

Online with the CMC



**CATALOGING
MAINTENANCE CENTER**

Statewide Cataloging Support

A Stitch in Time

BASIC (OR BUDGET) BOOK REPAIR



Linda Johnson, SHARE Cataloger, ljohnson@illinoisheartland.org

Online with the CMC, April 13, 2023

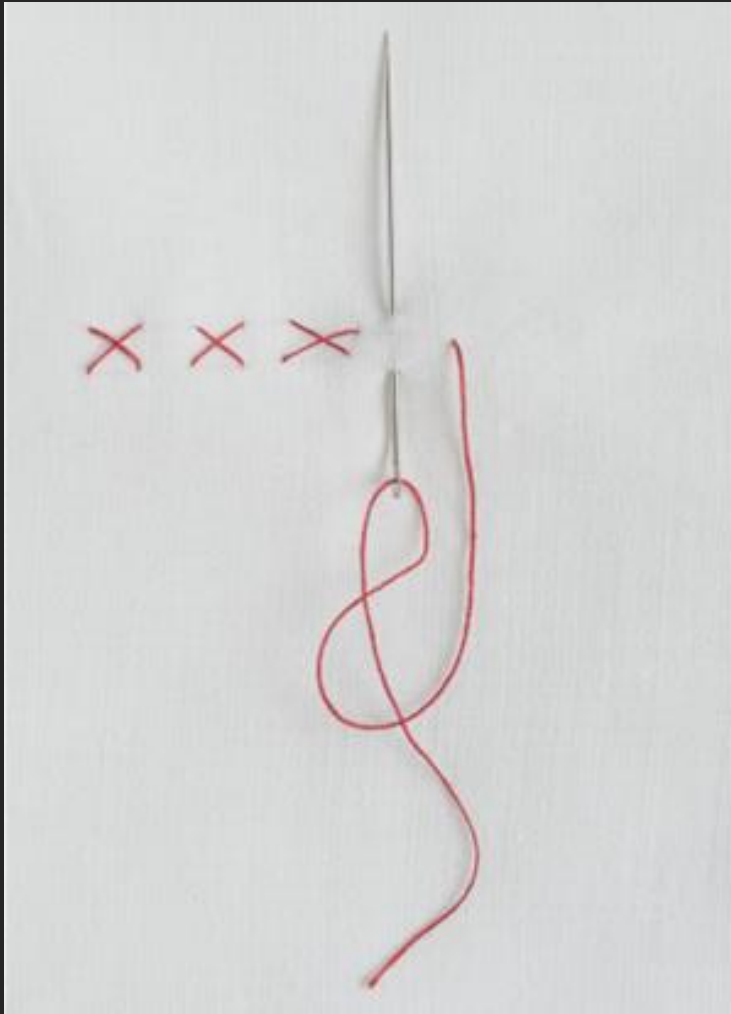
Disclosure!

I am not an archivist! The repair recommendations in this presentation are from my experience working in a public library with materials meant for circulation.

