PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

This program will support the conservation of library and archival research materials with significant long-term research value. Proof of ownership will be required for any project that involves the direct treatment of materials. Funded projects will require a commitment on the part of the library to return conserved materials to a storage location that meets recommended standards for materials involved.

Libraries that choose to include a digitization component for their project must follow all appropriate and applicable standards and best practices. It is expected that libraries will maintain digital files and make them available to researchers for the foreseeable future both in-house and through the Digital Commonwealth.

To apply for this program, libraries must have completed a recent Preservation Assessment and/or MBLC Self-Assessment, and submitted a list of special collection management priorities (template provided upon request.)

BACKGROUND

The 2011 report Massachusetts Connecting Collections Statewide Preservation Survey noted severe deficiencies in preservation of Massachusetts collections. Conservation work can address these gaps and prolong the lives of these collections. Digitizing these unique collections provides access locally and remotely and increases
opportunities for use and discovery.