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# MEPPI

Middle East Photograph Preservation Initiative  
مبادرة الحفاظ على الصور الفوتوغرافية للشرق الأوسط

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**SESSION TITLE: SIMPLE TESTS FOR HOUSING MATERIALS**  
**INSTRUCTOR: BERTRAND LAVEDRINE**

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## SESSION OUTLINE

### ABSTRACT

The protection of photographs is accomplished through a set of physical barriers that meet specific and complementary objectives. The closer the materials come in contact with the photograph, the more carefully they must be selected. For photograph storage, they first turned to the materials whose composition, pH, and behavior over time were known. But they also had to take into account the silver that constitutes the image in black and white photographs and its sensitivity to certain pollutants, such as peroxides and reduced sulfur compounds. Thanks to the Photographic Activity Test, choosing photographic preservation materials has now become a more simple matter, but the Photographic Activity Test needs to be carried out in a specialized laboratory. Nevertheless some basic tests for evaluating the pH, identifying the sizing, the presence of reduced sulfur, distinguishing PVC from PET (etc.) can be performed easily and allow rejecting some improper materials

### OBJECTIVES

To be able to perform some simple testing procedures for photographs housing materials such as papers and plastics.

### CONTENT OUTLINE

Identification of polyester: polarization test  
Identification of cellulose nitrate: diphenylamine test  
Identification of PVC  
Determination of reduced sulfur containing materials  
Spot Tests for lignin and rosin size

### METHODOLOGY

Hands on activity: sampling some housing materials locally selected and perform the tests in groups of two participants.

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## SESSION OUTLINE CONT'D.

### BIBLIOGRAPHY

 = Essential reading material

 = Available online

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