IFLA International Newspaper Conference

“Newspaper Digitization and Preservation.
New prospects.
Stakeholders, Practices, Users and Business Models”

11-13 April 2012
BnF, Paris

With the support of:

Newspaper storage at the British Library

IFLA International Newspaper Conference
Paris 11 – 13 April 2012

Deborah Novotny

Head of Collection Care

Colindale Newspaper Library

British Library – St. Pancras

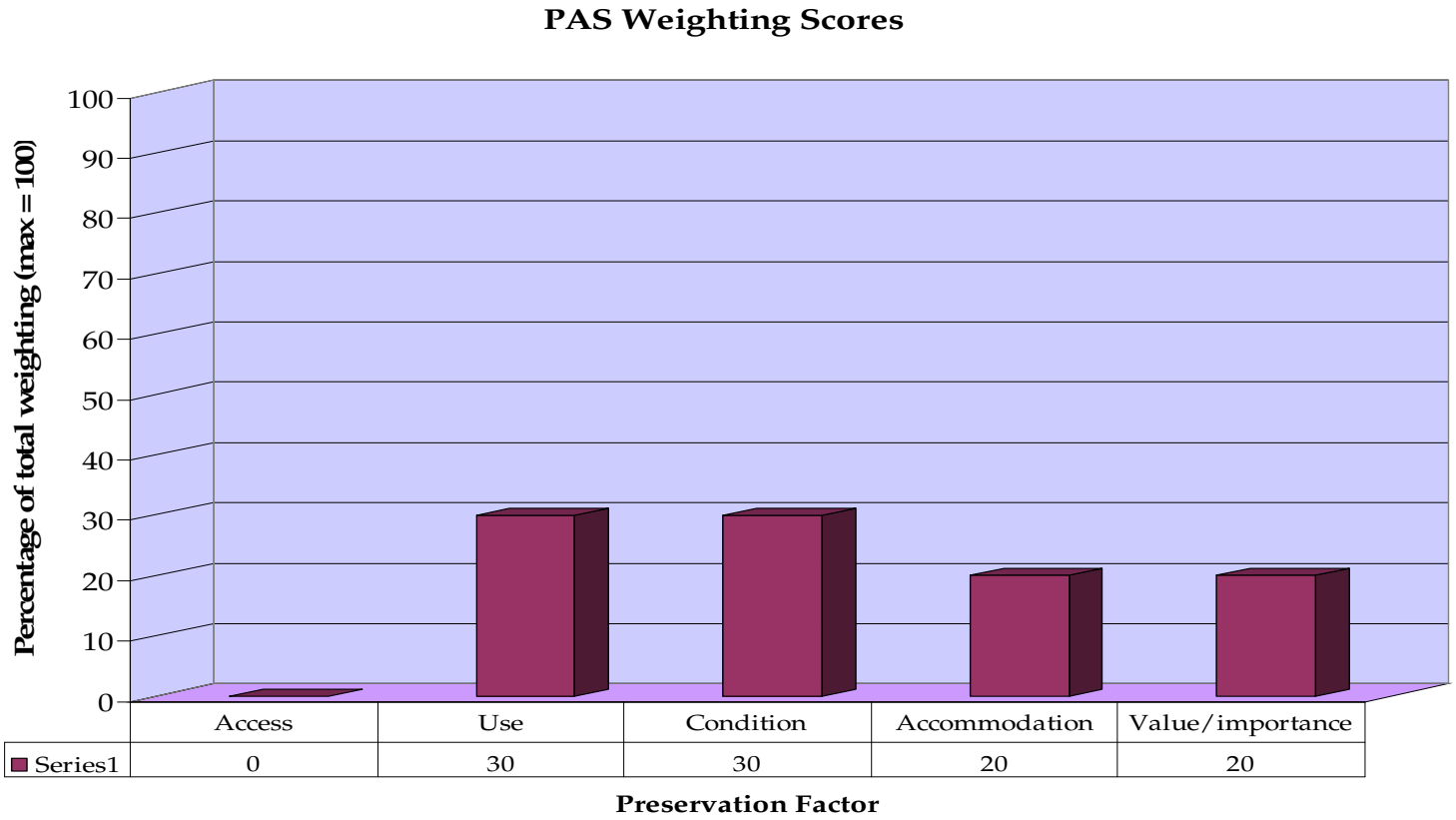
