

INTRODUCTION TO THE ART OF BASIC BOOK REPAIR

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Introductory Guides

DEMCO Collection Care Guide

A good place to begin. The Guide provides an overview of the basic types of repairs that you can easily learn to make. Includes color photographs illustrating steps involved. It's issued by DEMCO, a library supply company. Available from demco.com (29 pages; around \$12.00).

Bookcraft: Simple Techniques for the Maintenance and Repair of Books

by Nancy Carlson Shrock

Another good introduction to book repair. Bookcraft includes many drawings to illustrate the processes discussed. It also briefly addresses how to decide which books to repair and how to set up a work area. Short sections treat tools and materials available from Gaylord Brothers, Inc., which is also a supplier of library products. The last couple of pages list a number of additional organizations and books that might be of interest to those

Introductory Guides (continued)

seeking further information about the preservation of library materials. Available from gaylord.com (31 pages; no price listed)

Books

Basic Book Repair Methods

by Abraham A. Schechter

Englewood, Colorado: Libraries Unlimited, Inc., 1999.

May be available as a used book. Check amazon.com or other similar used book source. Includes black-and-white photographs illustrating book repair steps discussed. (100+ pages)

Book Repair: A How-To-Do-It Manual (2nd ed., Revised)

by Kenneth Lavender (Revised by Artemis Bonadea)

New York: Neal-Schuman Publishers, Inc., 2011.

Perhaps the standard reference on the subject of book repair. Covers much more than the basics and includes many diagrams and illustrations. Includes step-by-step instructions and very comprehensive. (300+ pages; \$\$\$)

Online Information and Videos

American Library Association
50 E Huron Street
Chicago, Illinois 60611

(ala.org) Has Book Repair for Libraries webinar.

DEMCO, Inc.
P. O. Box 7488
Madison, Wisconsin 53707

(demco.com)

Has a series of thirteen short videos on basic book repair.
They can be watched at no charge.

Workshops

Midwest Collaborative for Library Services
1407 Rensen Street Suite 1
Lansing, Michigan 48910
800-530-9019
(mcls.org)

Also, contact library supply companies such as DEMCO or Gaylord Brothers, Inc., to see when they might offer workshops in your area.

Some Helpful Things to Keep in Mind About Book Repair

Discharge the book and change its status to “bindery” before repairing it.

Incorporate bindery work with your library’s weeding program to prevent repairing items that should have been weeded.

Start out with simple repairs and practice, practice, practice.

Use discarded items at first, so it won’t matter if you make a mistake.

Attempt more involved repairs after you’re comfortable with the simpler ones.

Remember, it’s OK to admit that you can’t fix every book.

Batch together and repair items with similar problems as a group. This will maximize time spent preparing work area and cleaning up.

Use quality supplies from reputable library supply companies.

If you must use transparent tape, use only Scotch® Magic™.

Always use PVA adhesive, not Elmer’s® Glue.

Attend to details. Make repairs as neatly as you can. Measure and cut accurately. Line up edges as exactly as you can.

To make the effort spent on repairs worthwhile, fix items correctly the first time.