

# The National Archives and Records Administration

20th Annual Preservation Conference

Thursday, March 16, 2006

## *Beyond the Numbers:*

# Specifying and Achieving an Efficient Preservation Environment

National Archives at College Park  
8601 Adelphi Road  
College Park, Maryland 20740

Collecting institutions must fulfill their mission of preserving and providing access to their holdings while operating within a specified budget. Achieving the long term benefits of a preservation environment given fiscal realities is both challenging and achievable. This conference will explore how institutions - including the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) and others - are approaching environmental control and building design issues given escalating construction costs, increasing energy rates and shrinking budgets. Cooperative participation in the design and review process allows project managers, preservation and conservation specialists, designers, mechanical engineers, financial officers, facility managers, archivists, curators and others involved in building projects to look beyond the numbers to arrive at efficient environmental control systems that effectively provide for the long-term preservation of the collections. The conference will provide practical information to facilitate this dialogue.

Presentations will discuss:

- Recent innovations in building design and mechanical systems.
- Practical collection, interpretation and use of environmental monitoring data.
- Participation in the process of new construction, renovation, and facility review.
- Implications of temperature and relative humidity specifications on building and systems design and operations.
- Building projects that have achieved a successful balance between providing a preservation environment and controlling costs.