1985: Gay Walker and Jane Greenfield publish the first comprehensive collections condition survey in the United States. The Yale Survey compares physical condition with complex assessments of scholarly value. This juxtaposition makes possible preservation treatment priorities for entire collections.

This condition survey determines that 44% of Sterling’s volumes are brittle due to environmental conditions. Eighty-seven percent of the entire collection is found to be on acidic paper.

1985: Microfilming Unit added to the Preservation Department with 3 cameras producing preservation microfilm, including processing.


Hygrothermograph readings of Sterling Stacks Floor 7M 1979-1980
The environmental conditions ranged from hot and humid in the summer and warm and dry in the winter. This fluctuating environment occurred for years, causing paper, adhesives and bindings to deteriorate more quickly.

Gay Walker leaves her position as Head of Preservation after 18 years.