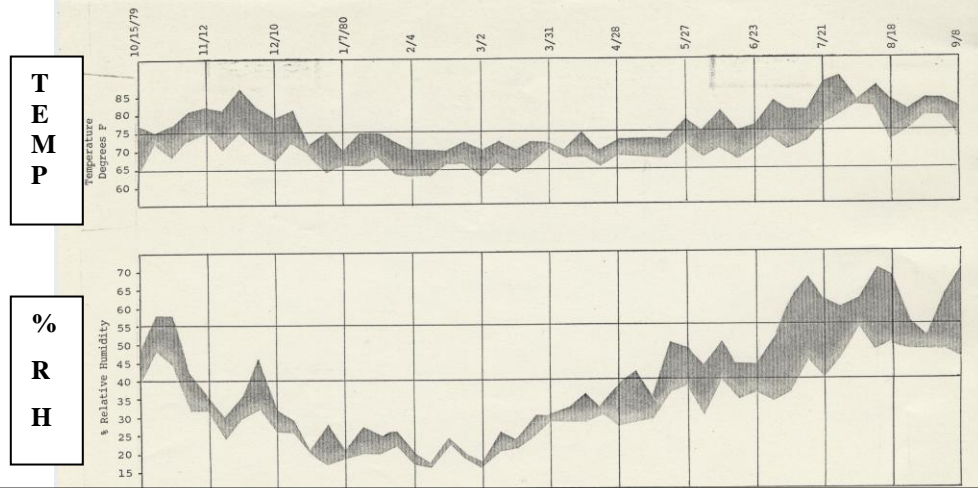


1985: Gay Walker and Jane Greenfield publish the first comprehensive collections condition survey in the United States. The Yale Survey compares physical condition with complex assessments of scholarly value. This juxtaposition makes possible preservation treatment priorities for entire collections.

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.



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.

1985 | 1986 | 1987 | 1988 | 1989 | 1990

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

1986: The Preservation Planning Task Force submits a report that identifies problems and makes recommendations. Its number one recommendation: improvements in environmental controls for Sterling and other libraries at Yale.

1988: Yale University Library receives the first National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) Brittle Books Microfilm Grant. The "European History Microfilm Project" runs until 1992, filming over 14,000 volumes.

