Before lowering the platen, ask yourself:

- Is the paper brittle?
- Is the binding intact or damaged?
- Does the volume open flat (180 degrees) without much effort?
- Are there pages starting to detach?
- Are there foldouts or overlapping elements?

If the book does not lie flat and you cannot use the platen, consider the following options:

- Use the book cradle to support the book, especially if the book is difficult to open.
- Support the book while foldouts are being scanned.
- Use “snake” weight or polyethylene strap weight to keep pages lying flat.