

Damage Function for Modern and Contemporary Heritage Textiles a Tool to Aid in the
Management of Textile Collections
OMB Control No. 3095-0070. Expires 12/31/2026

We are asking you to participate in this research study as a volunteer. You must be 18 or older to participate in the study. The information in this consent form is to help you decide if you want to be in this research study. Please take your time reading this form and contact the researchers to ask questions if there is anything you do not understand.

The purpose of this research study is to develop a statistical model that allows for estimating the duration of modern and contemporary textile heritage objects, considering their values, ways of use and storage conditions. This study is being conducted by researchers at the U.S. National Archives and Records Administration, University of California, Los Angeles, Federal University of Pelotas and University of São Paulo. Funding for this study is being provided by the Fulbright Association (Fulbright-National Archives Heritage Science Fellowship) and the Brazilian Coordination for the Improvement of Higher Education Personnel (CAPES).

If you agree to be in this study, you will complete a survey. The survey includes questions about values, ways of use and expectations regarding the conservation and duration of textile heritage objects, and should take you about 10 to 15 minutes to complete. You will be asked to answer the survey questions using an object to which you have access as a reference. You can skip questions that you do not want to answer.

Being in this study is up to you. You can stop up until you submit the survey. After you submit the survey, we cannot remove your responses because we will not know which responses came from you.

We do not know of any risks to you from being in the study that are greater than the risks you encounter in everyday life. We do not expect you to benefit from being in this study. You will not be paid for being in this study. Your participation may help us improve the management and preservation of textile heritage objects and collections at this and other heritage institutions. We hope the knowledge gained from this study will benefit others in the future.

The survey is anonymous, and no one will be able to link your responses back to you. Your responses to the survey will be coded and anonymized, and will not be linked to you in any way. Information collected for this study will be published and possibly presented at scientific meetings.

If you have questions or concerns about this study, or have experienced a research related problem, please contact Lais Feltrin Sidou at lais.sidou@ufpel.edu.br.

I have read this form, been given the chance to ask questions and have my questions answered. If I have more questions, I have been told who to contact. By completing and returning the survey, I understand that I am agreeing to be in this study. I can keep a copy of this

consent information for future reference. If I do not want to be in this study, I do not need to do anything else.

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Access

Thank you for your interest in contributing to this project!

In order to participate, you must select ONE object from ONE of the virtual exhibitions linked in the list below, and use it as a reference in answering the survey questions. **Please choose one of the objects listed under ‘Objects within scope’ for the exhibit you selected to access.**

1. 20th Century Designer Fashion (Museum of Fine Arts, Boston)

[Link to access the exhibition](#)

Objects within scope: All objects are within scope of the project

2. Selections from the Archive (Houston Community College Fashion Archive)

[Link to access the exhibition](#)

Objects within scope: All objects EXCEPT Tan overbust corset (1880s) and Bodice and skirt ensemble (1870s)

3. Armstrong Spacesuit (National Air and Space Museum)

[Link to access the exhibition](#)

Objects within scope: All suits

4. Taking the Stage (National Museum of African American History and Culture)

[Link to access the exhibition](#)

Objects within scope: All clothing items

5. The First Ladies(National Museum of American History)

[Link to access the exhibition](#)

Objects within scope:

- Dresses on First Ladies’ Fashions (page 2 of 6)
- Edith Wilson’s beaded purse and Mamie Eisenhower fuchsia purse (First Ladies’ Fashions (page 4 of 6))
- Edith Wilson black hat w/ feathers and Helen Taft’s Embroidered Chinese Robe (First Ladies’ Fashions (page 6 of 6))
- Edith Wilson Red Cross hat (First Ladies’ Activities (page 3 of 4))
- Helen Taft’s Inaugural Ball Gown (The Tradition of the Gowns (page 1 of 3))
- All inaugural gowns from Mamie Eisenhower to Michelle Obama

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Please, answer the following questions considering your personal opinions and experience with the reference object.

1. You are a/an...

- Professional at a heritage institution of any kind
- Cultural heritage researcher
- Academic researcher in a different field of study
- Visitor/general public

2. Where are you answering this survey?

Name of institution or exhibition. This information will not be used to identify you in any way.