Basement storage at St. Pancras

Colindale storage

Colindale – red rot and loose boards

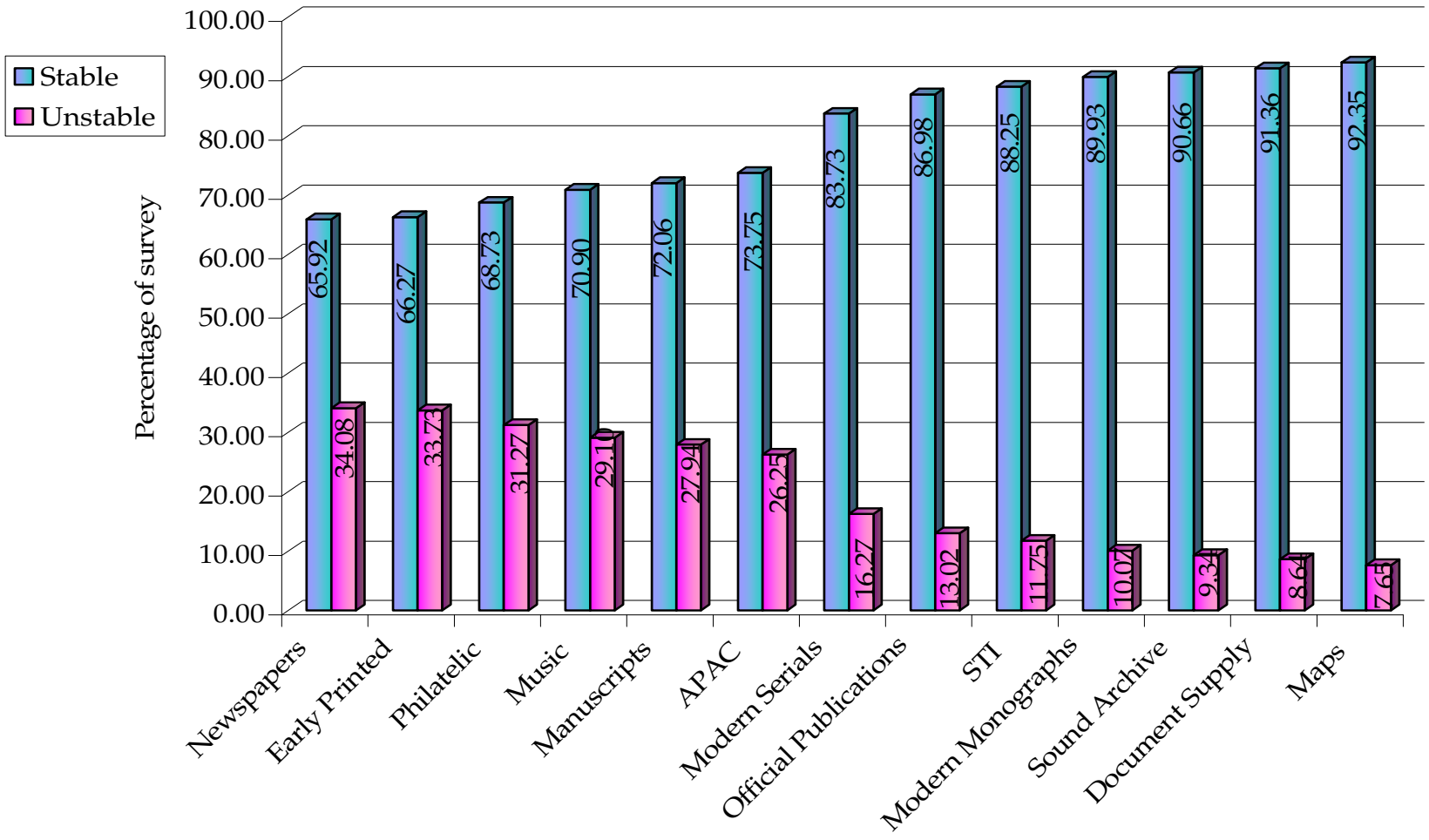
Brittle paper

PAS weighted scoring - survey

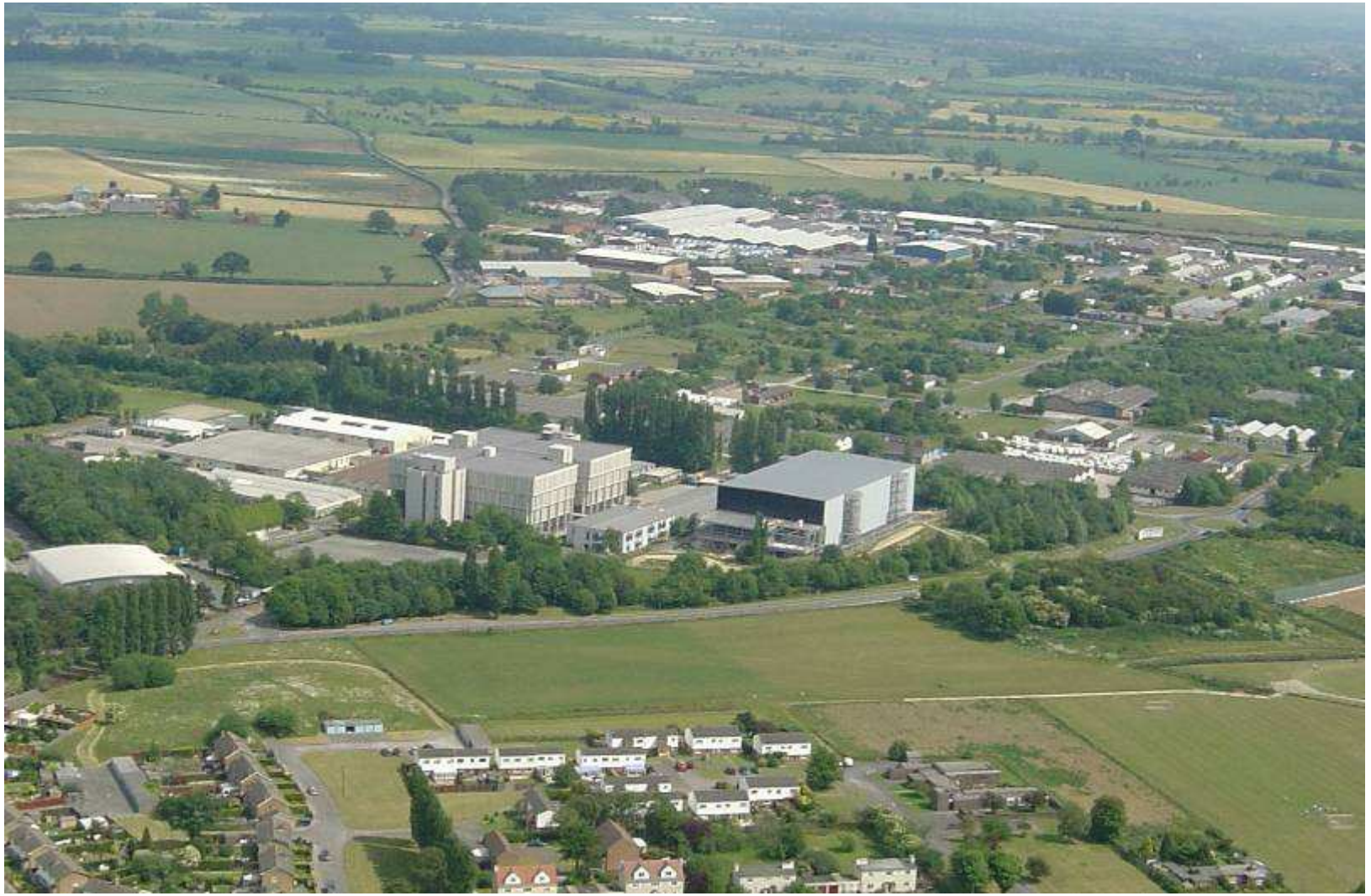


- Sample of c.400 items assessed (+/- 5% accuracy)
- Low score = low preservation need/low priority
- High score = high preservation need/high priority

BL results: condition (% STABLE / UNSTABLE)
Newspapers = 15% unusable 19% ‘at risk’



Boston Spa



Newspaper Storage Building - facts

- Based on the design of additional storage building (building 31), but with a smaller footprint
- High density
- 24 metre high bay
- Fire prevention – reduced oxygen 14.9%
- Capacity 132 km to store some 750 million pages of local, regional and national newspapers

Construction January 2012

March 2012 construction newspaper building

March 2012

Architects model of racking and crane

Scale….