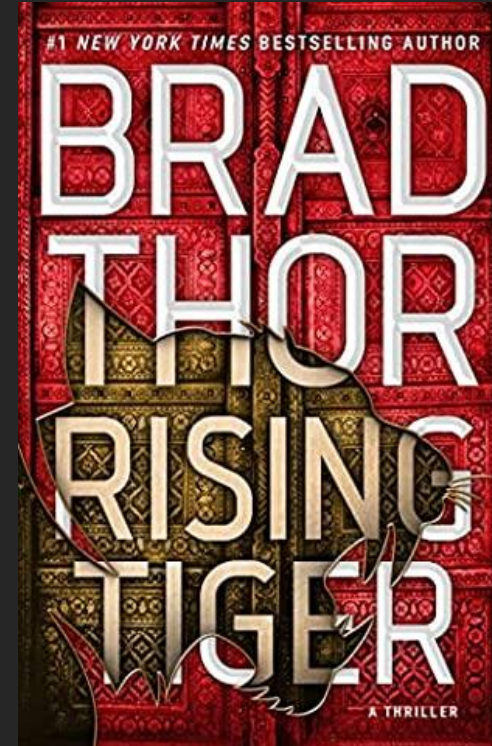
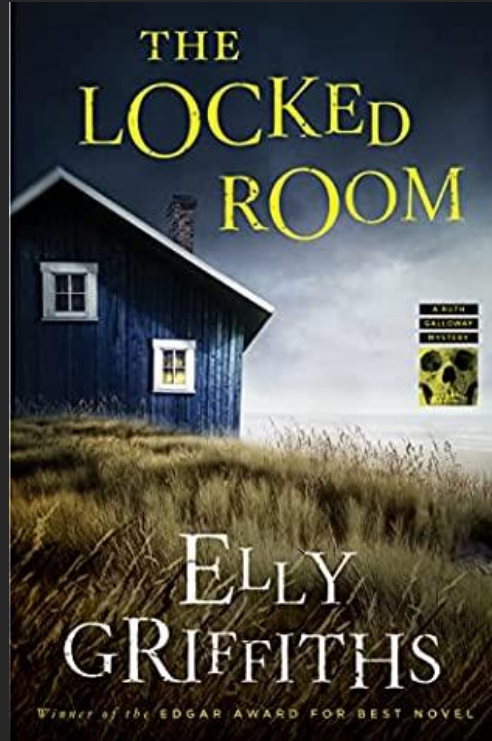
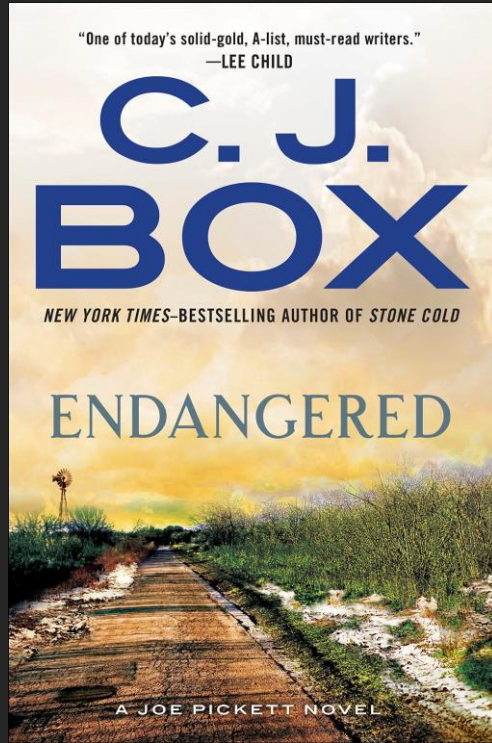
If you have rare or valuable materials, please consult with a trained archivist.



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- A stitch in time saves nine
- An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure

