Worst Case Scenario: Preparing Alberta’s Archives for Future Disasters

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Project Details

• Flooding across Alberta, Canada in June 2013 affected many archival institutions
• Archives Society of Alberta (ASA) received a grant to help with salvage, recovery and future disaster preparedness
• Lead Conservator and Lead Archivist hired to assist institutional members with conservation treatments, contextual recovery of damaged records and disaster planning

ASA Institutional Members

- 14% of members affected by June 2013 floods
- 63% of members require assistance with preventative conservation, disaster planning and archival principles
- 23% of members located on a floodplain

The Lead Team is conducting site assessments of all ASA institutional members to determine their needs

Disaster Salvage and Recovery

• Contract conservators and archivists hired to conduct the work planned by the Lead Team, such as treating the archival records and reuniting the descriptions with the damaged records

Disaster Preparedness

• Provide advice on writing disaster plans
• Purchase supplies for disaster kits
• Create disaster scenarios for staff training
• Offer online resources for disaster preparedness and remediation

Collaboration

• Interdisciplinary Lead Team bring expertise from both the conservation and archival science fields
• Provide institutional members with best possible advice and support

Next Steps

• Continue to conduct site assessments
• Continue to build online resources
• Offer workshops and educational resources on disaster recovery and preparedness

Acknowledgements