Fire suppression – low oxygen

Nitrogen store

Air tightness

NSB - statistics

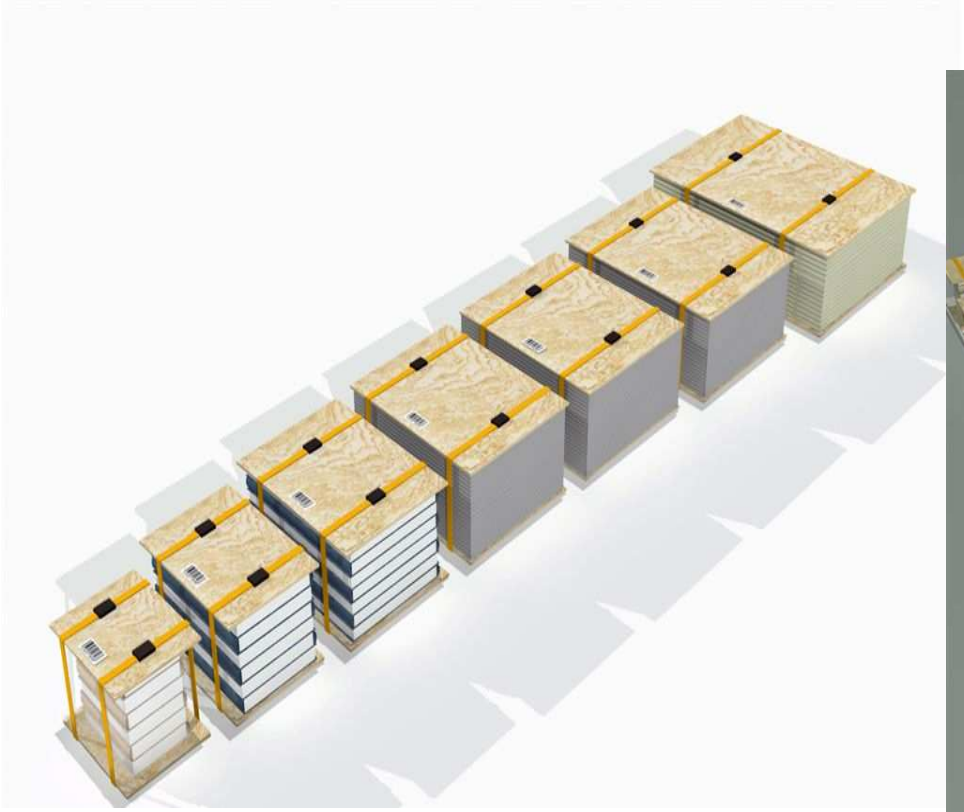
New building footprint =

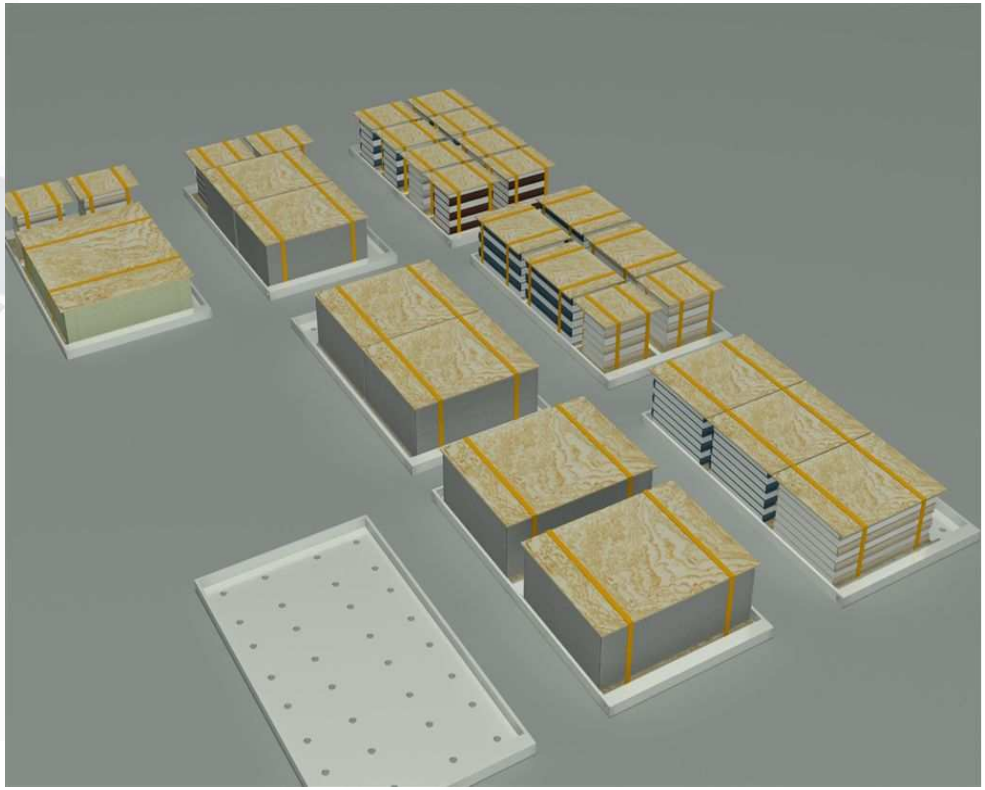
- Will contain approximately 287,000 volumes of newspapers on 35,000 stacks

- There are 7 different stack footprints, from 380mmx310mm for the smallest, to 1020mm x 770mm for the largest

- Stacks are stored and transported on carrier trays, with multiple stack configurations on all trays except the largest