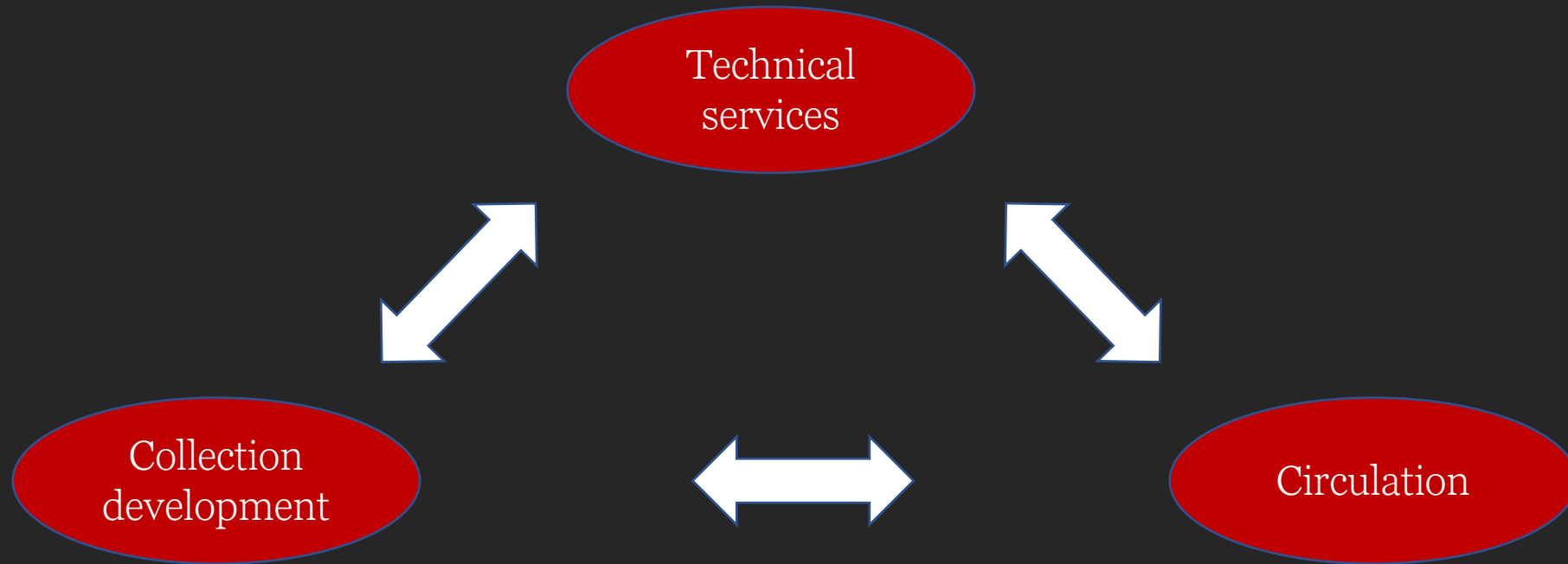


SELECTING BOOKS

Think of it this way!



Communicate: which bindings stand up and which don't



Protecting books - Hardcover



ROLL BOOK
WRAP
DISPENSER





Protecting books - Paperback

Protecting books



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Supplies

- Norbond adhesive from Demco is what I used; if you search online, you can find pH neutral PVA adhesive.
 - Filmoplast - won't dry out or turn yellow, for cuts or tears in pages, not to hold in pages
 - Binding tape
 - Single stitch binding tape
 - Double stitch binding tape
 - Wax paper
 - Goo Gone - can be greasy, use sparingly and NOT on paper, only slick covers, spray on towel, not item. Great for replacing crusty old call labels.
-





Tools

- Good scissors - like with a good pair of sewing scissors, don't use to cut anything else but book wrap
- If using the laminate wrap for paperbacks and the jacket wrap for the hardcover, have a pair of scissors for each one
- Heavy duty rubber bands
- Book press or clamps and bricks
- Bone folders
- Glue brushes
- Small container with lid for glue
- X-Acto knife
- Mending sticks
- Label peeler

