

## Victoria Stevens ACR

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### Summary:

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- *Accredited conservator with over 20 years' experience of working in historical collections*
- *In-depth knowledge and extensive experience of conserving all categories of library and archive collections and managing their storage and display environments*
- *In-depth understanding of materials and structures and their behaviours during treatment and storage*
- *Confident in managing independent projects of all sizes and working collaboratively to achieve project aims*
- *Excellent verbal and written communication skills*

### Employment:

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I have extensive experience of working both in institutional and private practice roles within library and archive conservation. This provides me with a broad perspective and a rational approach to conservation and preservation issues and current treatment methods.

#### **1998 – present**                      **Freelance library and archive conservator; accredited 2012**

I am involved in the conservation and preservation of the library and archive collections of both private and institutional clients, including several colleges of the University of Oxford, St Bartholomew's Hospital Archive and Museum, The Wordsworth Trust, Winchester, Worcester and Gloucester Cathedrals, the Foundling Museum and Archive, Tate and the Cadbury Research Library, University of Birmingham. In addition, I undertake collection assessment and scoping survey work for clients including a Wellcome funded initiative for Pembroke College, Oxford, a major HLF-funded project for the Courtauld Institute of Art and more specific collections assessments for the Silk Museum Macclesfield and Wellington College school. I am an Association of Independent Museums preservation audit assessor and have recently been appointed as a conservation and collections care assessor for The National Archives' *Archives Revealed* programme.

#### **2003 – 2017**                      **Oxford Conservation Consortium;** Library and Archive Conservator

As part of a team of seven conservators, I successfully delivered complex treatment-based conservation projects and managed wider collections-based preservation activities across 16 colleges of the University of Oxford. My role focused on conserving an extensive and comprehensive range of library and archive material, project planning, estimating and reporting, condition surveying of collections, rehousing both individual items and large collections and environmental monitoring and management. I also shared responsibility for exhibition installation, condition checking and the couriering of objects. Through this role, I have developed a particular interest in early printed books, post-C18<sup>th</sup> materials and collections, architectural plans and photograph album structures.

#### **1999 – 2003**                      **Conservation and Collections Care, Bodleian Library, University of Oxford;** Conservator

Conservation and rebinding of large format Ordnance Survey map volumes and the conservation and rehousing of an extensive collection of large format single sheet Ordnance Survey maps.

## Selected professional development:

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I have attended training courses on the identification of photographs, the identification of paper, knife sharpening, iron gall ink conservation, disaster response, salvage and recovery, the making of parchment, parchment repair, conservation photography for documentation and textile dyeing. I have developed and delivered training sessions on object handling, book cleaning, exhibition preparation, textile dyeing and dust monitoring and management, as well as sessions to promote and inform diverse audiences on individual conservation projects. I have a sound understanding of several Microsoft Office programmes, social media platforms and Wordpress.

## Affiliation, education and training:

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**2019:** Member of the [Museums Association](#), [IIC](#) and the [Archives and Records Association](#)

**2017:** Member of [IADA](#)

**2012:** Accredited member of the [Institute of Conservation](#) (Icon)

**Nov 2009:** European Bookbinding 1500 – 1815 course, York

**2007:** Chemistry for Conservators course, International Academic Projects; distinction

**1999 – 2001:** HND Bookbinding, London College of Printing; distinction

**1989 – 1992:** BA (Hons) History and Archaeology, University of Leicester; 2(i)

I am also a member of the [British Association of Paper Historians](#), Association of Archives and Manuscripts in Research Collections ([AMARC](#)) and the Cathedral Archives, Libraries and Collections Association ([CALCA](#))

## Advocacy and voluntary experience:

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Through my voluntary work with both national and regional conservation organisations I have considerable experience of consulting and liaising with other professionals and groups to deliver successful outcomes and have a good awareness of potential sources of specialist advice within conservation. I am a strong advocate for my profession.

**2019 – present** **Secretary, Section for Archives and Museums, Archives and Records Association (ARA)**

**Committee member, Section for Preservation and Conservation, ARA**

**PACR assessor for the Institute of Conservation**

**2015 – present** **Events Assistant, Care of Collections Group, Icon**

Key achievements: assisting with the 2016 Disaster Planning Day Conference; organising the 2017 Oxford Storage seminar day and the 2019 collection assessment workshop

**2010 – 2013** **Chair, Co-operative Training Register sub-committee**

**Deputy Chair, Book and Paper Group Committee, Icon**

Key achievements: organising the joint Book and Paper and Photographic Materials Group sessions and compiling and editing the post prints for the 2013 Icon Conference

**2009 – 2019:** **Chair, Oxford Conservators' Group (OCG)**

Key achievements: developing and maintaining the biennial OCG Forum events and the group's social media presence on Facebook and Twitter

I am a confident public speaker, and have extensive experience of preparing and presenting papers, talks and demonstrations to promote conservation and provide outreach activities for institutional projects including public sessions for Gloucester Cathedral, the School Archivists' Group and the Salters' Company, City of London. I have delivered a poster to the 2014 Dyes in History and Archaeology conference and the 2018 Icon Book and Paper Conference *Unexpected Fame*, a paper and a workshop to the 2016 and 2019 Archives and Records Association (ARA) international conferences and papers to the 2018 Centre for Material Texts, University of Bristol, conference, *Living Well with Books* and to the Rare Book and Special Collections Group of CILIP in 2019. Additionally, I have published articles in Icon, [APAC](#) and [GLAM](#) publications and on several Oxford college websites, as well as providing content for the ARA, CALCA and the Friends of the Pitt Rivers Museum newsletters.