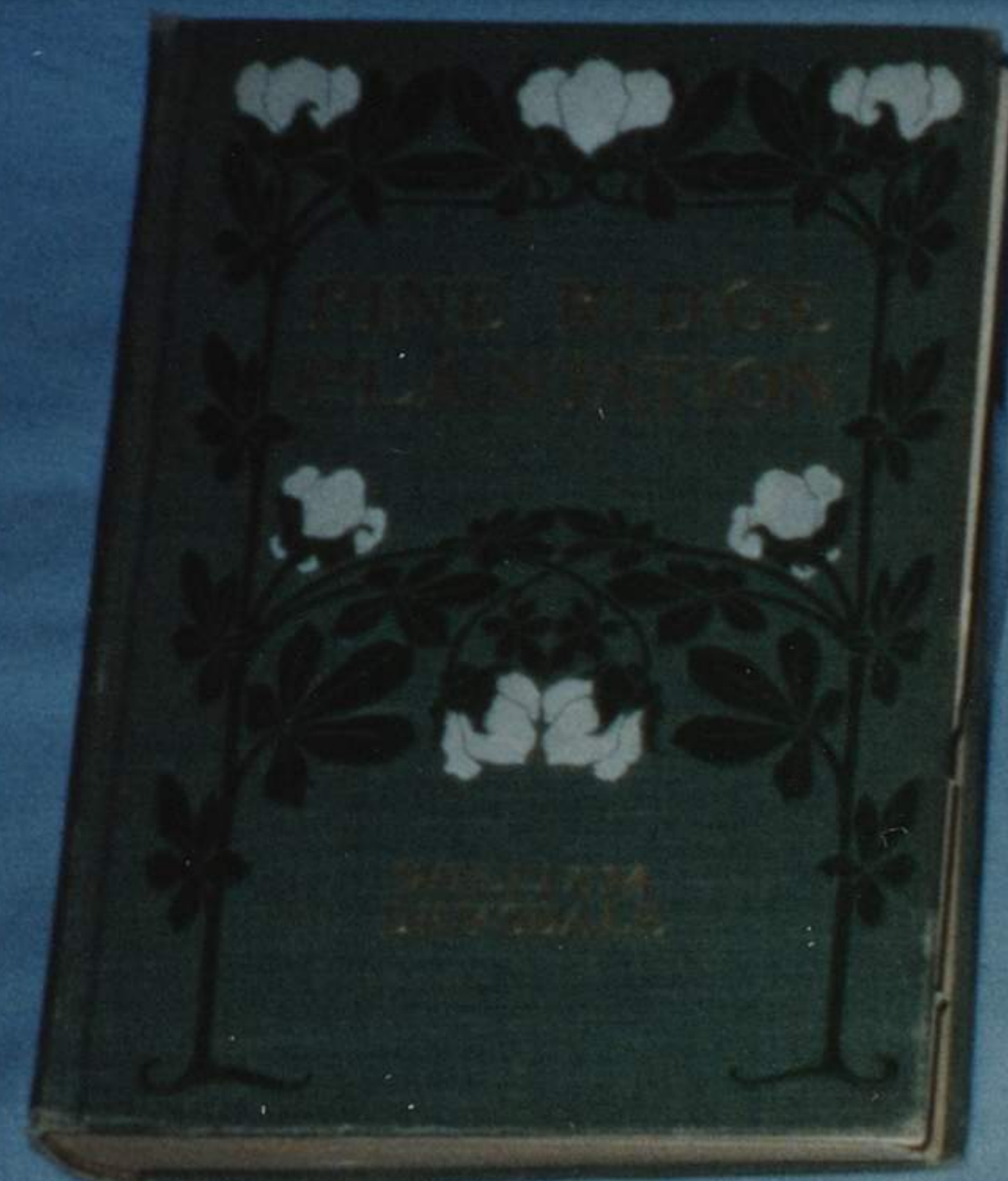
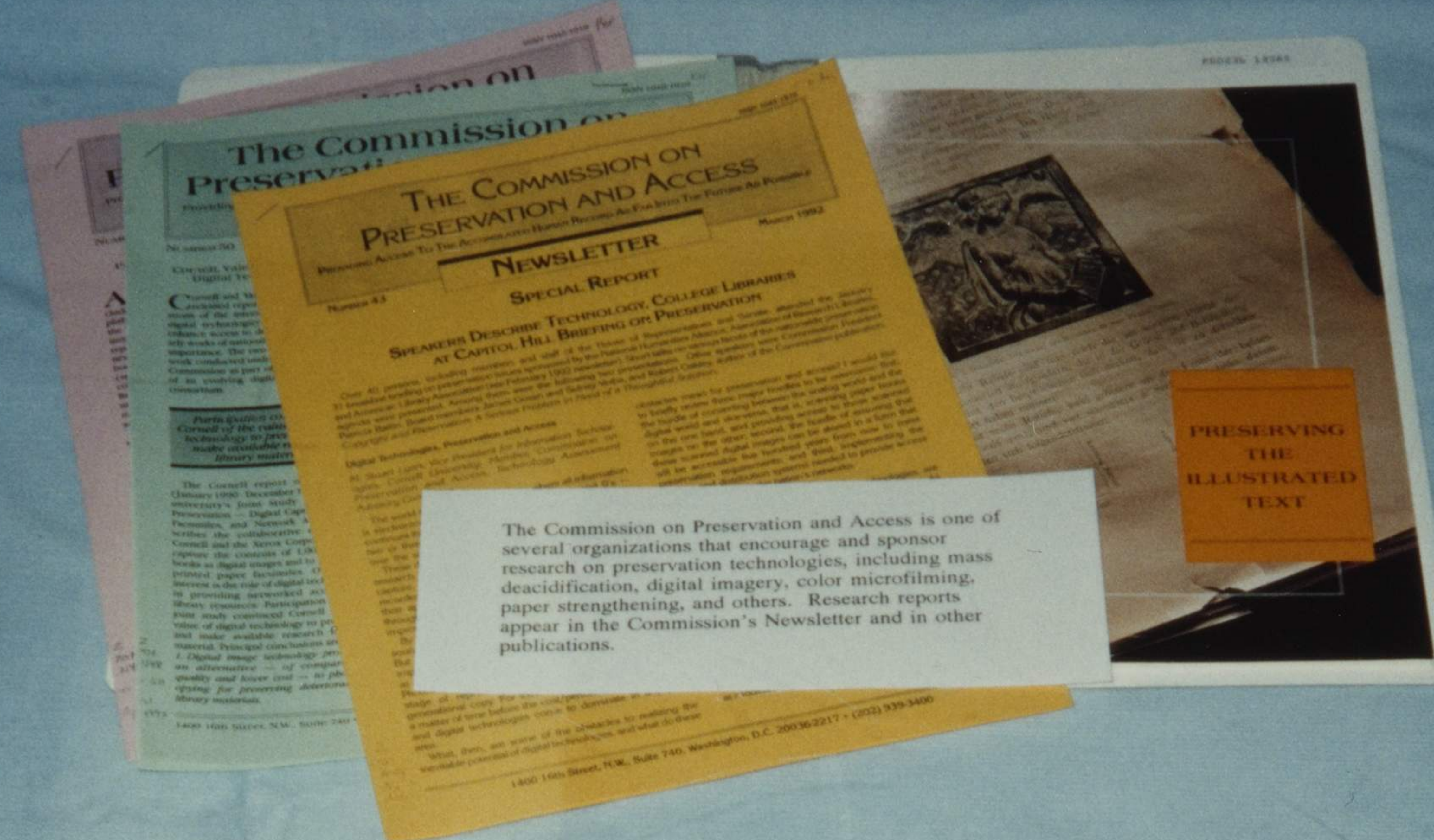




