Conservation Treatments
Rehousing

Rehousing can take many different forms. Often the term is used for putting an older, fragile volume in a box. This does not repair the book, but helps keep it in its current state and ensures any loose pieces do not get lost. This is a phase the book is going through before being properly conserved, and conservators call these boxes phase boxes.

Another aspect of re-housing is placing newer materials in a stronger or better suited “container.” One example is pamphlet binding. Thin, flimsy materials such as pamphlets do not hold up well under normal library shelving situations. Sewing the pamphlet into a sturdy cover so it can stand up on the shelf and withstand circulation and use. Loose materials can be placed in a pocket in the back of the binder.

The conservation lab also has developed a special box for the music library to rehouse materials in the CD Music collection. Many of these CDs contain not only a jewel box (or two), but also a separate booklet, such as a libretto for an opera. When the original boxes wear out, we make a custom fitted box, saving as much of the original as possible to place on the exterior of the new box.

As with any other conservation treatments, we strive to keep the original format and appearance as much as we can.

Pamphlet binder

CD Music Slip Case