

1973: Help Establish NEDCC

In 1973, CLR made a two-year matching grant of \$70,300 to the six-state New England Interstate Library Compact—a political subdivision of the governments of Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Connecticut, and Rhode Island—to establish the New England Document Conservation Center (NEDCC). (The full name changed to Northeast Document Conservation Center in 1980.) The center, located in North Andover, Massachusetts, was initially a workshop where, on a fee basis, techniques of document preservation, repair, and restoration were applied to materials submitted for treatment by institutions in the six states. Services were eventually extended beyond New England, and the center was completely self-supporting at the end of the two-year grant period.

NEDCC continues its work to this day, offering conservation treatment, digital imaging, and audio preservation services, as well as preservation training, assessments and consultations, and disaster advice on collections.

The following description is taken from the 17th annual report of the Council on Library Resources, Inc., for the period ending June 30, 1973, p. 37.

New England Document Conservation Center

The Center will draw heavily on the proven techniques developed by Barrow and others and largely unavailable on a local level at this time. The enthusiasm and spirit of cooperation expressed for a facility of this sort by New England's librarians, archivists, and records officers is such that the consortium's officials are confident that the Conservation Center will be largely self-supporting at the end of the two-year Council grant.

Initially the Center will be a workshop where, on a fee basis, techniques of document preservation, repair, and restoration will be applied to materials submitted for treatment by institutions in the six states. As needs are demonstrated and if the workload permits, the services will be extended beyond New England. The Center will serve, if successful, as a model for other areas with similar needs.

The following description is taken from the 18th annual report of the Council on Library Resources, Inc., for the period ending June 30, 1974, p. 36–37.

New England Document Conservation Center

The Council's two-year matching grant to the six-state New England Interstate Library Compact for establishment of the New England Document Conservation Center in North Andover, Massachusetts, has resulted in a facility serving its constituency at maximum capacity. The center's goals and achievements are being articulated effectively by its director/conservator, George M. Cunha, at meetings of librarians and conservators throughout the region.³⁸ At the request of a number of cities and libraries, the center has performed surveys on the conditions of documentary materials and the environments in which they are kept and has made recommendations for corrective action. It has also carried out large-scale fumigations and emergency drying services for libraries in the region.

³⁸ XVII:37.