DHPSNY General Mold Terminology

[Source: Florian, ML (2002) *Fungal Facts: Solving Fungal Problems in Heritage Collections*]

- **Activation** – the process by which dormancy is broken, but germination does not yet begin.

- **Aseptic techniques** – procedures which prevent microorganism contamination, i.e. using sterile materials and tools, confining moldy materials in airtight bags, etc.

- **Conidia (plural, conidium)** – a single cell or group of cells which is formed by asexual reproduction.

- **Deactivation (also referred to as "inactivation")** – withdrawing conducive environmental conditions of an activated spore, BEFORE germination has begun.

- **Dormancy** – a stage of low metabolic maintenance activity of a cell or organism which, when broken, will develop into another structure (i.e. a conidia to a mycelium).

- **Germination** – the process of swelling due to water intake, and the formation of a hyphal germination tube. Once germination starts, the fungus begins the process of vegetative growth and development.

- **Hyphae** – threadlike structures of vegetative growth of fungi which excretes enzymes, adsorbs digested materials and water, and transports them.

- **Mycelium** – a group or mass of hyphae.

- **Spore** – a general term for a reproductive unit, which may be a single cell or multicellular.

Conidial development stages:

- **Maturation:** the internal development required to become morphologically and physiologically complete.
- **Dormancy:** an inherent low metabolic state which prevents germination even in conducive conditions.
- **Activation:** the result of a treatment which breaks the dormancy of the conidia and prepares it for germination. Conidia can remain active without germinating.
- **Germination:** an irreversible change - once it starts, the conidia cannot revert to an inactive state.