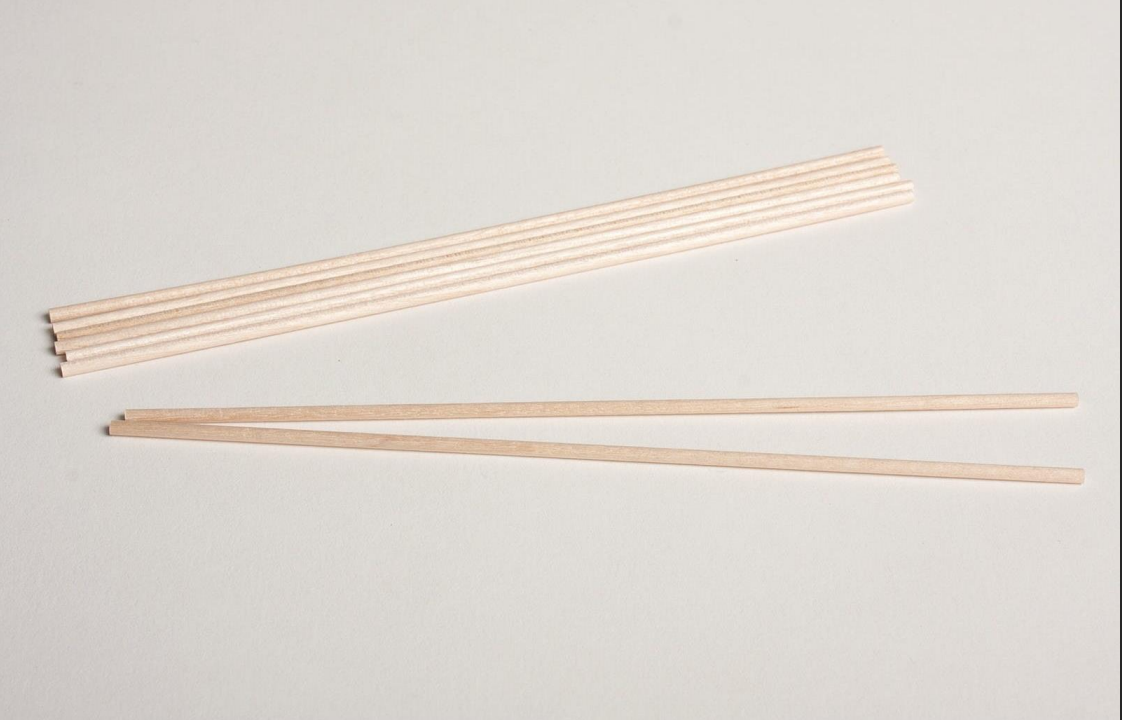


Improvise!



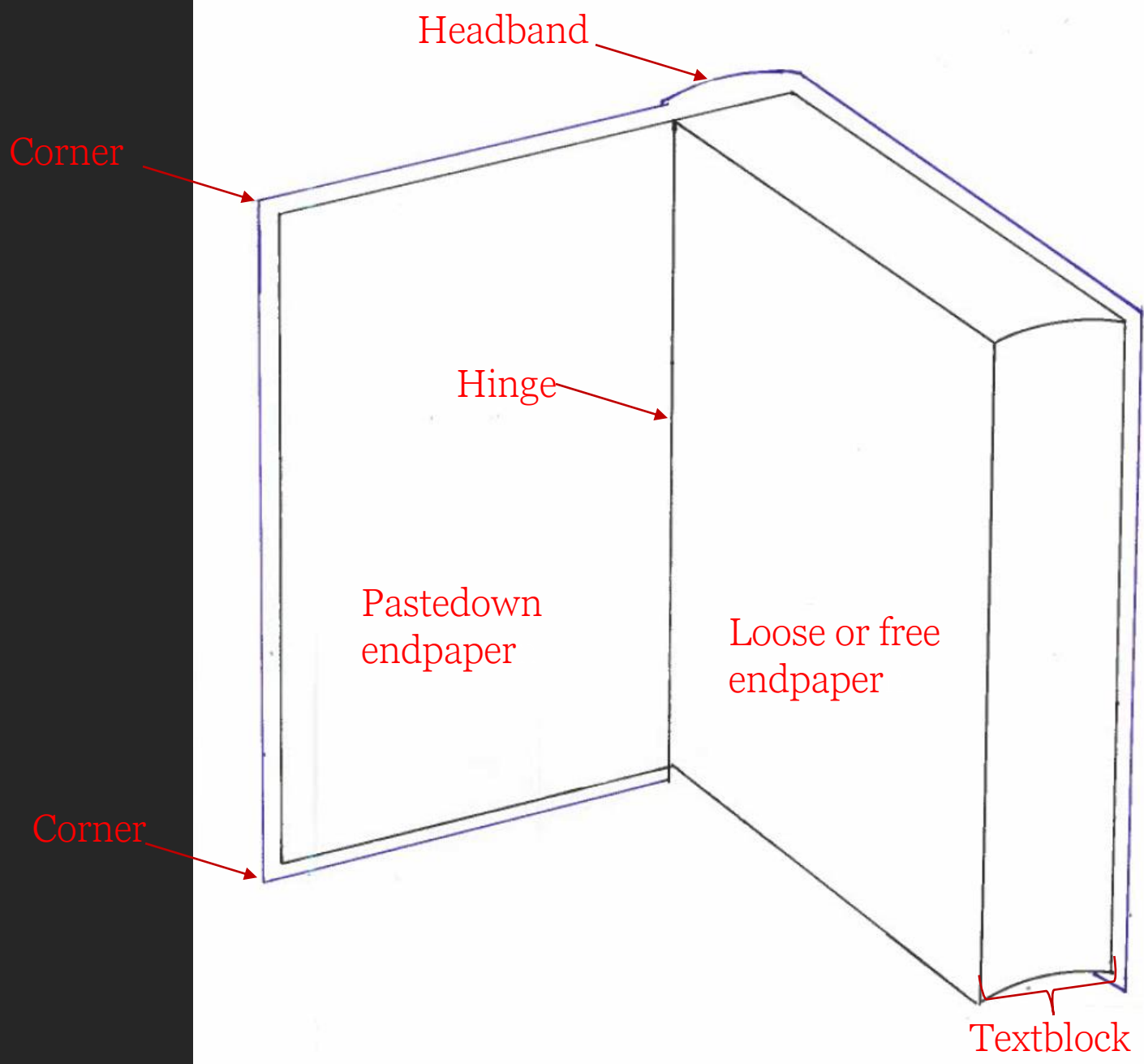
Improvise!