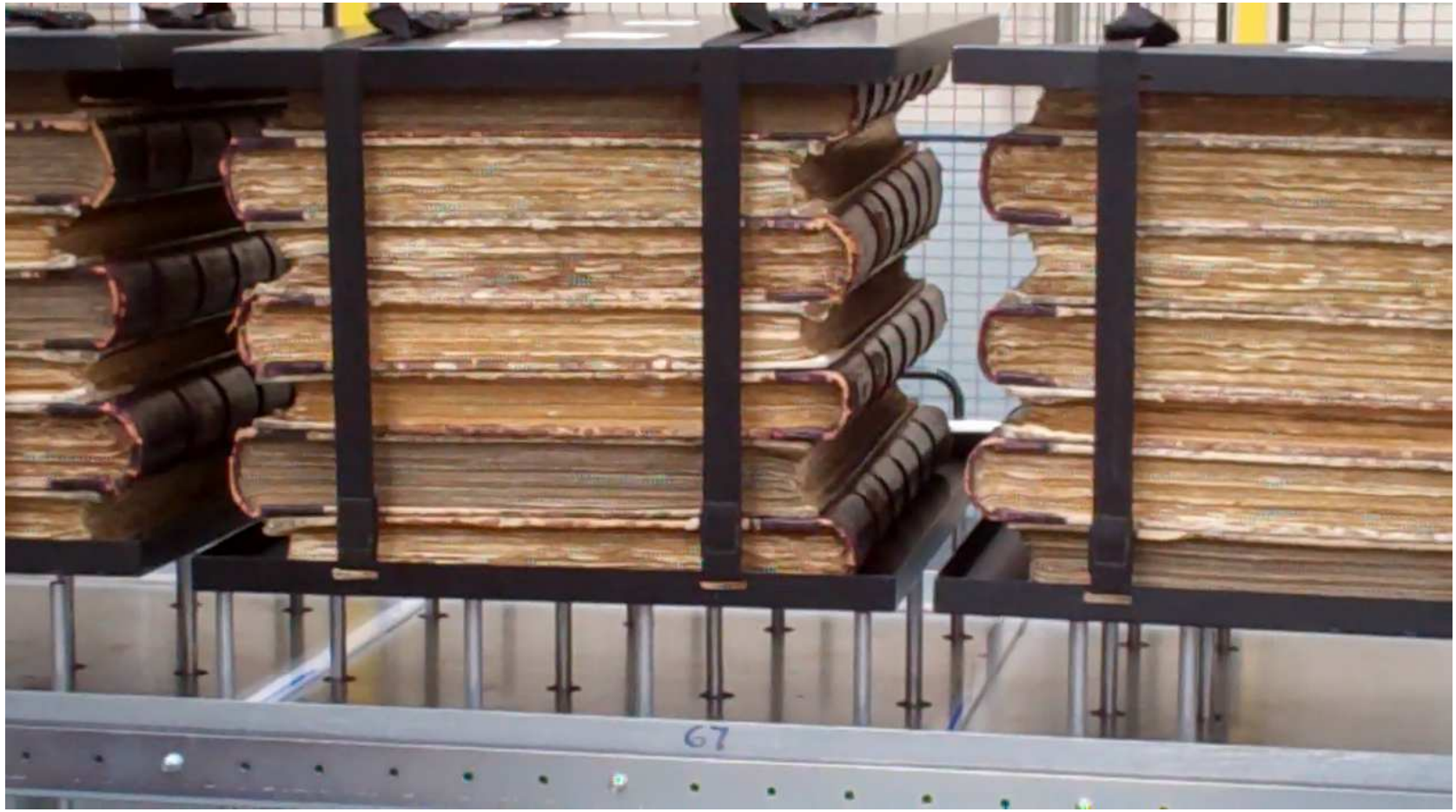
Newspaper on trays – 7 sizes with different configurations





