

*International Survey on Paper Conservation Methods*¹

by Spiros Zervos & Irene Alexopoulou

The Department of Library Science and Information Systems of the TEI of Athens is conducting a study, coordinated by professor Spiros Zervos, which aims at determining the degree of acceptance and implementation -at the international level- of the various paper conservation methods found in the literature.

The targets of the research include:

- The identification of the methods that are actually in use, from the plethora of the published paper conservation methods
- The estimation of the degree of incorporation of recently published or unpublished non-established or experimental methods -or variation of them- into everyday conservation practice
- The determination of the current status of mass conservation methods (mainly mass deacidification)
- The collection of relevant data about conservation centers worldwide

The target respondents of the research are libraries, archives, museums, research and conservation centers and similar institutions that implement paper conservation activities.

The main instrument of the research is an online questionnaire, which was built by use of LimeSurvey [<http://www.limesurvey.org/>] and posted on the Department's server. The questionnaire mainly focuses on the identification of the conservation methods implemented in the respondent institutions. It has three sections, namely "General Institution information", "Information about the Paper Conservation Methods" and "General Information about the Laboratory". The questionnaire can be accessed by following the link:

<http://ithaki.lb.teiath.gr/onlineSurvey/index.php?sid=71224&lang=en>

We believe that this research will collect valuable data concerning the practice of paper conservation worldwide. Colleagues working at target institutions are cordially invited to participate by completing the questionnaire, which takes about 20 to 30 minutes, depending on the type and size of the participating institution. Participation is voluntary, but highly appreciated. All responses will be treated with confidentiality and used for academic purposes only.

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