Disaster Preparedness and Recovery: Selected Bibliography

This bibliography includes online and print materials that are likely to be most useful in developing institutional disaster plans.


This article, published in two parts, provides an excellent overview of automatic sprinkler systems, with helpful diagrams of system types, components and operations. Discuss advantages and disadvantages for each in relation to the needs of a cultural institution.


Overview of the features, pros, and cons of micromist fire suppression technology.


This manual contains information on how best to protect an institution’s assets through risk management, including risk identification, quantification, and financing. Includes sample policies and checklists.


Well-illustrated and informative quick reference guides to aid in salvaging books, art on paper, and photographic collections. Each bulletin will take you step-by-step through response and recovery and includes information on health risks and hazardous situations.


Developed to help libraries plan and implement preservation programs in a process that educates and involves a large number of staff members. Outlines a comprehensive self-study process, including a module on disaster control.

A comprehensive, step-by-step guide through the disaster planning process. Case studies, suggested exercises, and questions to consider help in relating the information to your specific institutional needs.


Excellent, up-to-date resource on disaster planning and recovery. Include information on preparing for a variety of disasters, information on insurance, and sample forms. Contain extensive bibliographical references.


Addresses four key concepts for moving an institution beyond the planning stage and into successful implementation.


Provides excellent, research-based advice on techniques for salvaging photographic materials.


This handbook, complete with a DVD demonstrating salvage techniques, explains initial steps to take, essential response functions, and typical conditions following a disaster. The guide can be customized with local emergency contacts, service providers, insurance, supplies, and salvage priorities.


This guide provides useful information on the subject of business resumption planning (also known as business continuity or continuity of operations planning) and focuses on how to get your data systems up and running following a disaster. The appendices include helpful matrices, sample flowcharts, questionnaires, and case studies.


Compendium of resources compiled in response to the 1993 Midwest floods. Checklists, charts and short articles relating to flood recovery are grouped into three categories: home and safety, treating damaged materials, where to go for help. Particularly useful in dealing with family heirlooms and personal collections.


This bulletin summarized recovery procedures for optical and magnetic media.

This resource covers basic emergency management concepts, gaining administrative support, identification and protection of vital records, risk management, disaster plan creation and implementation, and resumption of operations.


A practical guide to disaster planning for libraries and cultural collections. Three case studies add a dose of reality to the procedures and guidelines. The checklists, forms and procedures are easily adaptable to any library.


Include information useful for any institution involved in developing an emergency preparedness plan. Contain useful appendices, bibliographies and resource lists. Chemical treatments described are no longer recommended.


Case histories of a major library fire and an area-wide flood, with useful tips on factors that should be accommodated in disaster planning.


A comprehensive guide to the prevention and eradication of mold.


The result of combining and revising three standards by the NFPA’s Technical Committee on Cultural Resources to cover libraries, museums and places of worship. The 11-chapter document outlines fire emergency planning, fire prevention, construction and renovation, inspection and testing. ANSI-approved as a national standard.


A useful leaflet on treating historic properties. Include sections on how to care for wet plaster, saturated wood-framed walls and floors, cleaning out mud, and a checklist of practical considerations.


Essentially a “fill-in-the-blanks” disaster plan, with some basic information on emergency procedures and resources. Should be used in conjunction with more detailed literature on the subject.
Northeast Document Conservation Center and Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners. dPlan: The Online Disaster-Planning Tool. [http://www.dplan.org/]

This online template helps institutions create customized disaster plans for their institutions.

Northern Arizona University. “NAU Business Continuity and Disaster Recovery Site.” [http://www4.nau.edu/comptr/BCDR.html]

This website provides an example of one academic university’s business continuity and disaster plan. The site provides links to key definitions in business continuity planning as well as a template for each department to use to create their business continuity plans.


Excellent descriptions of common library pests, with illustrations, descriptions of damage, controlling strategies (especially non-chemical).

Preventive Conservation in Museums: Disaster Contingency Planning. [Université du Québec à Montreal, 1995. VHS video.]

This 21-minute color video focuses on disaster planning, prevention and recovery for museum collections. The video provides the framework from which to begin disaster planning and concisely covers the methods of drying water damaged artifacts.


Four excellent reprints, each covering a different aspect of disaster management of paper-based materials. The Smithsonian piece has useful checklists outlining procedures for action immediately following a disaster. The NARA article is directed to the general public regarding small scale threats to personal collections. Excerpts from Peter Waters’ revised classic; reflects changes in use of fumigants and refinement of techniques. An overview of the identification and treatment of mold is covered by National Park Service.


This special issue discusses libraries’ responses to a variety of disasters and includes lessons learned through case studies from a variety of disasters and library types.


Although this guide focuses on disaster recovery resources in the Southeastern U.S., it could serve as a model for other states or regions. Include criteria for evaluating recovery vendors and services, and an annotated list of search terms for the yellow pages or the internet aid in identifying disaster-related products and services.

Provides information on how to survive a hurricane through appropriate planning. Topics include building design that resists the effects of hurricanes; retrofitting existing structures to improve survivability; the supplies your institution will need; and actions to take prior to, during and after the storm. Information is provided on recovery techniques, and rebuilding after the storm.


The salvage section of the disaster plan from the British Columbia Information Management Services. Excellent examples of guidelines for packing, differentiates between minor and major disasters, includes salvage procedures for a wide variety of formats. Issue features a 17" x 22" foldout summary chart of salvage guidelines printed on a waterproof and stain resistant synthetic paper.


Although some sections are dated, particularly relating to the use of fungicides, this classic work set the standards for treating water damaged materials. Designed to assist cultural institutions in handling large-scale, long-term recovery efforts.


One of the most practical and comprehensive manuals published on disaster prevention, planning, and recovery.

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