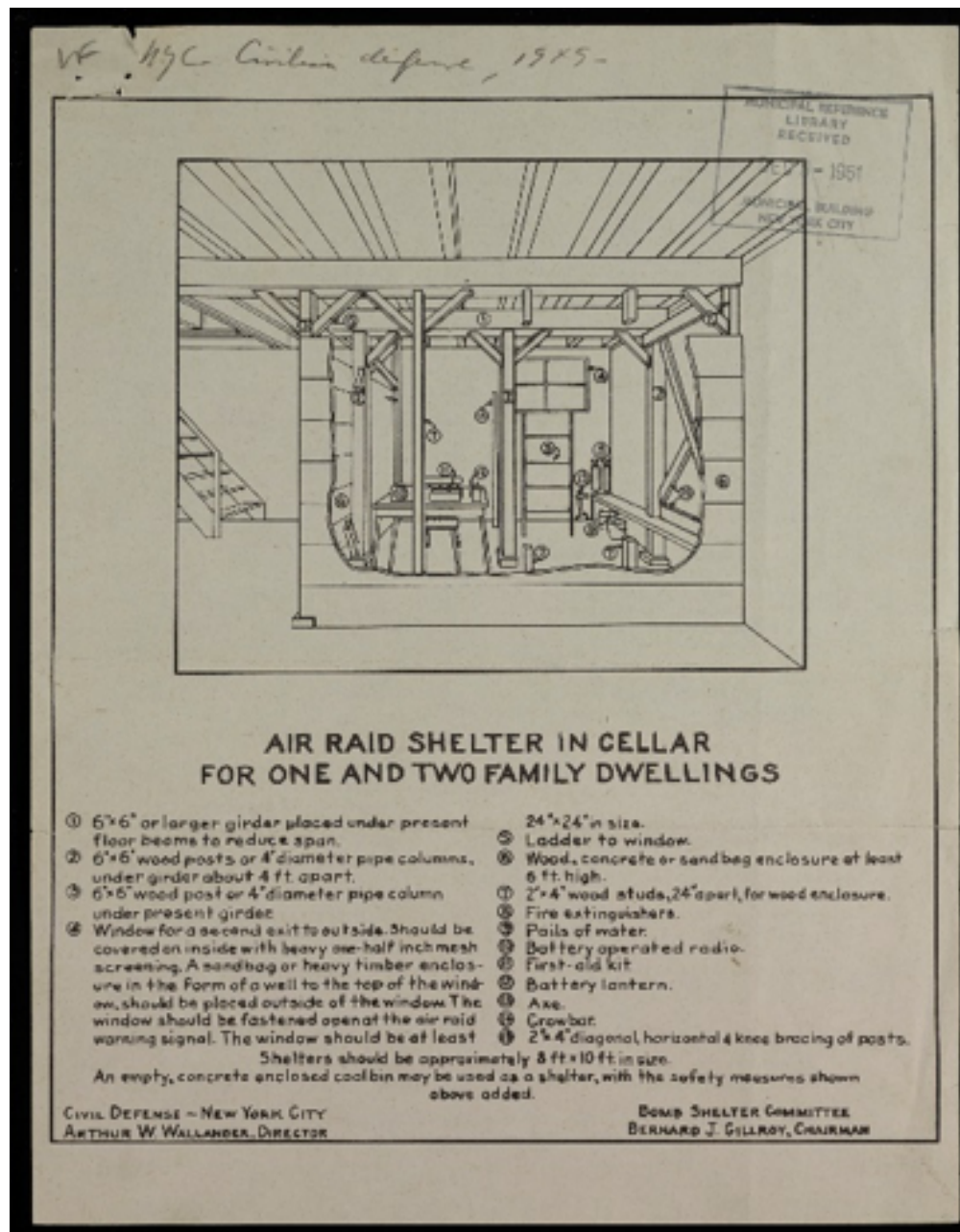
Vertical File Feature on Civil Defense

By Christine Bruzzese, Director, Municipal Library

Duck and cover drills, bomb shelters, fallout shelter signs—all these and more were part of the civil defense concerns in New York City and the whole country during the Cold War era. Fears of attack by an enemy such as the then-Soviet Union had escalated.

The vertical file on civil defense contains some fascinating materials on this subject, generally published from 1941 to 1968.

