

The Legacy Lives On: Protecting Books from Deterioration

BEIJING, CHINA

Preserving history is no easy feat. It requires careful planning and the proper systems to make sure artifacts or decades old books don't decay over time. When building the beautifully designed Peking University Library in Beijing, the project owner took special care to research ancient book storage, so these precious books would last for generations to come. Purafil worked with the library to install a custom filtration system that would preserve these books.

The high levels of outside air pollution in Beijing made the books especially susceptible to corrosion. To combat this, Purafil installed an air filtration system, connected to the fresh air inlet of the building. Another concern was the mold, bacteria and volatile organic compounds (VOCs) that ancient books emit. The owner wanted to protect the collection, employees and visitors by removing these as well other harmful contaminants. We installed 11 units of passive PSAs, with each holding a prefilter, PuraGRID-IAQ, PuraGRID-PCB and a final filter with Puraward anti-bacterial media. Because space was limited, Purafil customized the unit with a vertical in, vertical out design.

The air is now safe and comfortable, so patrons and staff alike can enjoy and preserve the collection. Purafil will continue to provide coupons for monitoring, so students can enjoy the ancient books the Peking University Library is trying to preserve. The owner is happy with the installation, and with the coupons, will know when to replace the media to maintain a preservation environment safe from corrosion.

