Conservationally Safe Digitization of Manuscripts

Contents and Objectives of the Lecture and Group Work on the Lecture Topic:

For a start in this paper a brief overview of standard digitization methods of books will be given. In respect of the vulnerability of special items like medieval manuscripts or books printed on bad quality material, special digitization equipment (book cradles) will be presented. In order to understand the main problems in imaging of sensitive book, the structure of different types of old bindings will be discussed. The aim of this presentation is to make the participants aware of the problems in treating old books and manuscript before and while imaging. Additionally there is an attempt to raise the understanding how a historic book is made, how it behaves during proper and improper usage, and where its sensitive areas are.

Assignment:

Basic knowledge in historical book structures;
basic knowledge in handling of old books,
basic knowledge in the use of digital cameras.

Literature:

Although there are numerous publications about book-digitization and related projects published on the internet, papers dealing with conservationally safe imaging are hard to find. Therefore no specific literature can be given at the very moment.