Pictured here is a diagram of an air raid shelter in a private one or two family dwelling:



Circa 1950-51, the Office of Civil Defense published "New York City Civil Defense," a plan for dealing with possible attacks or invasions. None other than Robert Moses was Construction Coordinator, assisting the Civil Defense office. Here are some photos and text:

EMERGENCY CIVIL DEFENSE NEEDS

ORGANIZATION

For the first time since the War of 1812, an American city must protect itself against a possibly devastating foreign attack. Eight million people must be defended. Hundreds of detailed plans, thousands of pieces of equipment, tens of thousands of trained people will play their role in a carefully integrated Civil Defense effort.

In case of attack, the vast reserves of volunteers and supplementary materiel will gather around the cores of the city's emergency units and emergency equipment. The *Communications Division* will provide operation centers for all divisions, and will relay instructions to the public. Without these messages, transmitted by wire, radio, messenger, telephone, and other means of communications, the public and the emergency services may face chaos. The air raid warning system must alert the city; the twenty-seven Report Centers, throughout the city, must receive reports of damage from Air Wardens,

and pass these reports along to Borough Control Centers and to the emergency services; broadcasting facilities must instruct civilians whether to venture outdoors or to flee the city.

The *Fire Department*—including the Auxiliary Firemen—will mobilize in response to these calls. In case of atomic attack, radiation would be a puny menace compared to fire. The rescue activities of the Fire Department, as well as firefighting, will require enormous resources of men and equipment. After an attack, units of United States Navy and Coast Guard will be immediately integrated with the Fire Department, and tugboats with firefighting equipment will be assigned to specific locations.

A tremendous corps of volunteers will supplement the work of the *Police Emergency Division*. *Air Wardens* will patrol 19,371 posts within the city, showing the people how to protect themselves, reporting damage, and providing aid.

MAYOR IMPERLITTERI ADMINISTERS THE OATH TO 500 NURSES ENLISTING IN THE MEDICAL EMERGENCY DIVISION IN A RECRUITING DRIVE SPURRED BY THE OFFICE OF RECRUITING AND PUBLIC INFORMATION

