

NA PUBLISHING & RACINE PUBLIC LIBRARY: PARTNERS IN PRESERVATION

FROM SYNDROME TO SOLUTION IN 3 EASY STEPS

Preserving Racine's Local History

*"In April of 2015 the Racine Public Library noticed our microfilm had a strong smell. We researched problems and discovered that our acetate film was affected by vinegar rot syndrome. We looked for solutions and contacted many companies...NA Publishing Inc. was one business that replied and agreed to provide samples of film by making duplicates... **While there were a few other companies that offered samples, we felt that the quality of the reels received from NA Publishing and the price they were offering to duplicate our film was the best choice.** Working with Dana Ouellette, the Sales Manager of NA Publishing, we were able to determine what needed to be done with our film, the cost, and a relatively quick time line of two months to complete the project."*

- Racine Public Library



Photo courtesy of
The Journal Times

**"An ounce
of prevention is
worth a pound of
cure."**

- BEN FRANKLIN

NA Publishing has been in the business of helping libraries preserve their assets for more than 80 years. When we learned that Racine Public Library was struggling with deteriorating microfilm, putting their local history collection at risk of disappearing forever, we were happy to step in with a solution. NA Publishing engaged with Racine Public Library to set up a project plan and phased payments to restore the film swiftly, while flexibly working with their library budget.

For libraries that have very rare, and often very fragile resources— in some cases the only extant version or record— we are here to help, and can move you from syndrome to solution in three easy steps. Here are the steps, and here is the timeline for our case study with Racine Public Library.

1 Identify the problem.

Oftentimes, libraries know there may be an issue. With vinegar syndrome comes a recognizable smell of vinegar, but if there is any doubt that your film may be at risk, or if you simply want to assess your entire collection, NA Publishing provides free Vinegar Syndrome testing kits: simple strips that can be placed into microfilm drawers to detect the presence of a problem, and its severity. If you suspect you might have an issue with Vinegar Syndrome, we are here to help. NA Publishing will work with you to confirm there is an issue, and determine the scope of the issue.

2 Create a plan to tackle the problem.

Once we have worked with you to identify the extent of the problem, we can custom tailor a solution, helping you decide what material you would like to replicate and continue to preserve. We will also work with you on prioritizing restoration of your collection if you need to do it in stages.

3 Restore and preserve.

The next step in the process is where we move quickly to restore the part of the collection you want to continue to preserve. It is important to act quickly while the film is still salvageable, so we like to get to this point swiftly. Let us help you safeguard your unique research assets for future generations.

“An investment in knowledge pays the best interest.”

- BEN FRANKLIN

Racine: Syndrome to Solution Timeline

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| April 2015 | Racine Public Library detects a vinegary odor in their microfilm area. |
| May 2015 | Racine's paper, <i>The Journal Times</i> reports on the problem. Library patron access to the microfilm is suspended while the library seeks a solution. |
| June 2015 | NA Publishing collaborates with Racine Public Library to quantify the extent of the film damage and rate of deterioration. NA drafts a plan to restore and preserve the film. |
| July 2015 | NA Publishing receives 1,181 reels of damaged film from Racine Public Library. |
| August 2015 | NA Publishing begins delivering restored microfilm to Racine Public Library. |
| October 2015 | NA Publishing ships the final restored microfilm reels. Racine Public Library patrons once again have access to unique local history. |

*“We were very satisfied with the results of this project as it was done in a timely manner, and with a quality that our patrons appreciate. Our experience with Dana and Joe Mills, the Managing Director, was enjoyable because they were willing to work with us and were prompt to respond to our concerns. **We would recommend NA Publishing, Inc. to any library or company dealing with microfilm issues, especially those affected with vinegar rot syndrome. It was a wonderful experience with this company.**” - Racine Public Library*