



Disaster Preparedness: Strategies for Assessing, Planning and Protecting Cultural Collections

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Abstract:

Disasters are unpredictable, disruptive and often have different aftermaths. A heritage organization's level of preparedness can change the outcome of a disaster or emergency. Assessment of the issues and factors which pose risks to the preservation of collections, form the basis of this preparation. This involves exploring not only building and geographic hazards, but also the collection's vulnerability to natural and manmade disasters. Though risks cannot be completely removed, proactive steps can be implemented to reduce or mitigate their effects. This presentation highlights strategies for assessing risks in libraries, museums and archives and devising effective responses to protect their cultural collections. The presentation will also explore steps to prevent, reduce or strengthen these collections against the impact of disasters.