PERFECTLY REPURPOSED PERIODICALS
AN IDEA STARTER FOR CREATIVELY USING OLD MAGAZINES

Contributed to the Library as Incubator Project by collage artist Mel Kolstad.
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In the “Perfectly Repurposed Periodicals” workshop, you’ll learn how to take all of those headed-to-the-recycling bin magazines and create marvelous works of art!

**Materials**
- Old periodicals
- Adhesives
- Citra Solv cleaner (available in health food stores and some hardware stores)
- Scissors
- Heavy paper (like watercolor or illustration board)

**Ideal # of participants**
6 - 10

**Workshop Outline**
1. Talk about how much waste is generated from tossing old magazines
2. Discuss how magazines are being recycled (here’s a great article from Nat Geo: [http://greenliving.nationalgeographic.com/magazines-recycled-2157.html](http://greenliving.nationalgeographic.com/magazines-recycled-2157.html))
3. Segueway into how to recycle magazines by making fun art projects
4. Illustrate the different projects that can be created using old magazines
5. Demo the [Citra Solv technique with old National Geographics](http://greenliving.nationalgeographic.com/magazines-recycled-2157.html) (only works with this magazine)
6. Create a “ransom note” poem using various letters from the magazines and images relating to the poem
7. Make a “favorite things” collage with images in the periodicals
8. Have a “show & tell” with all of the finished artwork and a brainstorming session for other ways to utilize old magazines

**Enhance your program**
- Use this workshop as part of an environmental awareness program series. Point patrons to a book display that includes titles about other ways to repurpose household items.
- Post notices asking for donations of old magazines in the newspaper, on your library website, and
on your library's bulletin board. Sort magazines into categories that you can use for future workshop themes, like:
- Cooking/baking
- Fashion
- Nature/environment
- Architecture
- Animals
- Literature/writing

A collage workshop is one way to repurpose weeded library books that don't get donated or sold.