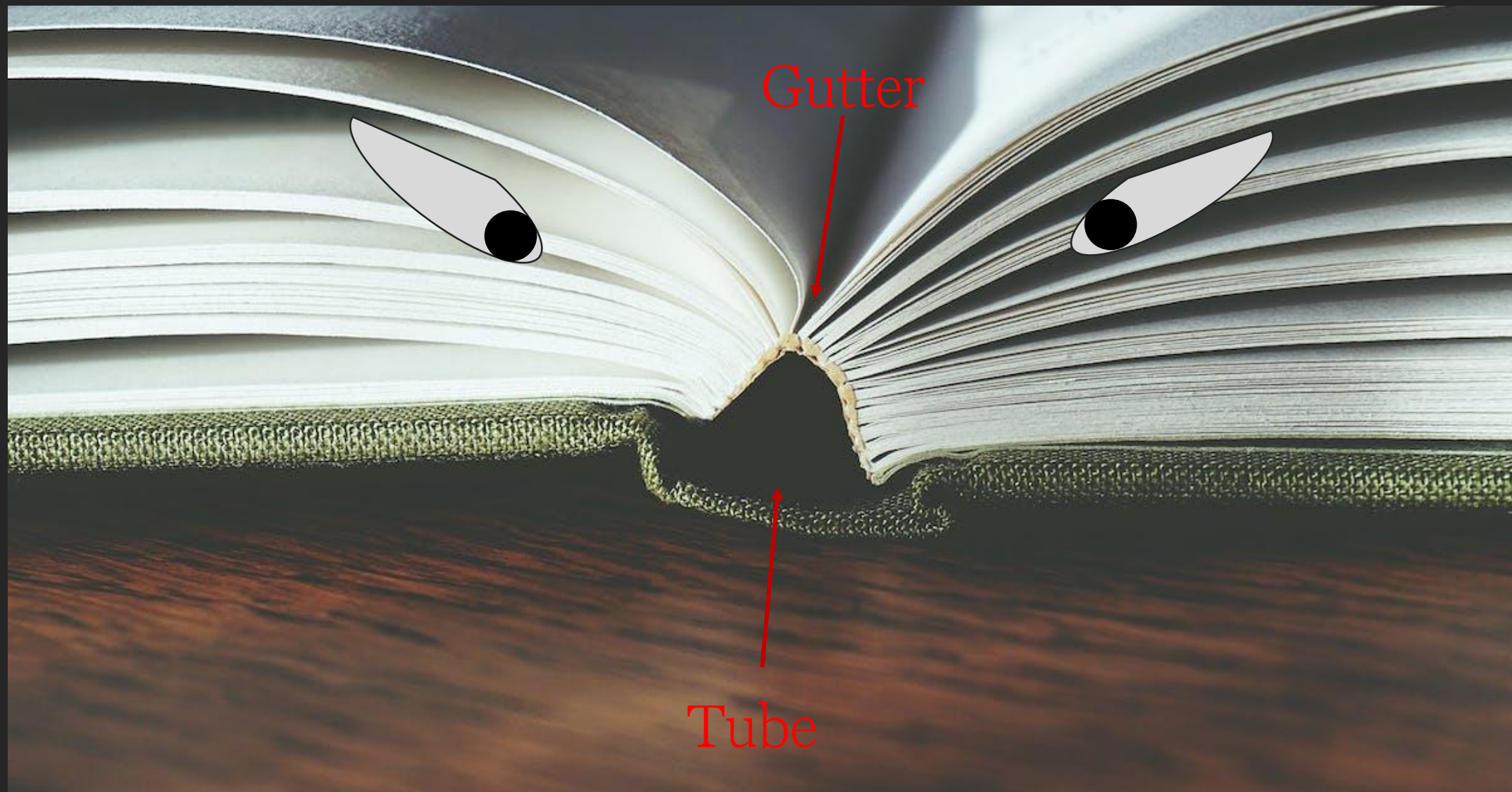




Improvise!

