

Book Reviews

Disaster Planning: Preparedness and Recovery for Libraries and Archives. SALLY BUCHANAN. Bibliography. TOBY MURRAY. Paris: General Information Programme and UNISIST United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, 1988. vi, 187 p. (PGI-88/WS/6).

Vacuum Freeze-Drying, a Method Used to Salvage Water-Damaged Archival and Library Materials: A RAMP Study with Guidelines. JOHN M. McCLEARY. Paris: General Information Programme and UNISIST, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, 1987. vii, 63 p. (PGI-87/WS/7).

Disaster Management for Libraries: Planning and Process. CLAIRE ENGLAND and KAREN EVANS. Ottawa: Canadian Library Association, 1988. xi, 207 p. ISBN 0-88802-197-6.

The Library Disaster Preparedness Handbook. JOHN MORRIS. Chicago & London: American Library Association, 1986. vii, 129 p. ISBN 0-8389-0438-6.

All of the books considered here emphasize the fact that every archives and library is bound to have a disaster of some kind; clearly, every archivist and librarian should do everything possible to prevent disasters and to reduce significant loss by eliminating potential hazards and by preparing to respond quickly and effectively when the inevitable happens.

Disaster Planning: Preparedness and Recovery for Libraries and Archives was published as part of the Records and Archives Management Programme (RAMP) of UNESCO. Sally Buchanan is prominent in the field of disaster prevention, preparedness, and response. This manual is limited to disasters involving books, manuscripts, and photographs, and is organized under the following headings: writing a disaster plan; prevention of disasters; protection of collections against disasters; disaster response and recovery. Clearly and simply written, this is a fine distillation of theory, practice, and technique, and is recommended for careful study by all responsible for disaster prevention, response, and recovery planning.

Three appendices are included. The first presents an excellent selection of sample forms and checklists to facilitate all phases of planning and recovery. The second is a somewhat brief list of institutions and experts willing to provide advice and assistance, useful to planners in Brazil, Australia, New Zealand, and the United

States. The third lists businesses offering services, facilities, and equipment to assist in disaster preparedness and recovery. All save one are in the United States, and all suppliers are American.

An extensive bibliography accompanies the text. Unfortunately, it is not organized by topic, nor is it annotated, perhaps because of policy concerning RAMP studies; however, the bibliography was compiled by Toby Murray, editor of *Conservation Administration News*, who has exceptional knowledge of, and experience in, this field, and all of the items noted will be of value to planners.

Buchanan states that vacuum freeze-drying is at present the most successful means of drying large numbers of wet documents. An excellent companion to her manual is another RAMP study, *Vacuum Freeze-Drying, a Method Used to Salvage Water-Damaged Archival and Library Materials*, by John McCleary. It compares vacuum freeze-drying by sublimation and freeze-drying by evaporation. The former is favoured for the treatment of wet books. Stabilization is immediate, stresses to bindings are minimized, coated papers do not stick on drying, and soluble inks and colours, fillers, and adhesives stay in place. Vacuum drying is more economical, and is often used to treat wet records, but it lacks the advantage of swift stabilization, increasing the danger of mould and the risk of damage to soluble inks and colours. But the study includes more than this would suggest. It summarizes a broad spectrum of data that includes behaviour of paper when wet, its vulnerabilities, stabilization by freezing, vacuum chambers and how they work, and selected case histories. Easy to read and to understand, this publication should be acquired for the information and use of all disaster recovery planners.

Disaster Management for Libraries: Planning and Process focusses on anticipation of, and reaction to, disasters caused by fires, water, and chemicals. This manual is meant to impress upon the librarian or archivist the time and potential expenditures required to prepare a comprehensive and effective disaster plan. Of particular interest for Canadians is coverage on insuring the building and collections in Canada. An annotated bibliography suitably arranged by subject is a good feature, as is the brief list of Canadian agencies willing to provide both advice and assistance in planning and recovery. But, this manual is not simply written, and there are some annoying inaccuracies. For example, Records Conservation at the National Archives of Canada, one of the outstanding conservation facilities in North America, is referred to as a bindery. However, planners may well find it profitable to examine disaster prevention and recovery theory and practice from the library management perspective.

The Library Disaster Preparedness Handbook by John Morris is much broader in scope than any of the other three titles considered here. Morris is an expert on security and disaster prevention, notably managing fire risk. His manual gives prominence to these topics. Coverage of subjects like basic building safety and security, the handling of problem patrons, and theft and mutilations of collection materials is practical and easily assimilated. His simple, point-form outlines of procedures, e.g., those for handling a violent or threatening person, could be transferred directly to a library or archives security manual with little or no amendment. His coverage of insurance and risk management is excellent, as is his bibliography, arranged by

chapter. Another excellent feature is a glossary. The book is packed with useful information. It is well organized, interesting, and highly recommended.

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Historical Atlas of Canada, Volume 1: From the Beginning to 1800. R. COLE HARRIS and GEOFFREY J. MATTHEWS, eds. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, [1987]. xviii, 198 p. maps, illus., notes. ISBN 0-8020-2495-5 \$95.00.

Cartographic archivists are very much aware of how rarely maps are used by historians. Of course there are exceptions, but for the most part researchers into Canada's history still do not consider maps as primary source records or as analytical tools. Maps presented in historical studies generally provide the reader with locational information. No attempt is made to offer a spatial dimension to the phenomenon or problem being investigated. The *Historical Atlas of Canada* reverses this trend. It combines cartographic analyses with other non-textual material to trace Canada's history through time and space "from the beginning to 1800."

The atlas is the first of a three-volume set and is the most ambitious in terms of its temporal coverage. It focusses on the first ten thousand years of Canada's human geography. The product of an eight-year, multidisciplinary collaboration, the atlas includes the work of more than sixty academics from such diverse disciplines as archaeology, anthropology, botany, geology, economics, and, of course, history and geography. It synthesizes much of the present knowledge and presents considerable new research. The volume is conceptually organized under three major themes: the peopling of Canada by its indigenous population and their adaptation to the country's varied ecological zones; the process of European exploration, colonization, and resource development; and, to a lesser extent, native and Euro-Canadian socio-economic interrelationships. The second volume, which is scheduled for publication in 1992, will cover the nineteenth century and the third volume, which is due out this year, will span the twentieth century to 1961.

Each of the seventy colour plates that comprise the first volume is a two-page spread or "vignette" on some aspect of Canada's history. The presentation is divided into six sections. "Prehistory," the largest section with nineteen plates, opens the atlas by providing an introduction to the major cultural sequences and a discussion of the indigenous cultural groups within Canada's major ecological regions. The following four sections focus on the historic period and, in approximately twelve plates each, present regionally based studies under the following headings: "The Atlantic Realm," "Inland Expansion," "The St. Lawrence Settlements," and "The Northwest." The final section has two plates on Canada in 1800; one presents an analysis of eastern Canada's population and economy and the other summarizes the distribution of the major linguistic groups within Canada's native population.

Aesthetically, the atlas has no parallel. The plates skilfully combine the cartographic image with illustrations, text, and graphs to produce a visual narrative. For example, the plate on the Norse traces their North Atlantic voyages in three maps, while other illustrations correlate the voyages to climatic changes and show the dis-