PAPER MENDING

Basic Preservation Techniques

Farmingdale Public Library
April 25, 2016

Sponsored by: LILRC Conservation & Preservation Committee
Overview

Paper mending or repair stabilizes the document, and prevents further damage from handling while also filling lost or damaged sections of the document, preserving the informational value of the work.
1. Assess the condition of the document, and the nature of the tear.

2. Locate the bevel side of the tear, and fold it down so the sides match one another. Measure out a similar length of mending tape.
Paper Mending
Steps 3 & 4

3. Press down the mending tape with the flat end of a bone folder.

4. Repeat the process until the tape edges can no longer be seen.
5. For tears which extend to the edge of the paper, measure out a second piece of mending tape which is longer than the tear’s length.

6. Affix the mending tape to the tear, ensuring that the tape evenly covers each side of the tear.
Paper Mending
Steps 7 & 8

7. Fold over the end of the mending tape over the edge of the paper.

8. Smooth the end of the mending tape to the opposite side of the tear.
9. Press down the mending tape with the flat end of a bone folder.

10. For detached tears, match the beveled side of the corner to the document.
11. Flatten down the torn pieces edges.

12. Weigh down the original document and torn piece together.
13. Measure out a piece of mending tape.

14. Press down on the tape with the bone folder’s flat end until the tape disappears.
15. On the reverse side of the tear, measure out a piece of mending tape.

16. Affix the mending tape to the tear.
17. Press down with the flat end of the bone folder, and smooth out the mending tape until it disappears.

18. Assess the work completed, and take additional necessary steps as needed.
THANK YOU!

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