Background Information about the Video

The Reengineering Broken Books Research team is developing a system to make our resources accessible. Please check back for updates.

Title of this document

01_full_video_transcription_screen_reader_text_21Mins_RBB

Video Title

Reengineering Broken Books (RBB), 2015

Links to Video

- The YouTube URL is https://youtu.be/-wB9G0jessU.
- Free download from Harvard Dataverse of video, this document, and the descriptions file at https://doi.org/10.7910/DVN/XJGL4M.

Video Description

Jana Dambrogio, Ayako Letizia, Brien Beidler, and Mary Uthuppuru, members of the Reengineering Broken Books Research Team, demonstrate how to perform the most straightforward variation of this repair technique for a made hollowback binding. The reengineering broken book (RBB) technique allows for repair of hollowback structures, both natural and made, while preserving the original function and materials of the artifact. The repair utilizes a continuous sheet of thin tissue Japanese Kozo Kashiki Tengu-jo to line the contours of the internal surfaces exposed by broken shoulders, joints, and hinges. Subsequent layers of thin tissue introduce support only where needed. RBB requires no specialized tools or equipment and few supplies. This layering procedure results in a thin, flexible, and robust repair that is gentle enough for rare books and durable enough for circulating collections. Demonstrated here in its most straightforward application, RBB is an economical and minimally-interventive treatment.

Video Citation

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Transcriptions of captions with viewing description

Language

- English

Speakers

- There is no speaking in this video.

Timespan 00:00 – 00:00 demarcates the beginning and end timestamps of the step

Step title explains the treatment steps demonstrated between the timespan.

The text describes what the viewer sees while the demonstration is taking place.

Transcriptions

00:01–01:15

Step 1. Examine the book and prepare the workspace

Dambrogio opens the book and lets the cover —broken at the back hinge— to hang down, exposing the textblock spine. Dambrogio lays the book horizontally on a flat surface and places a moisture barrier consisting of a polyester sheet and blotter paper on the textblock. Dambrogio places a glass plate and a light weight on top of the text block to hold the book in place.

01:16–03:05

Step 2. Prepare the book

Step 1. Dambrogio reattaches the lifting areas of the original paper spine liner to the text block spine using a brush to apply an adhesive mixture.

03:05–05:15

Step 3. Drape the repair carrier and attach it to the textblock spine

Dambrogio drapes the Kashiki Tengu-jo repair carrier and attaches it to the textblock spine and inside the spine covering. Dambrogio applies adhesive mixture through the carrier onto the textblock spine. Dambrogio gently presses the carrier to contour the surface using a non-stick teflon folder.

05:15–07:14

Step 4. Reforming the function of the shoulders and adding strength where necessary

Letizia applies strips of tissue directly to the repair carrier at the textblock shoulder to recreate the broken shoulder of the spine covering. She adheres the lengths of the repair strip that extend beyond the head and tail of the book back onto itself to add strength.

07:15–11:50

Step 5. Close the repair carrier

Beidler sets the silicone-coated polyester strip over the textblock spine. Beidler pulls the repair carrier down over the silicone-coated polyester strip. Beidler applies a thin line of adhesive mixture to the carrier along the opposite shoulder, thus reestablishing the function of the hollow

11:51-14:16

Step 6. Close the spine covering

Uthuppuru applies adhesive to the surface of the repair carrier and the inside of the spine covering. Uthuppuru removes the weights on the textblock and attaches the spine covering to the repair carrier. Uthuppuru leaves the silicone-coated polyester strip in place and leaves the barrier sheets resting on the text block. Uthuppuru hooks one side of the Hollytex jacket between the cover and text block, and closes the spine covering, applying pressure through Hollytex while hooking the opposite end of the Hollytex jacket around the other board. Uthuppuru lets the book dry with the Hollytex jacket taut around the spine and the silicone-coated polyester strip inserted to encourage a sound attachment. Uthuppuru places weights on the book to dry.

Step 7. Returning the turn-ins back to their original position [not demonstrated in this video].

14:18–19:10

Step 8. Address interior repairs

Letizia removes the weights from the book and opens the book. Letizia places a Hollytex non-stick barrier on the inside of the front board and the fly leaf. Letizia places a glass plate and weight on the board close to the hinge area where the textblock connects to the covering materials. Letizia applies adhesive by brush and attaches a strip of 10g/m^2 tissue over the hinge area to provide an additional layer of strength. Letizia ensures good attachment by running a Teflon bone folder over the repair area. Letizia allows the repair to dry.

19:11–20:09

Step 9. Assess the repair

Dambrogio removes the glass, weight, moisture barriers, and unhooks the Holleytext jacket. Dambrogio assesses the repair area along the hinge before closing the book cover. Dambrogio opens the book to show the front hinge area, closes the book and reopens at the back hinge. To remove the silicone-coated polyester strip, Dambrogio opens the book in the middle of the textblock at about a 160-degree angle.

Step 10. Consolidate the outer joint [not demonstrated in this video].

While some original covering material may have been lost, setting down the uneven edge—even the frayed threads—can cover much of this loss, resulting in a “worn joint” aesthetic If necessary, Berlin tissue may be added to reinforce and protect the repair.

20:15–20:59

Step 11. Remove silicone-coated polyester strip

Dambrogio tugs on the silicone-coated polyester strip at the head and tail while the book is open to remove the strip.

(As Needed) Add additional protection [not demonstrated in video]

The book can receive a CoLibri, a Hollytex jacket, or an enclosure. Store heavy or oversized books horizontally. The end.