

2005 Spring DLC
Educational Program
Depository Library 401:
Disaster Recovery



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Information Dissemination

Moderator: Marianne Ryan, University of Maryland
Panel: Gwen Sinclair, University of Hawaii
Dan Barclay, University of New Mexico
Jan Swanbeck, University of Florida
Janet Scheitle, Office of Library Program Planning, GPO
Attendees: About 60 attendees, most of them experienced government documents librarians. There was no sign-in sheet.

Designed as an advanced educational program for all government documents librarians, a panel of government document librarians who had recently experienced disasters in their libraries presented their experiences. The panel members explained the ramifications of a disaster on the operations of a depository library.

Emphasis was placed on the different decisions that must be made quickly to recover from a disaster. There are numerous decisions that must be made, and the program explored the most crucial ones. These include:

- 1) Immediate contacts and how to contact;
- 2) Release of information to staff and media;
- 3) Safety concerns;
- 4) Damage assessment;
- 5) Acquisitions stoppage;
- 6) Displaced staff;
- 7) Process of recovery;
- 8) Alternative service areas, if any;
- 9) Health issues;
- 10) Disaster Recovery specialists; and
- 11) Collection Recovery;
- 12) Staff Recovery; and
- 13) Facility Recovery

After presenting their stories and lessons learned, the panel also discussed the roles and responsibilities of regional and selective depository libraries in assisting fellow depository libraries when a disaster strikes. GPO's responsibilities and roles in a disaster recovery situation were also explored.

The general conclusions GPO might draw from this educational session are:

Expand this program into a chapter for the New Electronic Depository Library Manual. Design a decision tree to assist librarians in making the many and frequent decisions they must make following a disaster. A chapter in the revised manual will allow for inclusion and definition of GPO's role and responsibilities in a disaster recovery situation.

Offer this content as a longer session at the fall conference.