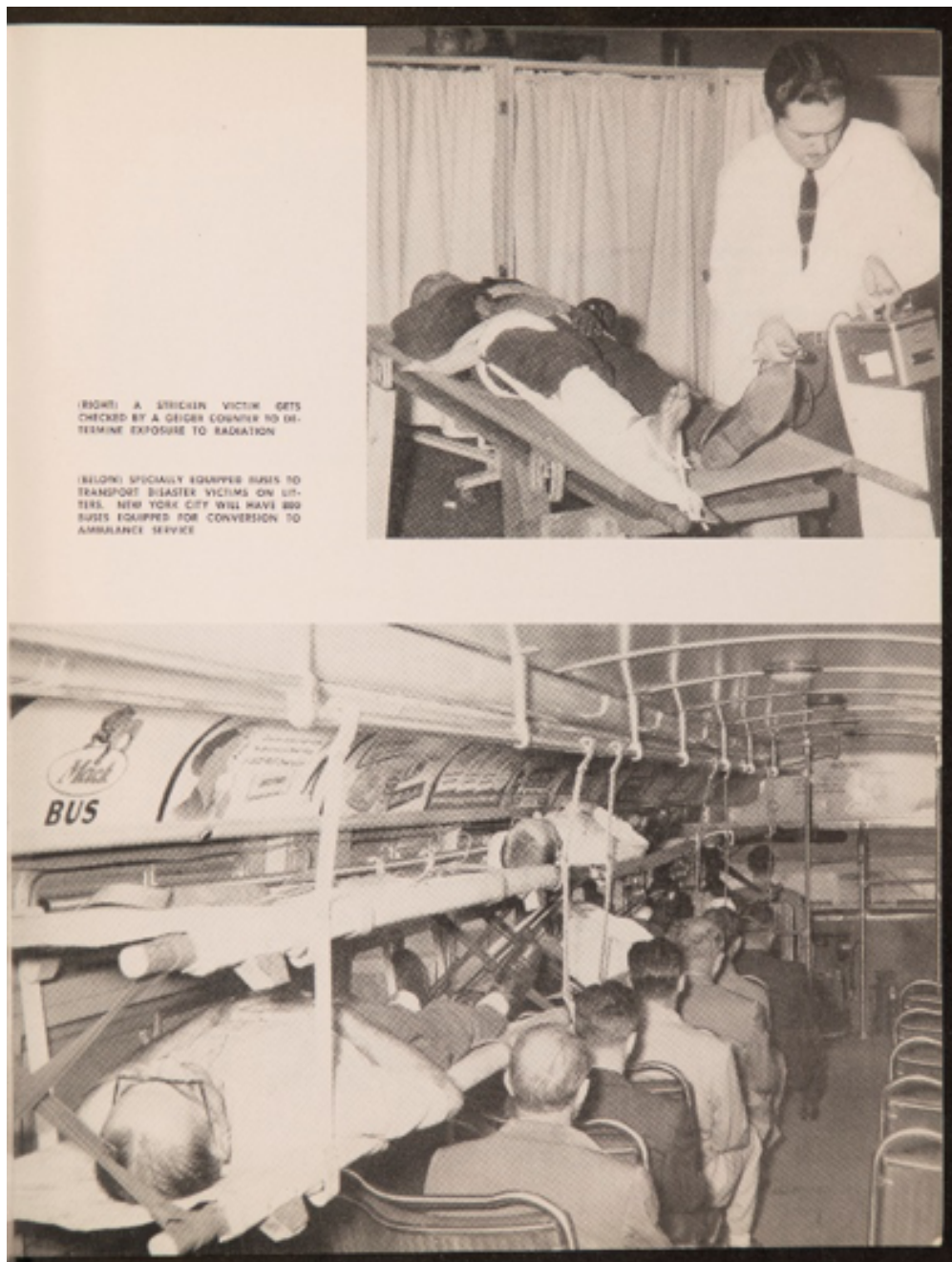


AT THE HUB OF CIVIL DEFENSE NETWORK, AIR WARDENS' REPORTS OF DAMAGE ARE FILTERED AND RELATED TO EMERGENCY POLICE, FIRE, HOSPITAL AND OTHER UNITS.



DISASTER VICTIMS GATHER FOR A MEAL AT A CONGREGATE SHELTER OPERATED BY THE EMERGENCY DIVISION, PUBLIC WELFARE DEPARTMENT. THE WELFARE DEPARTMENT WILL PROVIDE FOOD, LODGING AND CLOTHING.





The Lung Block: A New York City Slum & Its Forgotten Italian Immigrant Community

By Valerie Warner Parish, Marketing Consultant

In 1933, a bustling Italian community of over 600 families living in Lower East Side tenements was virtually wiped from the map. According to Progressive reformers of the era, this Lung Block – a term coined to designate a place where tuberculosis proliferated – threatened not just its poor immigrant residents, but the city at large. A combination of

zealous reformers and sensationalistic journalists formed this misleading narrative, which took hold in the public imagination, ultimately making the block a prime target for real estate redevelopment and gentrification. The story of the block's history touches on several issues of current concern, including anti-immigrant sentiment, gentrification and the lack of affordable housing. It is the subject of a fascinating exhibit, The Lung Block, which explores the history of immigrant housing and reform efforts in NYC at the start of the 20th century through early records and photographs.

Visit the exhibit through August, 2019 at The Municipal Archives at the NYC Department of Records and Information Services, 31 Chambers Street, NYC, free and open to the public Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday: 9AM to 4:30PM; Thursday: 9AM to 6 PM. Saturday: 9:30AM to 4:30PM on the 2nd and 4th Saturdays of most months.



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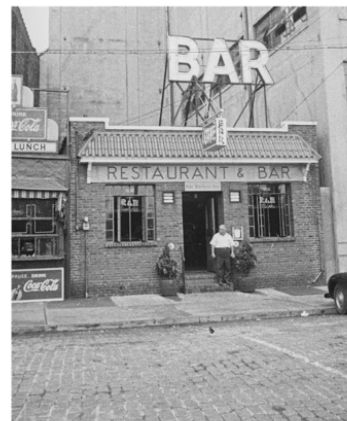
The perfect gift for a birthday, housewarming, or any other occasion is a photo from the Municipal Archives. And, for a limited time, we are offering subscribers to this newsletter a discount of 20% on all photo purchases **through July 31, 2019.**

Buy a picture of the new graduate's elementary school; or the family home in the 1940s; or one of 17,000 bridge photos in the collection of historical images. With more than a million options, you're sure to find just the right image!

