A core book mending toolkit:
PVA (pH neutral, water-soluble adhesive)
"Book Tape" (3M)
Spine repair tape (Demco)
Paper repair tape (i.e. Filmoplast)
White eraser (i.e. Magic Rub)

Applicator for adhesive (brush, squeeze bottle)
X-acto knife
Metal ruler
Cutting surface
Bone folder
Knitting needle (US3) or skewers
Scissors

Additional options:
Acid-free bond paper
Book cloth
Acid-free cardstock
Clamps for corner repair
Microspatula
Weights or book press

Sources *(also check local art/craft supply stores; some have a "book arts" section)***:**
Archival Products www.archival.com
pamphlet binders and binding materials; bristol board
Colophon Book Arts Supply www.colophonbookarts.com
book arts and paper arts supplies (located in Lacey, WA)
Conservation Resources International, LLC. www.conservationresources.com
archival papers and conservation storage materials
Demco, Inc. www.demco.com
library supplies including labels, pamphlets, jackets and boxes
Gaylord Archival www.gaylord.com
preservation and conservation supplies; archival storage
Hollinger Metal Edge www.hollingermetaledge.com
archival storage and conservation supplies
Kapco Library Products https://kapco.com/products/library
laminate covers and repair tape
The Library Store https://www.thelibrarystore.com/
Talas https://www.talasonline.com/
conservation & restoration tools and materials; large variety of tissue, cloth, and leather
University Products, Inc. www.universityproducts.com
library and conservation supplies and pamphlet binders

Carolee Harrison, Portland State University Library carolee@pdx.edu

A limited bibliography of book repair and conservation resources. *Updated 2026*

Videos and Websites

YOUTUBE has many book repair videos that are both useful and entertaining. Your mileage may vary!

Recommended: Syracuse's (SULPreservation) preservation series:
https://www.youtube.com/user/SULPreservation

"Book Repair on a Budget": Playlist from University of North Carolina at Greensboro:
https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLzOrZrAcrfOUPIpX9KxKcWOGOphCwYEIN

"Save Your Books" on YouTube performing a "two-on, two-off" hollow tube repair:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RNVHKVNttvk

("Save Your Books" https://saveyourbooks.com/ has a range of free online tutorials and a YouTube instructional video channel.)
https://www.youtube.com/user/DIYbookrepair

Connecting to Collections Care (C2C). *An interactive resource that connects staff and volunteers at small museums, archives, and libraries with each other and with solid information about collections care. Lots of archived and ongoing webinars.*
http://www.connectingtocollections.org/

Northeast Document Conservation Center Preservation Leaflets.
Free preservation advice for individuals and institutions. Up-to-date with 2022 revisions.
http://www.nedcc.org/free-resources/preservation-leaflets/overview

The Book Arts Web Preservation & Conservation Links *Extensive list of online resources; however, the site has not been recently updated and contains some broken links.*
http://www.philobiblon.com/pressite.shtml

Online Manuals

Three Basic Book Repair Procedures. Carole Dyal and Pete Merrill-Oldham.
Hinge tightening and page tip-ins, step by step with photos.
https://www.philobiblon.com/bkrepair/BookRepair.html

A Simple Book Repair Manual.
Dartmouth College. *Downloadable PDF file. 1996, revised 2019; techniques are solid, but some references may be out of date.*
https://collections.dartmouth.edu/archive/text/book-repair/diplomatic/SimpleBookRepairManual-diplomatic.html

Conservation Book Repair, a training manual by Artemis BonaDea.
Alaska State Library. *Downloadable PDF file. 1995, revised 2019; same caveat!*
http://library.state.ak.us/hist/conman.html