Textile Condition Terms

Abrasion  Wearing away of the surface from scraping, rubbing, grinding or friction
Accretion  Deposit of extraneous material on the surface, such as mud or fly speck
Crease  Tightly pressed fold often causing threads to weaken and break
Crocking  Rubbing off of color resulting in loss of dyestuff but not loss of fiber
Cut/Tear  Clean break in the fabric
Deterioration  A general term for a weakened state caused by age, use, or environmental conditions
Discoloration  General change in the color of an area from the prevailing tone
Embrittlement  Decline in pliability and suppleness to the degree that damage may be imminent
Fading  Discoloration seen as change of color, often caused by light exposure
Fold  Pleat resulting from one part doubled or laid over another
Fraying  Raveled or worn spot indicated by the separation of threads, often found on edges
Hole  Area of missing fibers from both the warp and the weft
Insect damage  Holes, surface loss (grazing), or deposits (frass, silky fiber) caused by insects
Loss  General term for an area missing fibers
Mold/Mildew  Microbial activity, often seen as stains or surface growth, exacerbated by humidity
Oxidation  Chemical alteration caused by the presence of corroded iron in or adjacent to fiber
Particulates  Dust and other soil particles that accumulate on and within fibers
Shattered  Description for chemically treated silk that exhibits losses
Soot  General term for a dark and oily deposit caused by air pollution or fire
Stain  Soiled or discolored spot
Stiffness  Loss of flexibility and suppleness of fibers causing a resistance to bending
Unidirectional  Failure and loss of warp or weft, leaving behind more of one element than the other
Weak seam  Looseness in the attachment of two adjoining pieces of fabric