Browse the collection online: <https://on.nyc.gov/2wBkaHi>.

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Your purchase supports the New York City Municipal Archives and its programs



1940s NYC



The Municipal Archives Update

By Sylvia Kollar, Director, Municipal Archives

Archivists and reference staff at the Municipal Archives are thrilled to announce the launch of ArchivesSpace (AS). AS is a tool that will assist research across collections by person, place, subject, or search terms. For the last four years, archivists gathered, organized, and standardized our paper and electronic documentation of the archival collections.

Currently, the application is available in our Reading and Reference rooms onsite, and we hope to launch an external site in the next year. We've also been very busy preparing our off-site collections for a relocation to a temperature- and humidity-controlled space in Industry City, Sunset Park, Brooklyn. The new space will include a reference and research room for the public and a gallery showcasing some of our object collections.

Access to our collections is growing in other ways too! With funding from a Local Government Records Improvement Fund (LGRMIF) grant, our A/V archivist is digitizing NYPD surveillance film documenting an important time in NYC history from 1960-1980. We are also preserving and describing the Department of Buildings' architectural drawings and reproductions of Manhattan buildings. Beginning in 1866, architects and engineers (or all persons) planning to construct a new building or alter an existing one were required to submit an application, including plans, to the newly created Buildings Department. Applicants then had to receive approval before commencing the proposed work. The collection of plans includes sections, elevations, floor plans, and details, as well as engineering and structural diagrams, as appropriate, of all buildings on 965 blocks of Lower Manhattan (from the Battery to 34th Street).

Monthly Conservation Update

By Lindsey Hobbs, Head of Conservation, Preservation

Several Conservation staff members recently attended the American Institute for Conservation's annual meeting, which this year was held in Uncasville, Connecticut. In stark contrast to the casino hotel venue, where other guests were enthralled by slot machines and blackjack tables; around 1500 conservators from every specialization – art, books, paper, objects, electronic media, etc. – spent three days learning about and presenting on recent developments and research on the conservation of cultural heritage.

The theme this year was "New Tools, Techniques, and Tactics in Conservation and Collection Care." Naturally, Archives' staff primarily attended the book and paper sessions. In one particularly interesting track, presenters shared recent research and tips on the use of plant-based gels in treating foxing stains – those rust-colored specks that often appear on certain types of paper – "washing" paper with gels to remove harmful degradation products, and light-bleaching discolored paper using gels and natural or artificial sunlight. The use of gels is a relatively new technique in paper conservation, thus this series was a particular crowd-pleaser. Other sessions focused on workflow strategies for rebinding large volumes, techniques in Japanese and Chinese paper conservation that Western conservators can learn from, and a wide variety of other subjects.

In addition to offering a good opportunity to catch up with others in the field, the annual meeting is also the best way to stay up to date on innovations and new research through talks, workshops, poster-sessions, and vendor booths. We're looking forward to doing it all again next year – this time in Salt Lake City.

Agency-wide Upgrade to Microsoft Windows 10

By Praveen Panchal, CIO

Microsoft has announced that it is ending technical assistance and security updates for Windows 7 on Jan. 14, 2020. After that, if we're still running Windows 7 - the outdated operating system, we'll open up the agency to hacks, malware, viruses and other potential future security vulnerabilities. Windows 10 offers many safeguards against such vulnerabilities and is the most stable and secure version of Windows that's ever been released.

Besides speed, tile-based apps, touch screen support and a better browser, the security is the major driver for upgrading to Windows 10. It has a built-in feature to thwart ransomware from locking up your work

and personal documents on your computer and comes with a tool which scans for, quarantines and removes malware. In addition to ransomware protection, it also includes other tools that can be used to stop zero-day attacks, to block and quarantine malicious programs on your computer or office network, and to isolate infected computers on our network.

The IT department will be upgrading all computers across the agency to Windows 10 in coming months. This includes computers in our public Reading and Reference Rooms. We have placed a Windows 10 computer with instructions on each floor for staff to get familiarized with the new operating system.

With this upgrade, we expect to provide the latest and best technology to patrons using the computers in the public research and reference rooms. It will help enrich the research experience and provide additional safeguards for the public users.

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