

My name is Andrea Gutiérrez, I am responsible for the conservation and restoration treatments of the National Library of Colombia (NLC) collections. The damages we have to face at are multiple and different: from biological problems going through structural and aesthetic problems; the intervention processes includes documentation of each book and photos of the treatments. When necessary I give support to regional libraries, especially in preventive conservation.

The CPD event that I attended was “Theoretical and practical course on Restoration of graphic documents and bookbindings” at the restoration studio from the Sant Pere de les Puel·les Monastery (Barcelona), from May 18<sup>th</sup> to June 12<sup>th</sup>.

During the course I learned different ways to face structural problems in book bindings, going from non-interventional techniques to others that could be considered more invasive. It was a valuable discovery for me find different ways to moisturize parchment, even without removing the entire binding.

I had the opportunity to learn from a 96 year old nun -who works at the restoration studio- how to prepare tripe to make tears repairs or reinforcements on missing parts of parchment documents, it was absolutely amazing talk to her and learn at least a little bit of her wisdom. I also had the chance to learn how to use a leaf casting machine; I had never use one before and it was an enrichment experience, we decided to use it because the book that I was restoring needed a lot of reinforcements and infillings and we realized it was going to be a lot of time to make them manual. Unfortunately the book turns a little bit more difficult than we expected and I was unable to finish it.

Another thing that I liked and that I wish I can start doing at the NLC is the research of watermarks. I was very lucky because my tutor, María Dolores Díaz de Miranda, is an expert on this subject, so she explained me everything I need to know to get myself into the beautiful world of watermarks.

It is hard to summarize all the things I learned and that I liked in those four weeks, I only just highlight those I found most revealing for my professional development. In summary, I came back to Colombia with the conviction that we are doing our work very well, we are going in the right way and we have a lot of work to do in order to carry books conservation in Colombia to the next level, focusing on research. For now I am preparing the presentation of my experience to my colleagues at the NLC, looking forward to help other libraries in my country with their conservation issues.

Finally I want to thank the Tru Vue/Icon CPD grant, it was an amazing experience full of new knowledge; thanks for invest in us, professionals that love what we do and that are in the constant search for new and different ways to develop our work.