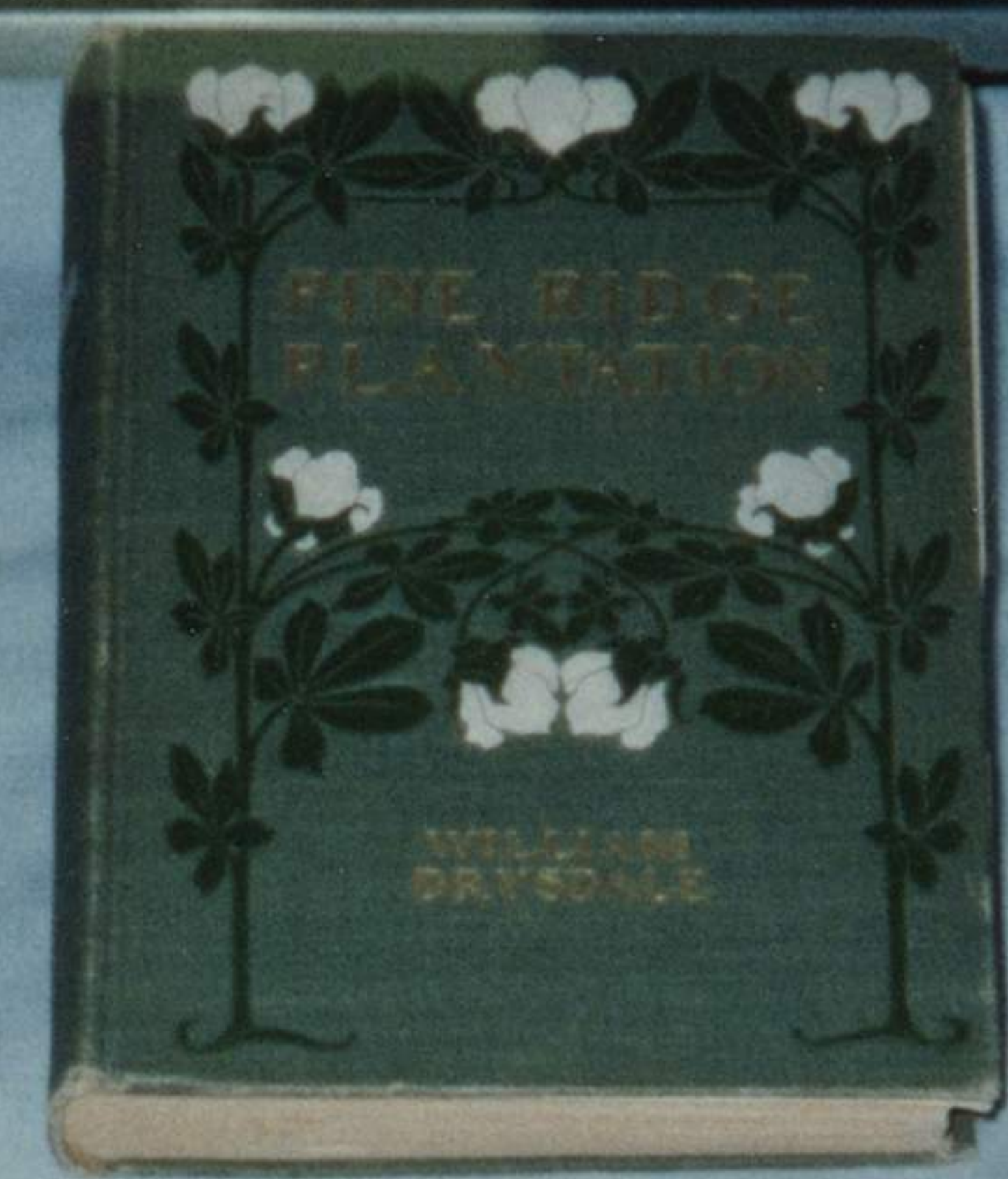


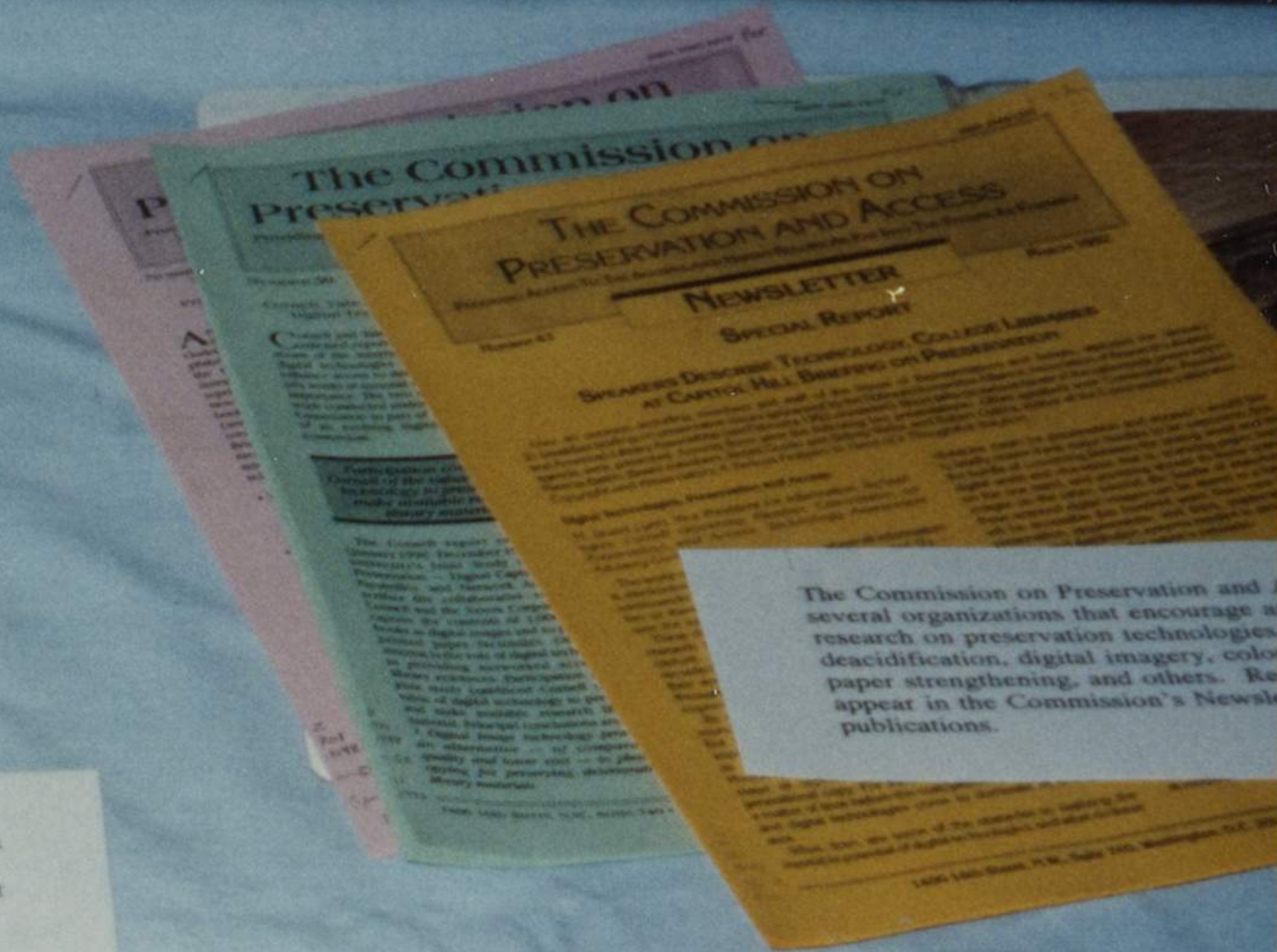
For materials that are not yet brittle, deacidification is probably the most desirable preservation option. Several deacidification processes are currently in use in pilot projects in research libraries, but all are expensive, and none is suitable for all library materials (some do not work on coated paper and can damage book bindings). Investigation continues into deacidification methods that can be adapted to mass processing of large numbers of volumes and will deacidify all types of paper and binding effectively.



These maps, printed on acidic paper, have been preserved by deacidification with Wei's spray solution and Mylar encapsulation. They are two of approximately 18,000 maps from the U.S. Congressional Serial Set, 1789-1969, that were preserved in a KU Library project funded by the National Endowment for Humanities.



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 a research organization that encourages research on preservation technologies, deacidification, digital imagery, color paper strengthening, and others. Reports appear in the Commission's Newsletter.

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 the future.





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