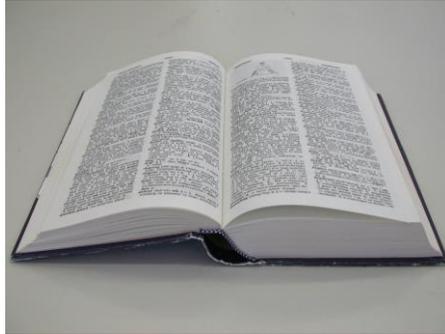# Construction of a book support for display

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Books that are displayed open need appropriate support in order to prevent damage to the book spine, splitting of the text block and possible loss of pages. Such damage is difficult and expensive to repair and should always be prevented. A book support specifically constructed to fit a book will allow it to be safely displayed.

Note the sharp bend in the spine. Damage may occur if the book is not properly supported.

Selecting a book for display.

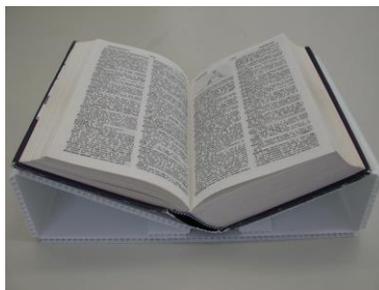Determine if the book is in good condition. Check to see if:
- the covers are well attached
- the spine is damaged
- pages are coming loose or are torn

Fragile or damaged books may not be able to be displayed without causing further damage. It is important not to force a book open or bend the covers or pages to any angle where you feel any resistance from the spine.

Construction of plastic loop to hold pages open

If the book will not stay open on the pages to be displayed a loop of clear polyethylene plastic can be used to hold the pages. Cut a 1 cm wide strip of plastic. Loop the plastic strip around the book on the selected page so that it is firm but not tight. Cut the length of the loop allowing for a 2cm overlap and attach the overlap with double sided tape. Double-sided tape doesn't have to be archival quality because it is not in direct contact with the book.

Construction of book support

Note that the spine is not sharply bent.

Corflute™ is recommended for constructing book supports. Corflute™ is hollow fluted polyethylene plastic board commonly used for signs, which can be purchased from an art supplier. Supports for smaller or lighter books may also be made with acid-free cardboard.

Once the selected pages are secured measure the book for the support. Place the book on the table and whilst supporting the covers determine a safe angle that will be suitable for display. Use props to temporarily hold the book at the desired angle. Measure the profile of the book.
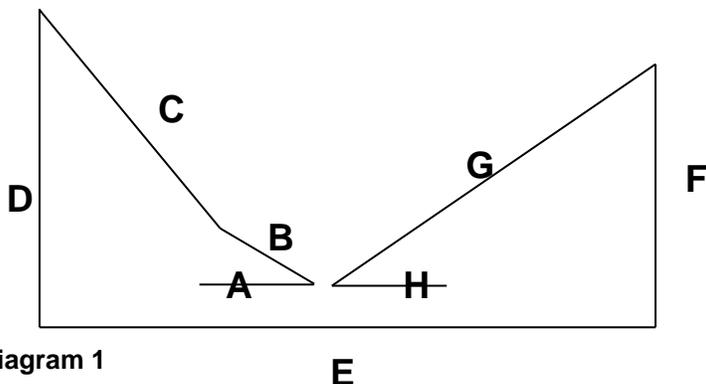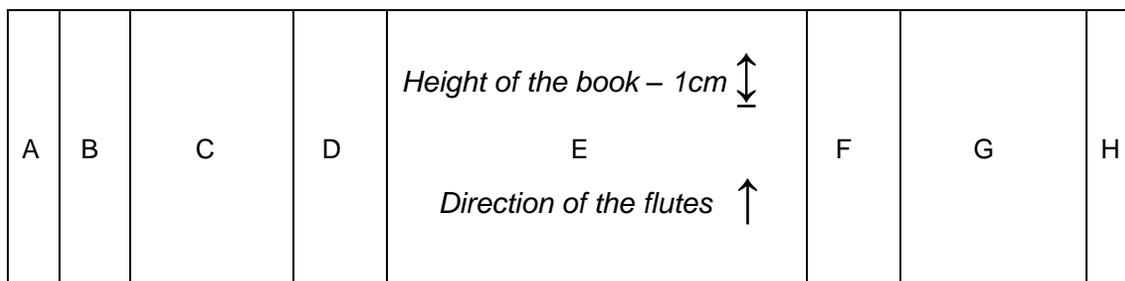

Diagram 1

- Measure the following as per diagram 1
    - **A.** Flap (generally 20 mm, if slope is very low may not be required)
    - **B.** Spine (this may be in a straight line with **C** or adjacent to the back cover depending on support)
    - **C.** Front cover (the length should be 15mm less than the actual cover)
    - **D.** Left hand height of support (this may be a different height to **F**)
    - **E.** Base (the base will be slightly shorter than the outside edges of the book)
    - **F.** Right hand height of support (this may be a different height to **D**)
    - **G.** Back cover (The length should be 15mm less than the actual cover)
    - **H.** Flap (generally 20 mm, if slope is very low may not be required)

Measure the height of the book (Less 1cm so that the support does not protrude).

Mark out a rectangle onto the Corflute™ which is the total of measurements A-H (length) and the height. Corflute™ must be measured and cut so that the flutes/inner walls run from the top to the bottom of the book. Cut the rectangle as marked.

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
				Height of the book – 1cm ↕ *Direction of the flutes* ↑			

↔The length is the total of each measurement A-H

Mark the lengths of each of the measurements A-H onto the board (Diagram 2). Do not cut the line between the spine and the cover if they sit in a straight line. Cut all of the other lines as marked being careful to only cut through the top layer of the Corflute™. Fold the board at each cut so that the cut layer opens outwards.

…………. Note only the top layer of plastic is cut to allow the board to fold

Fold the board into the book support shape and adhere using hot glue.

Covering sides for display

For display the open sides of the support can be covered. This is only done to improve the appearance of the support for display. Trace the shape of the sides onto cardboard chosen to best suit the display. Cut the shape and adhere it to the sides of the support with hot glue. It is not essential that cardboard used for this purpose is acid free as it is not directly in contact with the book.