Book Anatomy





Gutter

Tube



Before you begin

Before you try to repair a circulating book, I would suggest you find a few donated books that are in bad shape to practice on first.

Less is more when it comes to glue. If you use too much glue, when you close the book and weight or rubber band it, the glue will ooze out. It not only makes a mess, but it can glue pages together.

Torn page

Repairing torn
pages with
adhesive



diemico

Tipping in a page



Loose hinge

Repairing a
loose cover
hinge



Demco

Broken Hinge

Repairing a
broken hinge



diernico

Reinforcing a worn hinge





Smelly books

- Place a few scented dryer sheets between pages and let it set for a few days
- Place in a sealed container with baking soda or activated charcoal inside. Don't cover the book just place it in the container. Let it set for a few days



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Every Librarian's Nightmare

WET BOOKS

Wet books

- Place absorbent sheets (paper towels, rags, etc.) between each page of the book and wrap the book in a towel. Set a heavy weight on top to squeeze out the moisture. You will need to replace the absorbent materials frequently. Repeat until the book is damp, not sopping
- Air circulation is very helpful in drying your book. You can use fans or hair dryers to speed the drying process, but air directed at the books for an extended amount of time can cause warping of the cover, boards, and pages
- If your weather is cooperative, place the books into the sunlight, as exposure to the sun's UV rays can help to kill mold spores. Remember; however, that light can cause damage and bleaching, so bring in your books after an hour in the sun
- You can dry a damp book completely by sprinkling cornstarch between the pages and letting it sit in a plastic bag or box for a couple of hours. The cornstarch will absorb the excess moisture. When you remove the book, use a soft brush to clean up the cornstarch and repeat as needed

<https://www.biblio.com/book-collecting/care-preservation/prevent-remove-mold-mildew/>



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Mold

- If you are in a building that has issues with dampness, you should consider investing in dehumidifiers.

Mold & mildew

- If identified on any of your books, magazines, or paper ephemera, remove them from your collection and either treat or discard
- Can be a health risk, so if working with an affected item protective gear is advised
- If your item is a rare, historically important, or sentimental favorite in your personal collection, it may be worth it to you to contact a professional archivist to preserve or restore a damaged item
- ALCTS - the Association for Library Collections & Technical Services, a division of the American Library Association, has great information on dealing with mold and collection preservation
<https://www.ala.org/alcts/>

Society of American Archivists,

<https://www2.archivists.org/consultants>

Some things just can't be repaired

To me, the following situations are automatically disposed of:

- Cat urine
- Bodily fluids
- Insect infestation
- Basically, anything that could be a health hazard to staff or other patrons
- Heavily stained, e.g., salsa, motor oil
- Missing pages
- Missing covers
- Heavily marked in (think a toddler with a marker)



Resources

- Demco book repair videos link:
<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLcPuPwI0y9Tv3DemhA1-QeAx0vd79XNR>
 - [Book Repair Supplies for Book and Document Preservation \(demco.com\)](https://www.demco.com)
 - ALCTS - the Association for Library Collections & Technical Services, a division of the American Library Association has great information on dealing with mold and collection preservation. <https://www.ala.org/alcts/>
 - <https://www.biblio.com/book-collecting/care-preservation/prevent-remove-mold-mildew/>
 - YouTube - search for “book repair”
-

Suppliers

- Demco
 - Brodart
 - The Library Store
 - Amazon
 - Your neighborhood hardware or discount store
-

ON THE CALL TODAY

Questions? Contact the CMC:
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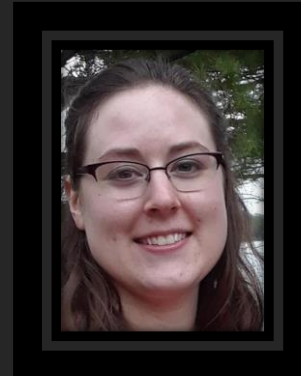
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