Test Cell 2011

40cm high stack



Moving the newspapers

Newspaper how to….. condition and

Methodology – shrink-wrapping

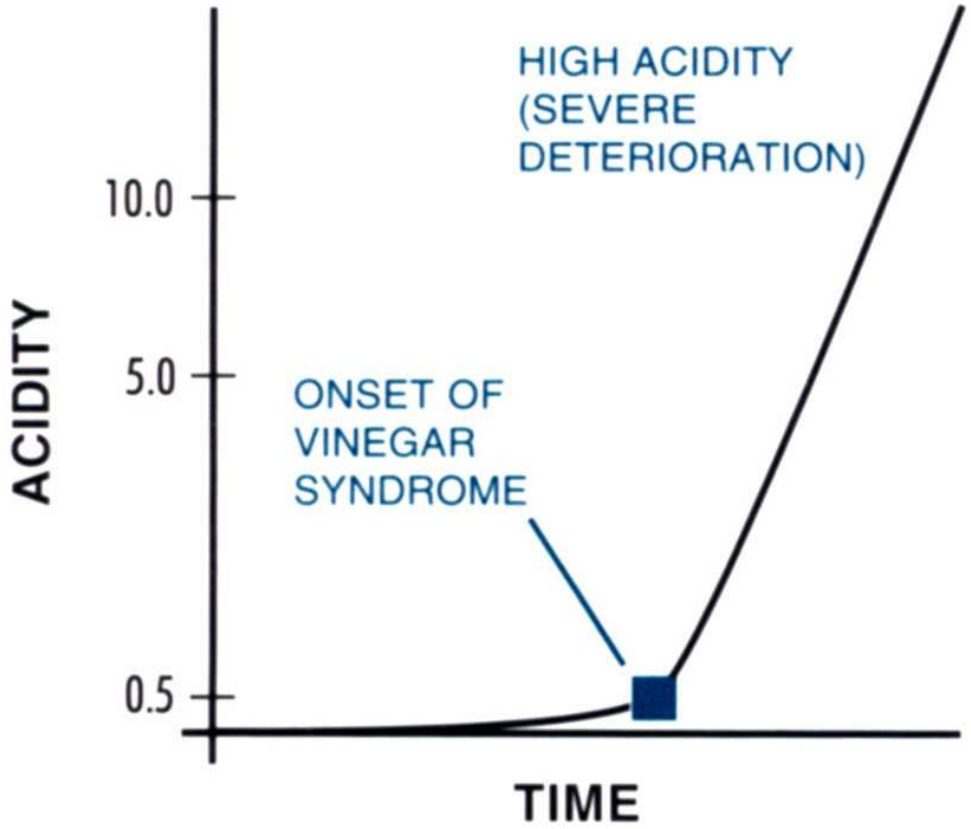
Shrink-wrapping

Shrink-wrapped volume

Shrink-wrapped parcels

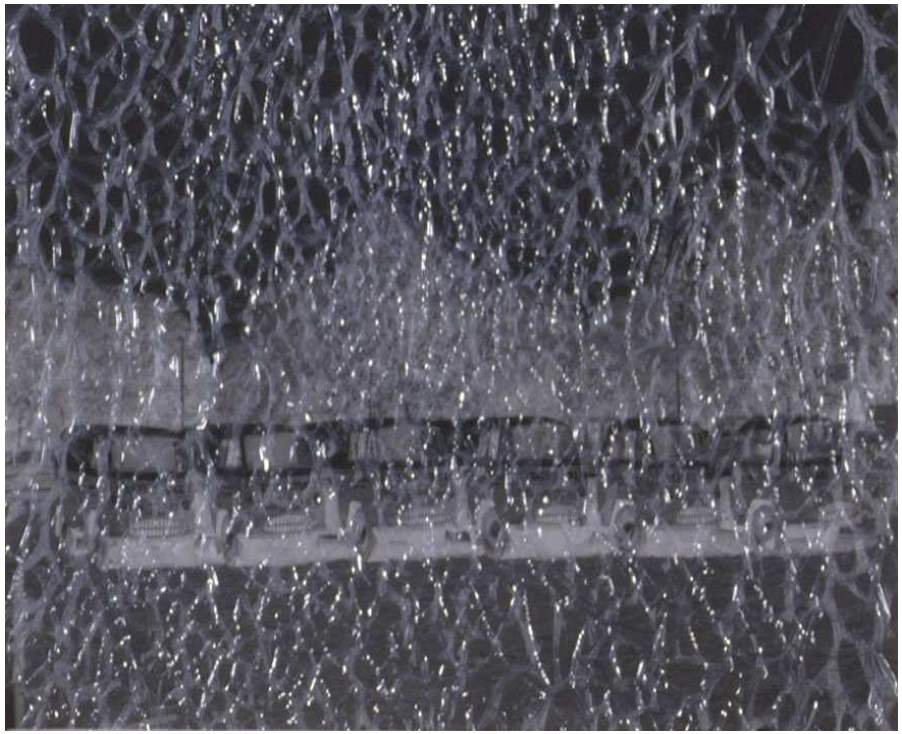
Assets and Acetate degradation – the path of decay

