

Understanding bookbindings

Wednesday 23 May 2018

British Library Centre for Conservation
96 Euston Road
London NW1 2DB

Map: www.bl.uk/aboutus/quickinfo/loc/stp/

This training day will help librarians and archivists understand the types of bindings in their collections and will provide guidance on describing and handling bindings and on appropriate conservation techniques. It is aimed at librarians, archivists, volunteers and anyone working with collections of historic bindings who would like to understand more about the books that they handle.

There will be a look at the structural features of hand-made bookbindings from the printed era. Leaving aside fancy decoration and the printed word, Arthur Green will examine some common binding styles, concentrating on the specific materials and techniques used in their construction and the various reasons why they might degrade.

There will be a tour of the basement which is kept at a cool temperature, so please bring a jumper or a cardigan. Coats and bags are not allowed in the store for security reasons but will be locked away.

Programme

09.45	Registration and Coffee on arrival
10.00	Introductions and welcome
10.10	Describing bindings Mariluz Beltran de Guevara
11.00	Break
11.20	Common structural features Arthur Green
12.00	Degradation Arthur Green
12.20	Lunch
13.30	Handling bindings: the use of supports and protective enclosures Mariluz Beltran de Guevara
14.30	Safe handling Tour of the basement led by a member of British Library staff
15.30	Discussion and Conclusion
16.00	End