commercially-bound buckram books flaked and had to be rebound. About fifteen percent of the call number labels bubbled or had the adhesive loosen, and these were replaced. A chalky residue came off on one’s hands when initially working with the rebound books, and the text blocks buckled temporarily but straightened out. In addition to these problems, the books showed up most often on the pamphlet binders rather than the text. The rings on the pamphlet binders are strictly cosmetic and do not affect the text block at all.

For the most part, the reactions of staff and users to the project have been positive. The planning for mass deacidification was time-consuming, but I believe it was well worth the effort, as it paid off in a smooth start-up.

Northwestern University Libraries looks forward to continued success with the mass deacidification program.

Ms. Bond is Head of Materials Processing at the Northwestern University Library Preservation Department.
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Laminating may affect this result, though not markedly. Each new shipment of Archival Products board is fully inspected for cuts, abrasions, spots, flaws, coating uniformity, and shipping damages. Archival Products stands behind the quality demands for archival board, and any damaged board is promptly replaced. For the Grey/White board, color may vary from shipment to shipment, but the component parts and specifications remain constant.

Other tests are currently being conducted to see how our board stacks up against other marketed board products and experimental boards currently in manufacture process. This result should be available before the summer issue of Archival Products News. In the meantime, sample packages of all Archival Products board supplies are available in sizes that are suitable for some of these tests. Call our toll-free number to request a complimentary package.

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Mass Deacidification at Northwestern University Library — by Elayne Bond

In June 1992 Northwestern University Library signed a contract with Akzo Chemicals, Incorporated, and officially began the library's new venture into mass deacidification. An advantage Northwestern had in beginning this new program was that in 1991-92 we had carried out three mass deacidification test runs as part of a Committee for Institutional Cooperation (CIC) project. Coordinating, organizing, creating procedures, and performing quality control for these test runs gave us experience which helped enormously when planning for the real thing.

Some of the first questions the Preservation Department had to answer were: Where do we begin - should we start with a discrete collection? Should we go into the stacks and start from the beginning? Should we send new acquisitions? Should our strategy be subject based? And, should the selectors choose the material? Drawing on our experience with the three CIC test runs, we decided we should probably avoid materials with photographs or graphic images, coated and/or dense paper, books with mylar covers, newspapers, colored illustrations, and brittle materials (since desiccation does not reverse embrittlement nor does it strengthen paper).

With these physical limitations in mind, we decided to begin with the music collection. Besides being a collection of distinction at Northwestern University Library, the music collection does not have many photographs or coated papers. Music Library staff was enthusiastic about mass deacidification, since the collection does not lend itself well to other means of preservation. For instance, reformattting to microfilm is not a good option for music because musicians must use the actual scores.

Preservation Department staff involved with mass deacidification talked with the Head of the Music Library. They decided to begin with the music stacks then move on to the Music Reference Room, where materials included serials and folios.

The planning stages of the mass deacidification program were time consuming. In looking over my notes of the past year, it appears that there were hardly any issues which we did not discuss at length. Contract negotiations and quality control work are two good examples.

Contract negotiations were protracted and detailed, lasting about six months. Akzo provided a basic contract outline, and we spent a lot of time going over the contract point by point with preservation staff, Northwestern's legal counsel, and the Assistant University Librarian for Collection Management.

We also consulted with two Chemistry professors and Northwestern's Office of Research Safety. The sections of the contract that sparked the most discussion were the specifications, the terms, and the limitations of Akzo's liability.

Quality control was of major importance. This was a new activity for the library as well as for the national library community. We checked each continued on page 4

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