

# Fundamentals of the Conservation of Photographs

**SESSION:** Deterioration of Photographic Materials **INSTRUCTOR:** Monique Fischer, Tram Vo

# SESSION OUTLINE

#### ABSTRACT

An introduction to how and why photographic materials deteriorate. This session will explain the difference between biological, mechanical, chemical, and physical deterioration. In conjunction with the photograph identification session, unique deterioration characteristic to each type of photographic process will be discussed.

#### **LEARNING OBJECTIVES**

As a result of this session, participants should be able to:

- Understand how and why photographs deteriorate
- Understand the difference between biological, mechanical, chemical and physical deterioration of photographs
- Understand and explain the different types of deterioration characteristics associated with cased images, photographic prints and photographic negatives.
- Be able to distinguish one photographic process from another using visual analysis of deterioration characteristics.

## CONTENT OUTLINE

- Overview of Deterioration PowerPoint presentation "Deterioration of Photographic Materials"
- Detailed discussion of the unique deterioration characteristics of each type of photographic process.
  - Discussion will follow the chronological order of the history of photography, beginning with cased images/salted paper prints and end with digital output media.
- Case studies using photographic examples. Participants will be asked to identify photographic processes using deterioration characteristics.
- During the distance mentoring phase students will conduct a survey of their family photographs. Include a section where deterioration characteristics are identified and discussed.



## SESSION OUTLINE CONT'D.

Ask student to decide what photographs are at greatest risk and discuss how to implement a preservation strategy to slow down the deterioration of the photographic materials in one's collection.

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