Creating Alliances With Emergency Responders: Part I -- The Alliance for Response

Tom Clareson, OCLC
Cultural Heritage Institutions: Who We Are

- Libraries
- Archives
- Museums
- Historical Societies
- Records Centers
- Historic Sites
OCLC: Who We Are

- Library membership organization
- Assist libraries in organizing (cataloging), sharing (interlibrary loan), utilizing (reference services), providing web access (digitizing) and preserving collections
- Reaching out to Archives, Museums, Historical Societies
- Staff with Preservation and Emergency Preparedness Training and Consulting
For more than 25 years, Heritage Preservation has been promoting the proper care of art, artifacts, and records.

Based in Washington, DC

Advocacy Group for Cultural Heritage Institutions

Programs include CAP, SOS, HHI
The Heritage Emergency National Task Force

- A Heritage Preservation Program, co-sponsored by FEMA
- Started in 1995
- 34 Organizations: SPNHC to SBA to OCLC
- Developing Tools for Response
  - Disaster Wheel
  - Resources for Recovery funding booklet
  - Alliance for Response Forums
  - *Cataclysm and Challenge* Report
The Alliance for Response

- Four Forums in 2003-2004
- Funded by the Fidelity Foundation
- Held in Dallas, Boston, Cincinnati, and New York
- Bringing together Cultural Heritage professionals with Emergency Responders
Museums, libraries, and archives are important resources for communities
  – Lots of people utilize our facilities
  – Many collections are of great value

We want first responders to understand special needs
  – Volume and composition of collections
  – Vulnerability of materials
Why We Held These Meetings, Cont.

First Responders want us to understand:

- Risks particular to community
- Local emergency protocols
- Basic safety and disaster response techniques

Build relationships before disaster strikes
Held December 12, 2003 at the Cincinnati Art Museum

Cultural Heritage Presenters:
- Wes Boomgaarden, Ohio State University
- Julie Page, UC-San Diego/SILDRN

Responders Presenting:
- J. R. Thomas, Franklin Co. EMA
- Greg Keller, State of Ohio EMA
- Ed Buikema, Director, FEMA Region 5
Cincinnati Alliance for Response Forum

Result: Development of Cooperative Disaster Response Networks in:
- Southwestern Ohio (Cincinnati Area)
- Southeastern Ohio (Athens)
- Central Ohio (Columbus)
- Northern Ohio (Cleveland)

Developing Alliances with Emergency Responders in these areas and throughout the State
Where We Need Expert Help

- Developing Realistic Disaster Preparedness and Recovery Planning Documents
- Building Walk-Throughs for Fire Safety, Security, Ingress & Egress
- Risk Assessment
- Practice of Plans (Tabletops to Drills)
- Ongoing Recovery Resources
- Understanding Local Protocols