Selection of literature for Master Students in Object Conservation

Throughout the MA in conservation you are expected to source your own literature both from the library within the department and further afield. While the conservation studies department has the most extensive objects conservation library of any institution in Norway there are other important library collections in the nearby, for example: The archaeology and ethnographic libraries within KHM, paintings, archaeology and ethnographic conservation labs in KHM and Riksantikvaren. You will be expected to familiarise yourself with these resources. In order to assist you in locating and evaluating literature, five coffee morning sessions have been arranged, spread throughout the semester. These correspond with the topics that you will be taught and are intended to help you to select the literature that you must read in order to gain the maximum benefit from the lectures, seminars and practical labs.

In the autumn the library sessions will focus on the selection of literature, next spring we will shift the focus to defining research problems and how to select literature to ensure that you satisfy the need for a critical literature review, support the definition of your research question and structure the methodology.

The first session will be two hours – the theme is:

- Browsing the library, including good habits in placing books back in the correct DEWEY order
- Electronic searches, downloading papers, locating resources – including AATA, BCIN, Google Scholar, web of knowledge, science central and other databases
- Grey literature and why you should think twice about using it
- Key words for searches – and why grey literature is useful
- Pensum requirements, how much should you be reading? When? and How often?
- Meeting the challenge of a large reading list – shortcuts and helpful hints:
  - Judging a book by its cover
  - Abstracts, introductions and conclusions
  - Scan reading
  - What if I don’t understand what I am reading – going back through references
  - Keeping a log of what you read – (which can be done using end note)

The subsequent sessions will be 1 hour and deal with the following theme:-

- Glass
- Stone
- Wood
- Textile

The hour sessions will be divided between:

- A brief presentation of what you have read and where you have experienced difficulties – if time allows we will address shared difficulties
- Selection of reading list for topic – you will be expected to select a core literature that everyone should read plus a number of articles that represent a broader subject area that you will share between you and discuss in self organised colloquia.

IMPORTANT NOTE: These sessions are not just for your benefit – they are for you to provide feedback on any problems you are having.