



Designation: **D 5038 – 9401**

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:*

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~~, September 10, 2001. Published ~~February 1995~~, October 2001. Originally published as D 5038 – 90. Last previous edition D 5038 – 90₄.

D 123 Terminology Relating to Textiles²

2.2 *Other Documents:*

AIC Definitions of Conservation Terminology³

3. Terminology

conservation, *n*—~~all actions aimed at safeguarding objects—the profession devoted to the preservation of cultural and natural heritage property for the future. Conservation activities include examination, documentation, treatment, and preventive care, supported by research and education.~~

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

conservator, *n*—~~an individual—a professional whose primary occupation is the practice of conservation and who, through specialized education, knowledge, ability training, and experience allow them to undertake experience, formulates and implements all the preservation activities of objects conservation in accordance with an ethical code such as the AIC Code of cultural Ethics and natural heritage.~~

~~DISCUSSION—A conservator does not create new cultural objects. Guidelines for Practice.~~

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.~~

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 recording, in writing, photographs, drawings, videotape and other technological and physical data. Documentation is a requirement permanent format, of any plan for care and treatment of an object, as well as a record of information derived from conservation activities.~~

examination, *n*—~~the analysis investigation of the material, structure, materials, and condition of an object of cultural or natural heritage to enable property including the formation identification of an appropriate method the extent and causes of preventive care alteration and treatment. deterioration.~~

objects of cultural heritage, *n*—~~any items taken from nature, man-made or modified or created by humankind natural article that are significant for cultural interpretation reflects the beliefs, social forms, and scientific research. material traits of racial, social, religious, or other specific groups.~~

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. environment.~~

preservation, *n*—~~action taken to retard or prevent deterioration—the protection of or damage to objects of cultural property through activities that minimize chemical and natural heritage.~~

~~DISCUSSION—Preservation includes handling, treating, physical deterioration and damage and that prevent loss of informational content. The primary goal of perservation is to prolong the environment existence of a cultural object. property.~~

restoration, *n*—~~all actions taken—treatment procedures intended to modify the existing materials or structure of an object of return cultural and natural history property 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 assumed state, often through the remaining original material and clear evidence addition of the earlier state. nonoriginal material.~~

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

³ AIC, 2000, The American Institute for Conservation of Historic & Works, 1717 K Street, NW, Suite 200, Washington, D.C. 20006.

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