

Disaster Management in the Church and Synagogue Library

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Preservation, conservation, restoration

Escalating tiers of intervention

“A stitch in time saves nine.”

Preservation is Stewardship

Respect for sacred texts and the mission of a religious library lend themselves to particular attention to stewardship of materials.

Slow disasters, fast disasters

Some disasters come like a thief in the night.

Others come like the guy who hid under the bed undetected for 3 days and charged his

phones. (USA Today, July 24)

Things that can go wrong

Fast and dramatic:

Vandalism

Fire, sprinkler systems

Severe weather

Water: floods, broken pipes, HVAC leak

More things that can go wrong

Slow and insidious:

Environmental conditions

Mold

Embrittlement / “inherent vice”

Ultraviolet and fluorescent light

Bugs and rodents

User behavior

Murphy's Law goes digital

Fast and dramatic:

- Hard drive crashes

- Viruses and malware

Slow and insidious:

- No physical format lasts forever

- Legacy software

- Data degradation

Prevention

Security

Fire suppression, fire hazards

Facility upkeep

Stacks maintenance

Monitoring

Data backup

User education, policies

Information and communication

Case study

Scenario: You come in early one cold Sunday morning and find a pipe has burst in the ceiling over the library stacks.

If someone else found the pipe, would they know how to contact you?

Who do you call in your organization's leadership?

How do you turn off the water?

Who do you call to deal with the plumbing? wet carpet and furniture? wet books and media? water-damaged computers?

What are your salvage priorities? What's better off being replaced?

Where are your supplies?

Are you insured?

Don't be these guys...



“Do something!”

Response

What - assessing damaged materials

Who - personnel, administrators and vendors to contact

Where - location of supplies

Mold

No such thing as “just a little” mold

Health hazards and damage to materials

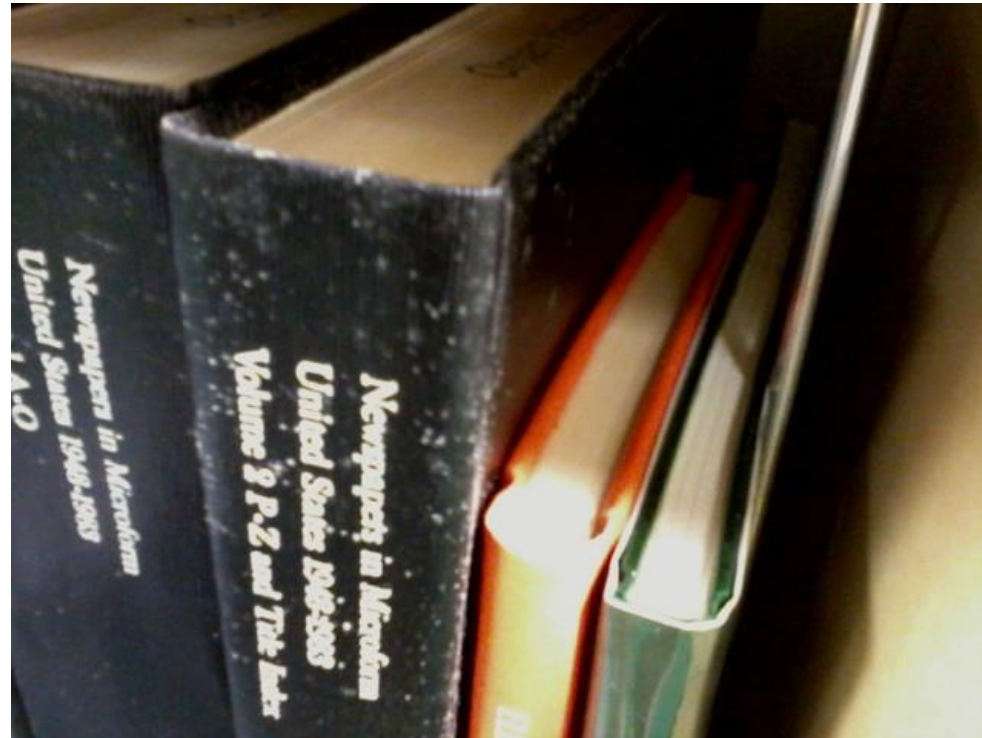
Persistent and resilient

Gets deep into materials

Know when to call the pros.

<https://www.nedcc.org/free-resources/preservation-leaflets/3.-emergency-management/3.8-emergency-salvage-of-moldy-books-and-paper>

Mold



ELIAS

ELI'S COMIN

Rubato

Tempo

Action items

Round up people: leadership, volunteers to draft plan, volunteers to be contacted in case of emergency

Draft a plan. Have a firm deadline.

- Contact information

- Salvage priorities

- Outside vendors

- Communications with congregation, community

Distribute the plan. Have copies on- and off-site.

Acquire supplies. Seek donations: monetary, in-kind

Establish a schedule to assess and update your plan.

Supplies

Talas UV test cards

Onset HOBO data loggers

Power strip and extension cord

Plastic sheeting - cut some in advance; duct tape

Flashlights and batteries

Gloves, respirator masks, disposable gloves, first aid kit

Boxes, packing material, pens, pencils, markers

Utility knives, hammer, screwdrivers (Phillips and slot)

Trash bags, zippered plastic bags

Paper towels

Buckets, Shop-Vac / wet-dry vacuum

Inventory lists

Tools and Resources

D-Plan: <http://www.dplan.org/>

Amigos: <http://www.amigos.org/>

American Institute for Conservation / CoOL Conservation:

<http://cool.conservation-us.org/>

Northeast Document Conservation Center:

<https://www.nedcc.org/free-resources/disaster-assistance/emergency-phone-assistance>

With thanks to the ALA Think Tank:

<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/hmd/preservation/index.html>

http://calpreservation.org/information_resources/emergency-prep-and-response

<http://www.webjunction.org/explore-topics/planning-coordination/documents.htm>

Born-digital: <http://www.oclc.org/research/themes/research-collections/borndigital.html>

Risk assessment:

Risks particular to your library:

Older buildings

Climate - heat, humidity, pipe-bursting cold snaps

Climate control

Severe weather - which kinds?

Earthquakes

Fire hazards, wildfires

Questions?



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Thank you!