

## LIS 620 Practicum Report

The first thing I noticed when working in the lab, was what a nice space it was. The large tables allowed people to work together without getting in each other's way. The lighting was great, and the tools and equipment were in good condition. As with any laboratory environment, there had to be processes and procedures (P&P) since multiple people were working with shared resources, such as the work space itself, the tools used (some dangerous if handled improperly), and various chemicals. Having P&P in place, also made it easy to ask others for assistance. I found P&P comforting and as I practiced them, I started to see the logic behind them.

There was a definite culture and etiquette followed in the lab. Everyone I met was accommodating, and helpful. When starting the day, the first thing to do was to gather all the tools needed. For myself, this could be tricky, since I didn't usually know all the steps beforehand, but the process of thinking about what I was going to do, and what was needed, was helpful in making connections and relationships between tools and processes, e.g. scalpel needs a healing/cutting mat, or adhesives require scrap paper laid beneath the area and water in a tray.

### **Projects, Equipment, and Brief Descriptions of Work Performed**

#### Day 1, September 25<sup>th</sup>, 2015

I was given a book with a blue slip in it, that said, "Replace END SHEETS." We also noticed its front hinge was loose, and Debbie helped me through both processes. Some basic tools I needed were microspatulas, (Wide edge, and narrow), scalpel, metal-edged ruler, wide paint brush, methylcellulose, boards to stack beneath and support the back cover as I worked on it, and in addition to that, I laid scrap paper beneath my work area to catch any methylcellulose.

I removed the existing barcode with a narrow microspatula, and placed it in a pocket so it wouldn't get lost. Methylcellulose was generously applied, by brushing it over the existing end sheet in order to remove the old adhesive, I had to switch to laponite since the adhesive was not coming off. A wide microspatula was used to scrape the old end sheet off the back cover. Rough-grain sandpaper was run across the inner-back cover, in order to help smooth it. New end sheets were cut to match the height of the text block, stretched across the hinge, and folded to fit. Slow-drying PVA was brushed on the back cover and in the hinge. Wax paper was inserted between

the end sheet and the text block, (pushed as far back into the hinge as possible), to ensure adhesive would not ooze and get on the pages.

Hinge tightening, required PVA, a knitting needle, and a bone folder, and after distributing the adhesive, I inserted wax paper to protect the book. The book was placed between two boards with brass metal edges. Each metal edge rested in the hinge, re-enforcing it. Weights were placed on the top board as it was left to dry.

#### Day 2, October 2nd, 2015

I continued on the end sheet job. Now dried, I cut the end sheet to better-fit the book. A cutting mat, a sharp scalpel, and a plastic ruler with metal edge were needed. The end sheet was covering the entire back cover, so I cut away the bordering excess. In class, we had worked on lining paper in order to re-enforce it. I had a book jacket for *Ol' Man Adam An' His Chillun*, which I'd lined and it had dried. I cut off the excess lining with a scalpel and metal edge ruler, placing a board beneath it. Someone had pre-cut a mylar cover for me, so I finished that project. I had also lined a page from a book with Japanese writing, on a very thin and almost cloth-like paper. I cut the excess lining off, and tipped it into a book we'd created at the beginning of the semester. On this day, the scalpel I'd picked was dull, so Debbie demonstrated how to change the blade, and had me do it as well. At the end of the day, I selected a book I would reback-- a quirky-looking work, entitled, *You Don't Say*.

#### Day 3, October 5th, 2015

I worked on LBS binding for 3 books that were over 10 years old, (which is a standard practice). I removed staples with mylar slipped beneath to protect the pages as I used a staple remover, and/or microspatula to get the old, rusty staples out. I also used clips with blotter paper between to protect the pamphlet. Other materials included tyvek, an awl, linen thread, sewing needle, bone folder, bean bag weight, tattle tape, PVA, knitting needle, and the tacking iron. One pamphlet required heat set tissue re-enforcement in the middle, since the holes from the original staples were so large. I was handed two more LBS rush jobs Debbie had received, so I worked on them. Overall process involved removing any old staples, applying heat set tissue as needed, using an awl to poke holes into the binding with clips and blotter paper to hold things in place as I stitched the pamphlets into their new bindings. I applied proper labels to front covers and inside the back covers with original barcodes. As a rule, whenever applying heat set tissue, remay was

inserted between the tacking iron and tissue. All of the pamphlets had the heavy, metal, tattle-tape in them, which was challenging and time-consuming to remove. I used a small hair-dryer, and tweezers to pull the tape off carefully in layers.

