



Australian Government

CULMS010B Contribute to the preservation of cultural material

Revision Number: 1

CULMS010B Contribute to the preservation of cultural material

Modification History

Not applicable.

Unit Descriptor

Unit descriptor

This unit describes the performance outcomes, skills and knowledge required to contribute to the preservation of cultural material through a sound knowledge of conservation principles, practices and ethics and the application of basic preservation activities.

No licensing, legislative, regulatory or certification requirements apply to this unit at the time of endorsement.

Application of the Unit

Application of the unit

This unit applies to individuals who have significant knowledge of preservation issues and may be involved in the application of basic preservation techniques with the involvement of a professional conservator.

The content of this unit relates to work that has a significant impact on Australia's cultural heritage and care must be taken to ensure appropriate implementation of the unit.

Any individual or organisation planning to undertake training and/or assessment of this unit must therefore consult with an appropriately qualified conservator or conservation organisation. The Australian Institute for the Conservation of Cultural Material is the recognised professional body in this area.

Licensing/Regulatory Information

Not applicable.

Pre-Requisites

Prerequisite units Nil

Employability Skills Information

Employability Skills The required outcomes described in this unit of competency contain applicable facets of Employability Skills. The Employability Skills Summary for the qualification in which this unit of competency is packaged, will assist in identifying Employability Skills requirements.

Elements and Performance Criteria Pre-Content

Elements describe the essential outcomes of a unit of competency.

Performance criteria describe the performance needed to demonstrate achievement of the element. Where bold italicised text is used, further information is detailed in the required skills and knowledge section and the range statement. Assessment of performance is to be consistent with the evidence guide.

Elements and Performance Criteria

ELEMENT

PERFORMANCE CRITERIA

1 Develop preservation skills and knowledge

- 1.1 Seek and access ***opportunities to develop, update and maintain knowledge of preservation*** issues and concepts
- 1.2 Integrate knowledge into work activities within scope of individual responsibility

2 Undertake basic preservation activities

- 2.1 Undertake ***basic preservation activities*** within scope of responsibility as agreed with a conservator and in accordance with ***organisational plans and policies***
- 2.2 Correctly apply techniques in a manner which

ELEMENT**PERFORMANCE CRITERIA**

- maintains the integrity of the ***cultural material***
- 2.3 Record data generated in the course of activities clearly and accurately in the appropriate format
- 2.4 Follow ***health, safety and environmental requirements*** at all times
- 2.5 Ensure that ethical and ***cultural protocols*** are adhered to at all times

Required Skills and Knowledge

Required Skills and knowledge

This section describes the skills and knowledge required for this unit.

Required skills

- learning skills to undertake ongoing professional development and acquisition of knowledge around preservation issues and concepts
- literacy skills to interpret conservation plans, to research conservation information, document and to report on condition of cultural material.

Required knowledge

- distinction between preservation, conservation and restoration
- basic preservation principles and methods
- principles and methods for handling cultural material
- available sources of appropriate expert advice
- AICCM Code of Ethics and Code of Practice
- copyright, moral rights and intellectual property legislation and issues that impact on conservation
- cultural protocols that impact on conservation of cultural material, including those for Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander material
- role of a conservator and of a person working under the guidance of a conservator, including the scope of work undertaken by each and rationale for this
- requirements for safe work and manual handling
- formats and features of conservation plans, object condition reports.

Evidence Guide

EVIDENCE GUIDE

The Evidence Guide provides advice on assessment and must be read in conjunction with the performance criteria, required skills and knowledge, range statement and the Assessment Guidelines for the Training Package.

Critical aspects for assessment and evidence required to demonstrate competency in this unit

Evidence of the following is essential:

- sound general knowledge of preservation techniques relevant to the collection/industry sector
- understanding of conservation ethics and cultural protocols, including limitations on the scope of work to be undertaken
- practical demonstration of competent and safe techniques working on one or more items under the guidance of a conservator.

Context of and specific resources for assessment

Assessment must ensure:

- access to cultural material
- access to equipment, materials and tools used in basic preservation activities.

Method of assessment

A range of assessment methods should be used to assess practical skills and knowledge. The following examples are appropriate for this unit:

- direct questioning combined with review of portfolios of evidence and third party workplace reports of on-the-job performance by the candidate
- assessment of cultural material on which the candidate has worked
- direct observation of the candidate using techniques
- evaluation of candidate's responses to different collection scenarios to assess ability to develop approaches for different preservation needs and articulate different challenges and issues to be considered
- oral or written questioning to assess knowledge of different techniques and procedures.

EVIDENCE GUIDE

Holistic assessment with other units relevant to the industry sector, workplace and job role is recommended, for example:

- CULMS009B Implement preventive conservation activities.

Range Statement

RANGE STATEMENT

The range statement relates to the unit of competency as a whole. It allows for different work environments and situations that may affect performance. Bold italicised wording, if used in the performance criteria, is detailed below. Essential operating conditions that may be present with training and assessment (depending on the work situation, needs of the candidate, accessibility of the item, and local industry and regional contexts) may also be included.

Opportunities to develop, update and maintain knowledge of preservation issues and concepts may include:

- research
- attendance at seminars, workshops
- membership of professional organisations
- using conservator as a mentor
- reading current journals, newsletters and electronic discussion lists

Basic preservation activities will vary depending on the type of cultural material, but may include:

- surface cleaning
- designing/making storage enclosures and display supports
- attaching backboards to paintings
- creating hanging systems for paintings
- mounting and framing

Activities must be undertaken in accordance with advice from a specialist conservator to avoid potential damage to cultural material.

RANGE STATEMENT

Organisational plans and policies vary in structure and name but may include:

- preservation plans
- conservation plans
- collection management policies
- disaster preparedness policies

Cultural material is defined as 'objects, collections, artworks, specimens, structures or sites' and includes:

- archaeological material
- books and manuscripts
- cultural sites/buildings
- ethnographic material
- flora and fauna
- film/audiovisual material
- furniture
- photographs
- technological/industry items
- textiles
- works on paper/canvas

Health, safety and environmental requirements may relate to:

- use of chemicals or other toxic substances
- storage of chemicals
- provision and use of safety equipment
- safe manual handling
- safe use of tools and equipment
- reporting of occupational health and safety issues, including events and near misses
- impact on other parts of the collection
- toxic and hazardous materials in a collection
- condition/stability of item (dirt, mould, dust and pesticides)

RANGE STATEMENT

Cultural protocols may relate to:

- who can handle the cultural material
- where an item may be handled
- when an item may be handled
- consultation on potential treatments
- storage requirements
- appearance of the item
- relationship between item and other material in the collection
- methods and approaches to display

Unit Sector(s)

Not applicable.

Competency field

Competency field Preventive Conservation