

NLG Museum Connecting to Collections  
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Statewide Planning Grant  
Developing a Statewide Disaster Preparedness and Response Plan for Iowa  
Final report

Summary:

The Iowa Conservation and Preservation Consortium, Iowa Museum Association, the State Historical Society of Iowa and the State Library requested the IMLS CTC grant funds so we could develop a statewide plan to help the stewards of cultural property plan for protection and disaster recovery of collections. We are very pleased with the results of our grant activities.

Thanks to the IMLS CTC grant over 200 Iowa collection care takers have received basic training in disaster preparedness and response, 24 care takers have signed up to become cultural collection first responders, a dozen disaster planning/response trainers are available upon request, and over 40 institutions have ReAct Paks. We have created a variety of training tools ranging from basic awareness to in-depth training, established a website of disaster resources, and geo-referenced hundreds of cultural collection sites around Iowa.

In addition, the IMLS grant was just the motivator we needed to participate in other national/international efforts which in turn strengthened our IMLS grant project. Here are some of the highlights:

- Co-Director Nancy Kraft taught three ALA/ALCTS webinars in 2010: disaster preparedness and planning, disaster response, and continuity of operations. See <http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/alcts/confevents/upcoming/webinar/pres/index.cfm> These webinars are available to the public.
- Due to the visibility of the ALA/ALCTS webinars, Nancy Kraft was invited to teach a disaster planning and response week-long course for OceanTeacher in Ostend, Belgium <http://classroom.oceanteacher.org/course/search.php?search=disaster> The sessions were recorded and are available to the public.
- Amy Groskopf and Amy Meston attended the Council of State Archivists FEMA-funded Intergovernmental Preparedness for Essential Records (IPER) training in Madison, WI, October 7 & 8, 2010 which was a "Train the Trainers" two-day conference. The focus was on public records: city clerks and county records. The two Amys provided training sessions around the state and are available to provide additional training as requested.
- Pete Sixbey and Nancy Kraft attended the 2011 AIC-CERT disaster response training and are now a part of the AIC-CERT team.

## Goals and accomplishments:

### 1. *Conduct a survey of institutional emergency preparedness and knowledge of recovery resources.*

The survey was sent out via several collection caretaker list serves, about 400 institutions responded.

- The majority of collections from those who responded are books and paper.
- 78% have two facilities under their care
- 57% are Libraries
- 37% are Museums
- 50% do not have an Emergency or Disaster Preparedness Plan
- 55% would not be able to access their Plan if a disaster happened
- 56% are aware of Disaster Preparedness but have no training or plan
- 90% would need book & paper restoration after a disaster
- Many would need electronic media resuscitation
- 41% have a collection management budget under \$500/year
- 66% have insurance
- 56% are not aware of disaster awareness and help
- 70% could provide "hands" as a resource to others in a disaster
- 50% could provide meeting rooms for others in a disaster
- 90% have disaster related concerns

### 2. *Geocode locations of cultural repositories throughout the state and provide those locations to emergency management agencies on a state and local level.*

We used a combination of existing library and museum directories and the survey mentioned above to identify locations of cultural repositories rather than rely completely on the survey. Adding sites will be an ongoing, post grant project.

### 3. *Integrate cultural collections protection into city and county emergency plans.*

Discussions have begun with the county emergency managers. We have not yet located the organization we need to talk to for the city aspect. Although we did not get as far along as we wished during our grant period, we are gradually getting across to county emergency managers that we need to work together. During the IPER training, we encouraged county recorders to work with their county emergency managers and will continue working with county recorders as it seems to be the more successful way in Iowa to involve county emergency managers. Linn County was especially successful and we'll use that as a model. This activity will be an ongoing, post grant project.

### 4. *Organize and present disaster preparedness awareness workshops at locations around the state.*

In the spring of 2011, eleven individuals taught (or co-taught) at least one session -- Lucy David, Bill Krueger, Grace Linden, Hilary Seo, Pete Sixbey, Angela Stafford, Steve Stenstrom, Cyndi

Sweet, Kim Taylor, Melissa Tedone, Jerome Thompson. The trainers are a mix of conservators, museum curators, librarians, and volunteers and from different parts of the state. We gave eleven sessions that were well distributed around the state -- Ames, Cedar Rapids, Clear Lake, Corydon, Decorah, Grinnell, Missouri Valley, Mt. Pleasant, Okoboji, Sac City, and Sioux City. We had 130 attendees. We received high marks for the sessions with many commenting that they were delighted to learn about Dplan Lite and urging us to hold more in-depth sessions. These eleven individuals are available to teach other sessions on demand.

*In addition to the awareness training, Cyndi Sweet of the Iowa Museum Association, created a webpage of disaster resources,*

<http://www.iowamuseums.org/asp/disasterresources/disasterresources.aspx>

*5. Convene a statewide conference on disaster preparedness and response for cultural collections.*

We hosted a two day conference, "Disasters Happen: Preparation & Response Training," April 19 & 20, 2012, at the African American Museum of Iowa in Cedar Rapids.

[http://www.iowaconserveandpreserve.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/03/IMLS-Conference\\_Flyer-Feb-11-23.pdf](http://www.iowaconserveandpreserve.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/03/IMLS-Conference_Flyer-Feb-11-23.pdf)

We had around 75 attend the two day conference from a cross section of library, museum, county, and genealogical society staffs. The conference provided training on preparing for and responding to a disaster. Most of the training was done by Iowa experts as the intent was to have Iowans get to know their in-state experts. It was held in Cedar Rapids so that participants could tour three different institutions that were damaged during the Flood of 2008, note where each institution was in the recovery process and hear about the different approaches to recovery each took.

All attendees received a disaster response wheel and field guide and each institution received a React Pak. Since we were not in an area that could accommodate 75 people very efficiently for lunch, we had luncheon speakers and included the lunches as a grant expense. Participants were really engaged, most gave our sessions a score of 5 or 6 (with 6 being the highest). We now have at least 75 people with tools and basic training to respond to small- to medium-sized disasters and know who to contact for assistance.

*6. Develop a strategy for marshalling conservation resources existing in the state to act as first responders.*

Our conference was so successful that we had 24 attendees sign up for extra training to become Iowa Cultural Collections First Responders. The volunteers are from different geographic areas of Iowa and represent libraries, archives, museums, genealogical and historical societies, and county offices. We plan on modeling our first responder efforts after the AIC-CERT. We had hoped to be able to work with the Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management department. Working with the homeland security office proved to be a real challenge as when a new governor comes into office, the management changes. Finding a way to have close ties to the Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management, will be a long term goal. Our next step is to train and put into place the Iowa Cultural Collections First

Responders which will start this fall. Each responder will receive a trunk tool kit that was purchased during the planning grant.

*7. Identify and adopt a simple and broadly applicable model for writing disaster response plans.* Originally we planned to use an instrument that the Ford Conservation Center was developing. After testing Dplan and Dplan lite, we decided to encourage everyone to use one of the Dplans and provided information on these two plans during our awareness workshops and at the two-day conference. We will continue to encourage the use of Dplan and Dplan Lite.