



Standard Terminology of Textile Conservation¹

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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:*

D 123 Terminology Relating to Textiles²

2.2 *Other Documents:*

AIC Definitions of Conservation Terminology³

3. Terminology

conservation, *n*—the profession devoted to the preservation of cultural property for the future. Conservation activities include examination, documentation, treatment, and preventive care, supported by research and education.

DISCUSSION—The purpose of conservation is to retain significant

qualities of the object with the least possible intervention.

conservator, *n*—a professional whose primary occupation is the practice of conservation and who, through specialized education, knowledge, training, and experience, formulates and implements all the activities of conservation in accordance with an ethical code such as the AIC Code of Ethics and Guidelines for Practice.

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 recording, in a permanent format, of information derived from conservation activities.

examination, *n*—the investigation of the structure, materials, and condition of cultural property including the identification of the extent and causes of alteration and deterioration.

objects of cultural heritage, *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.

objects of natural heritage, *n*—any items taken from nature, modified or unmodified, that are significant for the interpretation of the natural environment.

preservation, *n*—the protection of cultural property through activities that minimize chemical and physical deterioration and damage and that prevent loss of informational content. The primary goal of preservation is to prolong the existence of cultural property.

restoration, *n*—treatment procedures intended to return cultural property to a known or assumed state, often through the addition of nonoriginal material.

¹ This terminology is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee D13 on Textiles and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee D13.53 on Practices.

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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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