

# Light Bleaching of Paper without Aqueous Immersion

## Assessing the Possible Damage

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### *Experimental*

#### Test samples

Whatman's #1 filter paper was used. This very pure paper is made of cotton and consists of 98% pure cellulose. It contains no sizes or additives and is pH-neutral, making it ideal for use in controlled experiments.

One half of the samples were aged in a Despatch environmental chamber at 85°C and 50% relative humidity for 13 days so as to imitate a partially deteriorated paper that a conservator might realistically work with.

Historic paper was not used due to the difficulty of determining its composition.

### *Conclusion*

The test results seem to indicate that the cellulose component of paper, both new and slightly deteriorated, is not harmed by non-aqueous and non-immersion light bleaching procedures. A further study is required, which would use more heavily deteriorated filter paper, obtained via a longer artificial aging period. Further studies on the behaviour of other components of paper, such as common sizing agents and fillers, are also desirable.