



Sustainable is simple - what is it we have forgotten?

This talk gives an overview of recent moves in the archive and library sector to achieve two goals - better conservation of collections and playing a part in the solution to climate change, not continuing to be a part of the problem. Our collective understanding of the stuff of what books are made and how they behave has been diminished in the past 40 years, since the first iteration of a standard for their storage in the late '70s. We have been persuaded and, in some cases, bullied into thinking that others know best for collections and in so doing have forgotten the most obvious, universal physics of the materials we look after and handle. It so happens that, in our sector, safer storage and use of collections is also low energy, low carbon storage and use of collections. If we go back to basics in our understanding of material science and the physical characters of paper, leather, parchment and textiles and re-learn what we have forgotten we can achieve our wider conservation objectives.

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Chris Woods is an Accredited Conservator with nearly 40 years of experience working in the heritage sector and is Managing Director of the National Conservation Service which he founded in 2009. Chris's former public sector roles have included Head of Conservation & Collection Care at the Bodleian Library, Oxford University and Director of Collection & Programme Services for the Tate galleries. Chris has published, lectured and taught in a range of specialist fields, notably building and storage environments, parchment manuscripts, archival seals and plastic photographic negatives. Currently chair of the British Standards Institution's committee responsible for Conservation & Care of Archive and Library Collections, Chris is also active in Europe, having led the work to develop Specifications for Buildings and Specifications for Managing Collections. Chris advises Lincoln, Hereford and Salisbury Cathedrals on the care of their Magna Carta exemplars.

Chris was a founding trustee and company director of Icon, the Institute of Conservation, and formerly chair of its predecessor UKIC. He led the establishment of Icon's Conservation Register on taking it over from the Museums and Galleries Commission, of its PACR accreditation scheme management board and its HLF-funded Internship Bursary Scheme.