Path of autocatalytic decay

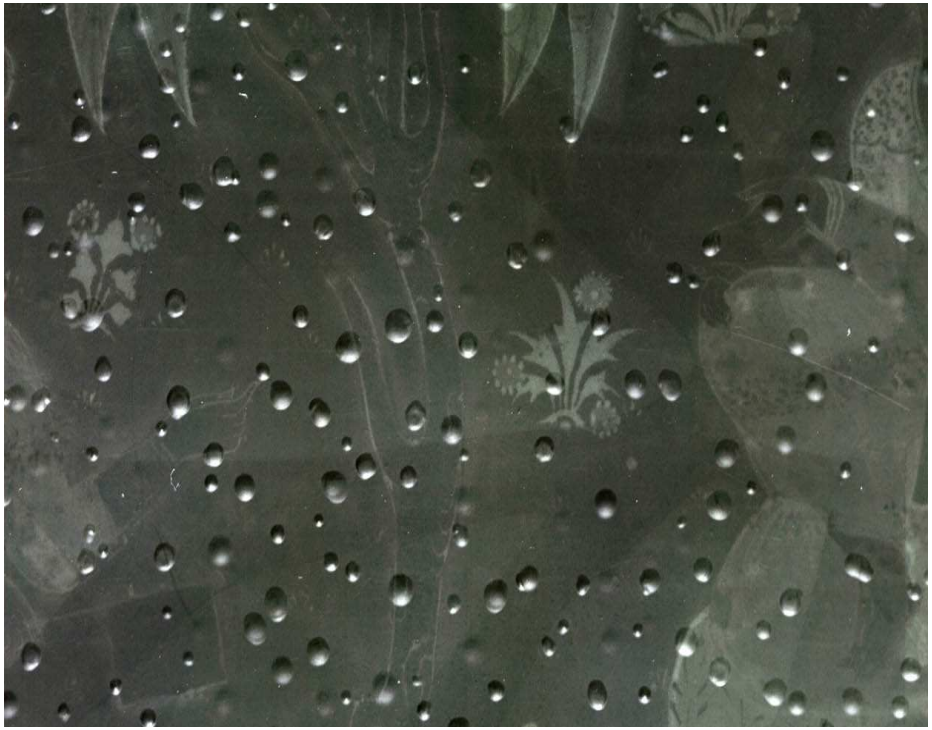


Acetate degradation

Cracking/crazing of the film base



Bubbles of acid in the film base



Vindon Scientific Ltd – (Rochdale, Lancashire)
Science & Pharmaceuticals

BL Preservation Cold Store at Vindon
Facts & figures

- Steady controlled temperature at 5°C (1°tolerance)
- Steady controlled RH at 35% (3 % tolerance)
- 24hr secure monitoring with emergency back-up and disaster recovery
- Online retrieval process
- Secure remote access to database of holdings
- Dedicated acclimatisation room to allow film to be retrieved an processed safely
- Dedicated work space for BL staff for collection management activities

BL Preservation Cold Store at Vindon - the space (appx. 900m^2)

BL Preservation Cold Store at Vindon - the cold rooms

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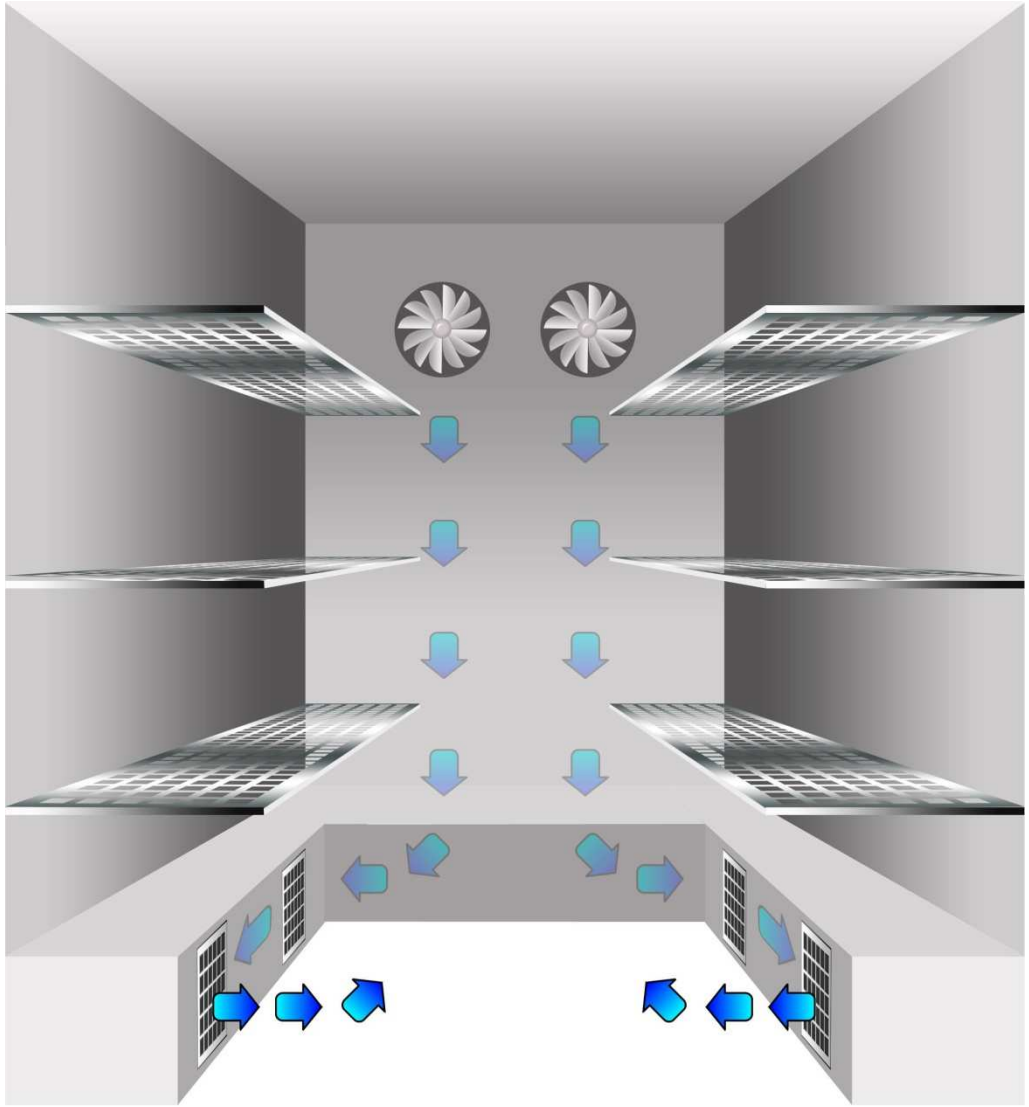