Many library materials have scholarly value as artifacts and must be preserved in their original format. Scholars may need access to the actual primary record—not a microfilm, not a photocopy, not an electronic image, but the object itself. Maintaining artifacts in their original format means restoration, repair, and housing in appropriate environmental conditions—such as those provided in Spencer Research Library.



The Commission on Preservation and Access is one of several organizations that encourage and sponsor research on preservation technologies, including mass deacidification, digital imagery, color microfilming, paper strengthening, and others. Research reports appear in the Commission's Newsletter and in other publications.

Several electronic technologies have promising applications in preservation. Brittle books can be scanned and converted to digital images; paper facsimiles made from these images, if printed on acid-free paper, will last several hundred years. Books can be scanned directly, or microfilmed first and the microfilm scanned. This technology and others are all still in the development stage, and not yet available for routine use by libraries. Microfilming remains a wise investment today, and it does not preclude exploiting the electronic technologies that may evolve in future.

Case 4 EVOLVING PRESERVATION TECHNOLOGIES



Will information stored in digital form today still be accessible 500 years from now, or even 10? How to preserve information in electronic formats—compact discs, computer tapes, and others—is a question that has

Saving the Past to Enrich the Future: A Plan for Preserving Information Resources in Kansas. To Kansas: Kansas Library Network Board, 1993.

The Kansas Library Network Board is coordinating statewide preservation plan, with funding from National Endowment for the Humanities. The plan will preserve library and archival resources in university, public, and special libraries, as museums and genealogical and historical societies.

Saving the Past to Enrich the Future



A Plan for Preserving Information Resources in Kansas