



Standard Terminology of Textile Conservation¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation D 5038; the number immediately following the designation indicates the year of original adoption or, in the case of revision, the year of last revision. A number in parentheses indicates the year of last reapproval. A superscript epsilon (ϵ) indicates an editorial change since the last revision or reapproval.

1. Scope

1.1 This terminology covers the conservation of cultural objects made of or containing textiles.

1.2 This terminology may be used by educators, governing bodies, museum directors and professionals, and private and institutional conservators.

1.3 This terminology may be used in correspondence, records, and reports pertaining to textile conservation.

1.4 When any of these definitions are removed from the context of this standard, insert the delimiting phrase, *in textile conservation*.

1.5 For definitions of other terms relating to textiles, see Terminology D 123.

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 *ASTM Standards:*

D 123 Terminology Relating to Textiles²

3. Terminology

conservation, *n*—all actions aimed at safeguarding objects of cultural and natural heritage for the future.

DISCUSSION—The purpose of conservation, through preventive care, documentation, treatment, and research, is to retain significant qualities of the object with the least possible intervention.

conservator, *n*—an individual whose training, knowledge, ability and experience allow them to undertake the preservation of objects of cultural and natural heritage.

DISCUSSION—A conservator does not create new cultural objects.

cultural object, *n*—any man-made or modified natural article that reflects the beliefs, social forms, and material traits of racial, social, religious, or other specific groups.

¹ This terminology is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee D-13 on Textiles and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee D13.53 on Practices.

Current edition approved Dec. 15, 1994. Published February 1995. Originally published as D 5038 – 90. Last previous edition D 5038 – 90.

² *Annual Book of ASTM Standards*, Vol 07.01.

craftsman, *n*—an artisan who is skilled in creating new cultural objects.

documentary characteristic, *n*—any historic, stylistic, iconographic, technological, intellectual, aesthetic, or religious data pertaining to an object under consideration for conservation.

documentation, *n*—the record of information (historic, stylistic, iconographic, technological, intellectual, aesthetic, scientific, or spiritual) about any object of cultural or natural heritage.

DISCUSSION—Documentation includes, but is not limited to, records of analysis and treatment of an object in writing, photographs, drawings, videotape and other technological and physical data. Documentation is a requirement of any plan for care and treatment of an object, as well as a record of conservation activities.

examination, *n*—the analysis of the material, structure, and condition of an object of cultural or natural heritage to enable the formation of an appropriate method of preventive care and treatment.

objects of cultural heritage, *n*—any items taken from nature, or modified or created by humankind that are significant for cultural interpretation and scientific research.

objects of natural heritage, *n*—any items taken from nature, modified or unmodified, that are significant for the interpretation of the natural environment, or that are significant for cultural and scientific research.

preservation, *n*—action taken to retard or prevent deterioration of or damage to objects of cultural and natural heritage.

DISCUSSION—Preservation includes handling, treating, and controlling the environment of a cultural object.

restoration, *n*—all actions taken to modify the existing materials or structure of an object of cultural and natural history to represent a known earlier state.

DISCUSSION—The aim of restoration is to preserve and reveal the aesthetic, historic or scientific value of an object. Restoration is based on respect for the remaining original material and clear evidence of the earlier state.

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