The book I'd started my first day, and worked on during my second practicum, was completely dried and finished! I applied the barcode on a label inside the back cover, writing its call number and title in pencil.

#### Day 4, October 19th, 2015

I continued work on my reback, which was at the point where the text block was freed, and adhesive had been removed during class. I put the text block in a book press, with blotter paper on each side, and applied Japanese tissue to the spine with the grain going with the height of the spine. I applied PVA, then used a tamping brush to get the excess adhesive out. I let it dry 20 minutes, then applied headbands to the head and tail, pasted with PVA, with ribbons facing towards the pages. I cut cotton stretch lining with about 1.5" excess on each side of text block, folded it in half, and used PVA to adhere it to the spine, using the bone folder to apply pressure in order to squeeze out excess PVA. I left it to dry in the press, with remay laid over it, and bean bag weights on top.

#### Day 5, October 30th, 2015

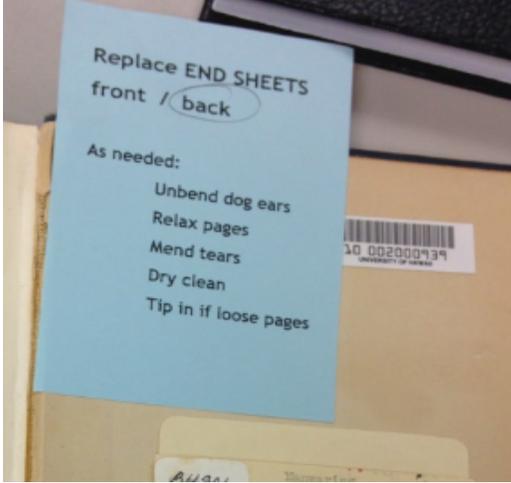
I continued on the reback assignment of *You Don't Say*. We noticed the title was flaking off from the portion I'd saved off the original cover, so I used black ink pen (pigma pen) to color in the missing spots, and Debbie gave me wax, which I rubbed lightly over it. Using the jig, I cut some red book cloth and drew the pattern for my new casing. I attempted to glue my book boards to the cloth. Unfortunately, I messed up by using too little adhesive (mix PVA), so I had to remove the book boards from the cloth. We determined the book boards were still salvageable, but I had to start again, with a new book cloth.

#### Conclusion

I am grateful to have gained experience working in a professional preservation lab. I enjoyed the culture of the lab, the people, and its environment. It was extremely fulfilling to work on preserving objects, by helping to stabilize and expand their lifespans so others may enjoy them for years to come. I had a great time, and appreciate it immensely.

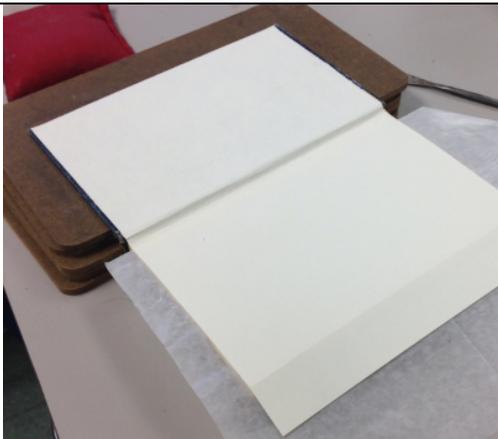
Appendix A

Photos from Practicum, Day 1, September 25<sup>th</sup>, 2015

 <p>Replace END SHEETS front / back</p> <p>As needed: Unbend dog ears Relax pages Mend tears Dry clean Tip in if loose pages</p>	<p>Had to replace back end sheets. Also, realized hinge tightening had to be done during inspection.</p>
 <p>The photograph shows the back cover of a book, which is a light tan color. It is resting on a stack of several dark brown wooden boards. The book is open, and the pages are visible. The boards are placed beneath the back cover to provide support during the repair process.</p>	<p>We placed boards beneath the back cover to support the book. Methylcellulose was applied with a large brush, generously, and allowed to set 15 minutes before attempting removal.</p>



Removal of end sheet with wide microspatula. Laponite had to be applied since methylcellulose did not remove adhesive well enough.