Open Comment

3. Where is the institution located? (City, State)

Open Comment

Object characteristics, significance and values

4. Briefly describe your reference object.

Include details such as type of object, date (if available), color, materials and/or other aspects that you find relevant.

Open Comment

5. Rate each sentence on a scale of 1 (one) to 5 (five), 1 being = Strongly Disagree, 2 = Disagree, 3 = Neither agree nor disagree, 4 = Agree, 5 = Strongly Agree: (1 2 3 4 5 Don't Know/Can't Answer)

- The reference object is important because (of)...
- its shape, color, texture, sheen, pattern and/or other visual aspects
- its apparent condition
- it is an old or ancient object
- it can be understood as a work of art
- it was created, belonged to, or was worn by a famous or historically relevant individual
- its original creation or use context, or its present heritage context
- it is or can be used in educational activities
- it is representative of a specific era or
- social group from the past
- it represents the identity of a specific group or a national identity and values
- it is a potential source of information

Ways of use and future perspectives

6. In what way(s) is it possible to interact with this object in this institution?

Check all that apply

- In-person exhibitions
- Online exhibitions

- Educational activities
 - Academic research
 - As inspiration for making replicas or other objects
 - Other (please specify):
- 7. When thinking of future generations going to museums and other heritage institutions to use/interact with objects like this (modern and contemporary textiles) and their collections, how far in the future do you imagine this activity happening?**

Please select only one answer

- Up to 100 years
 - 100–200 years
 - 200–500 years
 - 500–1000 years
 - Over 1000 years
 - Forever
- 8. How long in the future would you like your reference object to be available to be used in...**

Please select only one answer for each row (Up to 100 years, 100–200 years, 200–500 years, 500–1000 years, Over 1000 years Forever, Not applicable/Object is not used in this way)

- In-person exhibitions
 - Online exhibitions
 - Educational activities
 - Academic research
 - As inspiration for making replicas or other objects
- 9. How long in the future would you like the collection which the reference object is a part of to be available to be used in...**

Please select only one answer for each row (Up to 100 years, 100–200 years, 200–500 years, 500–1000 years, Over 1000 years Forever, Not applicable/Object is not used in this way)

- In-person exhibitions
 - Online exhibitions
 - Educational activities
 - Academic research
 - As inspiration for making replicas or other objects
- 10. How would you define the “end of life” for this object? What would need to happen for the object to reach this state?**

Open Comment

Condition and physical characteristics of the object

- 11. In your opinion, what is the condition of this object?**

Please select only one answer

- Very Good
- Good

- Fair
- Poor
- Very Poor

12. In your opinion, which of the following define an object in poor or very poor condition?

Check all that apply

- Stains
- Tears
- Unstitched areas
- Missing object parts
- Fabric thinning
- Loose material (detached from the object)
- Fabric stretching or creasing
- Loose threads
- None of the above
- Other (please specify):

13. Considering the significance/values of your reference object, check which way of use would become impossible or very difficult, in your opinion, if any of the following happens:

Check all that apply for each row (In-person exhibitions, Online exhibitions, Educational activities, Academic research, As inspiration for making replicas or other objects, None)

- Stains
- Tears
- Unstitched areas
- Missing object parts
- Fabric thinning
- Loose material
- (detached from the object)
- Fabric stretching or creasing
- Loose threads

Demographics

14. How old are you?

Open Comment

15. What is your gender?

Please select only one answer

- Female
- Male
- Non-binary or third gender
- Other (please specify):

16. What is your race?

Please select only one answer

- White
- Black or African American

- American Indian and Alaska Native
- Asian
- Hispanic or Latino
- Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander
- Multiracial
- Other (please specify):

17. What is your educational attainment level?

Please select only one answer

- Less than high school diploma or equivalent
- High school graduate or equivalent
- Some college but no degree
- Associate's degree
- Bachelor's degree
- Advanced degree (master's, professional or doctoral degree)

18. What is your profession?

Open Comment

19. What is your current place of residence (City, State)?

Open Comment

20. How many times a year, on average, do you visit museums or exhibitions?

Open Comment

Closing remarks

21. Is there anything you would like to add?

Optional

Open Comment

22. If you would like to receive communications with the results of this research project, please leave your email address below:

Optional

Open Comment

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