What textiles do people collect?

Clothing: wedding dresses, uniforms, hats, gloves
Bags
Tapestries
Ceremonial artifacts
Rugs
Composite objects (medals with ribbons, Flags
Furniture coverings: quilts, blankets, doilies
Your story makes your textile unique

- **Document**
  - Where did you get it?
  - Who wore it? Who used it? How was it used?
  - Why is it important to *you*?

- **Take pictures now**
  - Details and overall

- **Share the information with family or friends**
Threats to Textiles

- Light
- Temperature/environment
- Dirt
- Handling
- Insects
- Storage materials
- Theft
Cleaning

- Vacuuming
Other Cleaning Techniques

- **Dry Cleaning**
  - Textile must be stable enough to withstand the process
  - Identify a reputable commercial cleaner

- **Wet Cleaning**
  - Best left to a conservator
Safely Displaying Your Textiles

- **Framed pieces**
  - Request acid free, lignin free cotton rag backing boards and mats

- **Unframed**
  - Limit light exposure
  - Choose location carefully

Talas’ Blue Scale Textile Fading Cards

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Storage

- **Where to store**
  - Avoid basements and attics!
  - Ideal environment is clean, dark, and relatively stable in temperature & humidity

- **What you will use**
  - Tissue paper: acid and lignin free, pH neutral
  - Boxes: acid free, various shapes and sizes
  - Unbleached muslin, old sheets

- **How to store**
  - Boxes
  - Hanging
  - Rolling

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When to contact a conservator
How to contact a conservator

http://www.conservation-us.org/
How to work with a conservator

- Conservation
  - Preservation
    - Preventative care
  - Restoration
    - Treatment: Repair damage
  - Proper Care and Handling
Suppliers

- Gaylord Brothers
- Light Impressions
- Talas
- University Products
Resources

- Your local museum or library
- Connecting to Collections Online Community
- American Institute for Conservation
- Illinois Collections Preservation Network
- Minnesota Historical Society-YouTube
- National Park Service-Conserv O Gram
- Northeast Documents Conservation Center
- Canadian Conservation Institute
Thank you.

beves@museum.state.il.us

Please visit the ICPN website for more information on the ICPN
http://icpn.museum.state.il.us/

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