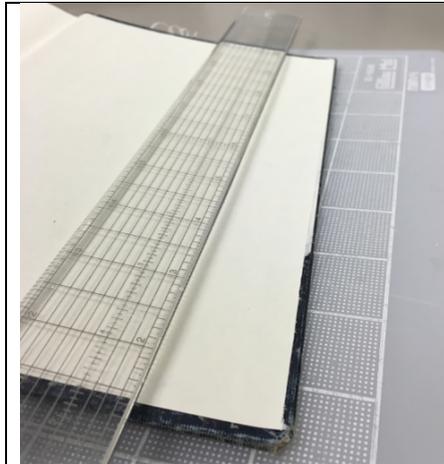
New end sheets, wax paper inserted to protect from adhesive.



Book placed between boards with brass metal edges, with the each edge resting in hinge, and a large weight on top.

Appendix B

Photos from Practicum, Day 2, October 2, 2015



Working on end sheet request, fitting the end sheet to back cover, cutting away excess.



Cut away excess paper lining from book jacket started in class, after it had dried.



The finished product! Someone had pre-cut the mylar jacket for this book.

Appendix C

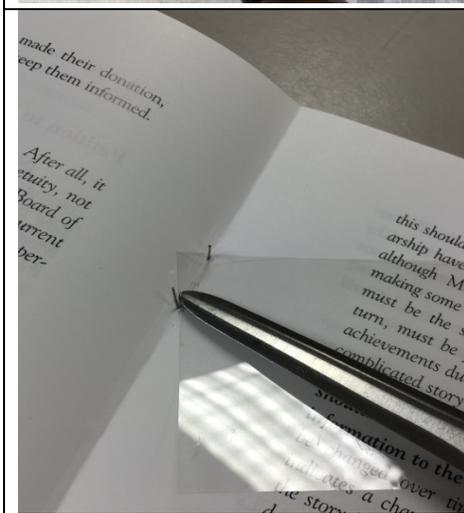
Photos from Practicum, Day 3, 2015 October 5<sup>th</sup>, 2015



Heat set tissue reinforced in the middle, tyvek on outside, stitched together with linen thread, clips and buffer board to hold in place.

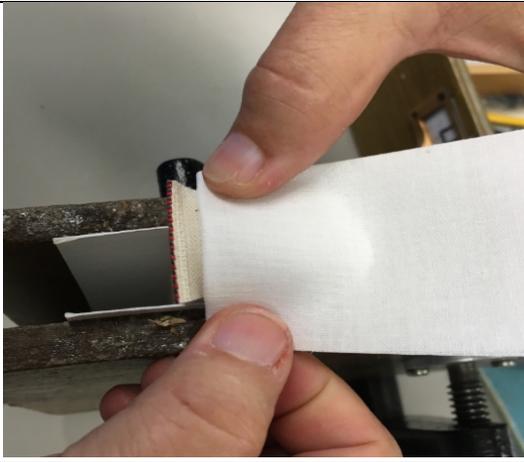


Tacking iron with remay between it and heat set tissue to reinforce inside spine.



Mylar placed between staple remover and paper to protect the book being repaired.

Appendix D  
Photos from Practicum, Day 4, October 19<sup>th</sup>, 2015

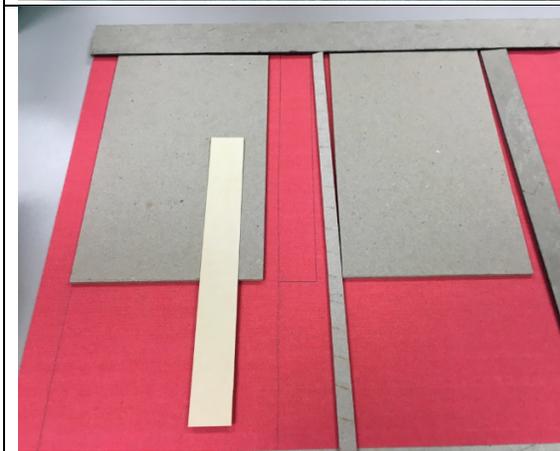
	<p>Rebacking continues. Headbands applied, Debbie demonstrates placing cotton stretch liner over spine.</p>
	<p>Overview of reback at stopping point, and begin working on pamphlet</p>

Appendix E

Photos from Practicum, Day 5, October 30<sup>th</sup>, 2015



Coloring in the flaking title, and then we rubbed a wax coating over it.



Using the jig and book boards to draw the pattern.