- rooms designed & built on site
- shelving & ducting is grade 304 stainless steel
- vertical rear plenum located at the rear of each room
- air is attracted at high level through this plenum by fan(s).
- air is then passed over the cooling coils to floor mounted ducting system where the “conditioned” air passes into the room through adjustable vents.
- shelves are perforated for maximum exposure to conditioned air

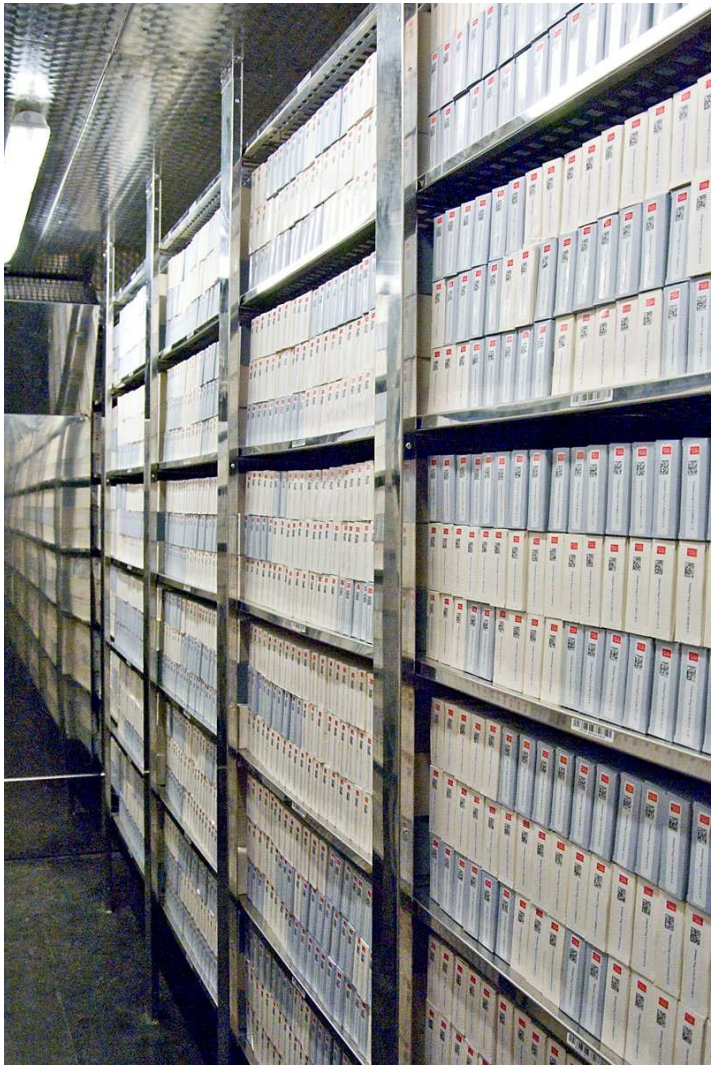
From this…

…to this

From this…


PLEASE RETURN TO:- British Library,
Reference Division,
Preservation Service,
Great Russell Street,
London.
WC1B 3DG
A4 B14
A4 B4
GAST
COMPRESSORS
VACUUM PUMPS

...to this



The preservation impact

Moving the microfilm collection into the new storage suite at Vindon has had a major impact on the preservation of the collection

- The doubling of free acidity in actively degrading film

  → Increased from 10 years to 200 years
- The development of acidity in films not actively degrading

  → Increased from 80 years to 350 years
- Natural age rate (non-acetate)

  → Reduced from “moderate” to “very slow”
- Preservation Index (PI = units = years, the higher the PI the better conditions are for preserving organic material)

  → Increased from 63 years to 488

Thank you

Happy to take questions?