

The following declaration was agreed by participants at a major seminar, 'Life without air conditioning?', involving senior figures in the museums and galleries sector, organised by the University Museums Group at the University of Cambridge on 10 December 2010.

Declaration

Research over the past 15 years and practical experience indicates that appropriate conditions for the long-term preservation of the majority of museum and gallery collections in the UK can be achieved without air conditioning (HVAC).

Research and experience support the growing international consensus that appropriate conditions for the majority of items are 40-60% RH with a change of less than 10% RH per 24 hours. Temperature can be allowed to vary to maintain this range and should normally be within the range 16°C-25°C in public spaces. These parameters should form the basis of a risk-based approach to collections care, which also examines the benefits of exhibition and use. Any exceptions to these parameters should be supported by evidence.