

# The Mineral Susceptibility Database: a new tool for mineral preservation

Miss Kathryn Royce<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>*University of Oxford, Oxford, UK*

Minerals are often overlooked in museum conservation due to their assumed stability. While many may be stable under ambient conditions, at least 10% of known mineral species are susceptible within a museum context. While there is a significant lack of quantitative information within museum literature regarding this topic, there is a wealth of relevant research within other sectors, such as materials science and geoscience. Yet findings from these fields rarely enter the heritage sector, as relevant research outputs are not easily accessible or transferable. As a response to this, a new online resource, the Mineral Susceptibility Database (MSD), has been created to provide scientific information relevant for the preservation of minerals under ambient conditions in a single, openly accessible location. The MSD collates and synthesizes data from various fields, and adapts key findings into an easily digestible and usable format tailored for non-scientific audiences. By being a repository of interdisciplinary research, the Database:

- 1.) encourages informed decision making,
- 2.) increases awareness of which disciplines and institutions are performing relevant research,
- 3.) exposes additional research applications, and
- 4.) advocates cross-disciplinary research and communication.

