make them work again, or work better. These are essential preservation principles of action. Here are a few of the principles that remain the same.

## Identification and observation

We begin by reviewing what is known about the digital object. The equivalent in the physical world is the analysis carried out to determine original composition and understand where in the life cycle the particular object exists: the condition. This action combines the analysis and research into material types and the observation and documentation that exist in a condition report. The goal is to have a documented understanding from which decisions can be made.

Another important concept refers to individual digital objects. These digital objects must be created or formed as intellectual entities with fixity. This means that the individual digital object has been wrapped with a context that describes it as a unique entity and which is documented and can be verified at any future point. This also has a corollary in the physical world as conservators use various photographic and chemical identification tools to identify specific objects and then document these for future identification. If the original is not known and documented, one cannot check that it has remained the same.

In both the physical and the digital world, it is the archivist's task to create the context that identifies unique entities; this creates fixity that supplies authenticity to the intellectual entity. Providing authentic intellectual entities is important to maintain trust, which is most important in a legal and governmental context. For the purposes of information for most common and daily purposes, authenticity is not as critical. For a daily conversation, we are perhaps satisfied with an approximation or a generally known fact. Authenticity becomes critical when there is a legal, economic or governmental decision in the balance.

In the digital world, we must learn all that is known about the format. As formats are introduced to the system, all the known technical factors can be documented and anomalies can be researched. For this effort there are now resources being developed internationally. The essential purpose of the identification and documentation is to ensure that decisions about appropriate systems, storage and future action are made based on information which is accurate and validated.

## Risk assessment and risk management

The next stage in a preservation management plan is to explore the means and methods of ensuring the survival of the object. A part of the risk assessment process must take into account the environment in which the object is stored. For example, a film negative will have a