Accelerated Light Fading Tests for Simulating the Effects of Long-Term Indoor Display with Inkjet Prints

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Abstract

With the recent proliferation of affordable, high-quality digital cameras, scanners, and digitized image files made from color negative and transparency originals, there has been tremendous growth in the use of inkjet printers for printing color photographs. As inkjet printers move into mainstream markets, many questions have been asked about the permanence of inkjet prints and how they compare with that of traditional silver halide color prints. This presentation will discuss accelerated light fading tests that are intended to simulate long-term display of inkjet prints under the wide range of illumination conditions found in actual indoor display environments. Reciprocity effects in high-intensity/low-intensity tests are described. The influence of relative humidity, spectral distribution of the illumination source, and other factors that may affect image stability are discussed.

Biography

Henry Wilhelm is one of the founding members of the American National Standards Institute subcommittee established in 1978 to write the ANSI IT9.9 standard on test methods for measuring the stability of color photographs. For the past fifteen years he has served as Secretary of that group. The ANSI/ISO subcommittee is now working on a new test methods standard for digital hardcopy materials. Wilhelm is also a member of the ANSI subcommittees on test methods for evaluating the permanence of black-and-white films and prints, and he was a founding member of the Photographic Materials Group of the American Institute for Conservation.