Connecting people with information through libraries

PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEMS | PRESERVATION RESOURCES AND OUTREACH SERVICES

Preservation of Special Collections & Library Materials


Public libraries are often repositories for important local history collections and cultural artifacts that deserve attention and care. Since librarians are the stewards of these irreplaceable collections, the New Jersey State Library has assembled a number of resources to help you in your preservation planning.

Don’t think you have a local history collection?

Take a good look around your library. Library collections can contain hundreds, thousands, and even tens of thousands of items.

- A majority of a library collection may be books, but collections can also contain photographs, CDs, DVDs, archival materials, maps, slides, sound recordings, film, and even digitized material or born digital material.

- Library collections require proper care, handling and appropriate preservation strategies. Good stewardship does not just pertain to the items, either.

- To ensure longevity of collections, the stability of the building environment plays an important role.

Information on our Preservation Resources website includes links to online tutorials, fact sheets, training guides, webinars and videos, as well as, information on grants and funding for the care of special collections, conservation studios, archival suppliers, emergency recovery vendors, and certified preservation consultants.

Look for educational workshops and trainings sponsored by the NJSL at locations around the state.

Contact Information

Michele Stricker
Associate Director
Library Support Services
mstricker@njstatelibrary.org
ext. 164

24/7 Availability

Emergency phone assistance for collection-related disasters is available 24/7 by calling the Northeast Document Conservation Center toll-free hotline at 855.245.8303. Information provided includes advice on drying wet collections and dealing with damage from fire, pests and mold.
Disasters come in all shapes and sizes, from natural disasters such as floods, hurricanes, and earthquakes to emergencies like fire, leaking roofs, and mold. An emergency can easily spiral into a disaster if you and your library are not prepared to respond.

- Create your customized library disaster plan access from our many resources.
- When you need to contact emergency responders for your facility and collections after a disaster, we have provided a list of remediation specialists.
- For salvaging library materials see our links to an extensive library of documents, websites and videos.

The Library as a Community Partner in Disaster Response

After Hurricane Sandy hit New Jersey in late 2012, many community libraries were pressed into service as community disaster recovery centers. Even though they may have sustained great damage to their own buildings, librarians rallied and were in the forefront of providing services and information to those in need, as well as respite from the storm.

Disaster Emergency Information Center

Dealing with the aftermath of a disaster can be overwhelming. This is your One Stop Shop for disaster recovery effort for librarians, businesses, and the general public. Included are resources for the public to help cope with disasters, violence and traumatic events.