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Session Papers

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INTRODUCTION TO THE JOINT OBJECTS AND RESEARCH AND TECHNICAL STUDIES SESSION PAPERS

AINSLIE HARRISON

The next six papers in this volume come from a conference session held jointly by the Objects Specialty Group and the Research and Technical Studies Specialty Group. Our goal for the session was to go beyond presentation of technical studies to focus on the role of research in the development of conservation and preservation strategies.

Research informs our understanding of materials as well as their interactions and degradation—concepts that are always central to the conservation treatment and care of collections. These six papers demonstrate how information obtained through research and analysis can be applied to the decision-making process. They explore research on a diverse range of collections objects, from materials made of glass beads and brightly colored feathers, to a Nazi bat-wing aircraft. They also present research into the degradation of Disney animation cells, the mitigation of pesticides on Navajo textiles, and the effects of vibration on the Egyptian collection at the Met. These innovative studies all share a heightened awareness of their end goal—the conservation and care of their collection objects.

