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## Preservin' the South

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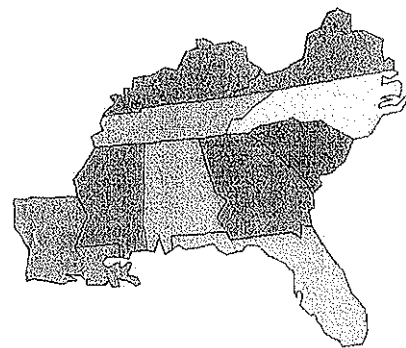
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# Preservin' the South

Preservation News by Tina Mason,  
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## HERITAGE HEALTH INDEX QUESTIONNAIRE

Be on the look out for a Heritage Health Index questionnaire in your mailbox. Forms are being mailed to 15,000 archives, historical societies, libraries, museums, and scientific organizations nationwide in July 2004. This survey of the condition and preservation needs of collections will produce a national picture of the state of artistic, historic, and scientific collections held by the full range of institutions that care for them. The Heritage Health Index is administered by Heritage Preservation in partnership with IMLS. Heritage Preservation estimates that about 50,000 institutions hold collections, including books, manuscripts, paintings, photographs, archeological artifacts, natural history specimens, historic objects, audio-visual materials, and digital media. The survey will be distributed to collecting institutions of all types and sizes in all U.S. states and territories.

The results and recommendations that come out of the Heritage Health Index will be publicized and distributed widely and given to key national and state policy makers. The data will also give collecting institutions and their leadership a context in which to view their collections' condition and preservation needs.

For more information about the questionnaire, see  
<http://www.heritagepreservation.org/PROGRAMS/HHIhome.HTM>

## FEASIBILITY STUDY OF PROVIDING ONLINE ACCESS TO MICROFILMED NEWSPAPERS

The California Preservation Program has been coordinating a project to study the feasibility of creating online access to California historical newspapers by digitizing old preservation microfilm. The group used film of one of California's oldest newspapers, Alta California, to compare the strengths and limitations of various search and retrieval software products available; to analyze benefits and costs of digital content management service vendors and available commercial subscription products; and to estimate production requirements and costs to create a database of historical California newspapers.

The results of the feasibility study just went online at the project website, <http://cpc.stanford.edu/cndp/>. Included on this page is the plan of work for the study, outline for the next two phases of the project, and project participants.

## PROCEEDINGS OF SOUND SAVINGS: PRESERVING AUDIO COLLECTIONS CONFERENCE

In July 2003, a three day symposium on audio preservation was held in Austin Texas by the University of Texas at Austin, the Library of Congress conference the National Recording Preservation Board, and the Association of Research Libraries. The session featured presentations by experts in the field of audio preservation on topics ranging from assessing the preservation needs of audio collections to creating, preserving, and making publicly available digitally reformatted audio recordings. Many of the presentation papers are now available on the ARL website at <http://www.arl.org/preserv/> and more are expected to be added in the coming months.

## 2004 HURRICANE SEASON PREDICTIONS: POSSIBLE ABOVE NORMAL ACTIVITY LEVELS

Forecasters from National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) National Hurricane Center expect an above normal activity for the upcoming hurricane season. Experts predict that the 2004 Atlantic hurricane season is likely to include twelve to fifteen named storms (average is 9.3), six to eight hurricanes (average is 5.7) and two to four intense hurricanes (average is 2.2), defined as Saffir-Simpson category 3, 4 or 5 with winds above 110 mph.

Hurricane season begins June 1st and runs to November 30. NOAA and Federal Emergency Management Agency officials advise Atlantic and Gulf Coast residents to be prepared throughout the season. It is time again to update, or develop in some cases, your institution's disaster plan. Most hurricanes are formed in August and September, however the first named tropical storm (Agatha) has already occurred in early May. Now is the time to inventory and replenish disaster supplies, update emergency phone lists, review recovery procedures, trim trees and remove loose debris around the perimeter of your building, and verify contact information for outside disaster recovery services.

Preparation and preparedness is the key to survival and protection of library and archival collections in the event of a hurricane. Although damage cannot be entirely prevented, it can be mitigated by preparedness. The potential for damage to library and archival collections is directly related to the construction of the building housing the collections. A structural engineer or architect can advise on building improvements such as roof bracing or installation of hurricane shutters to make a building more resistant to storm damage.

Since hurricanes usually approach with several days warning, an institution can stage its preparedness activities according to the level of warning. For example, when a hurricane watch is announced you have approximately 36 hours notice. At this time begin to brief employees, contact outside contractors and local freezer services, and identify shelters. When the announcement is elevated to a warning (hurricane is possible within 24 hours) the more labor-intensive precautions should be undertaken such as installing shutters, removing loose objects from building grounds, and covering and moving collections. These measures of protection will be impossible to implement in such a short period of time without advance planning. For more detailed information about what to do before, during, and after a storm see the excerpt from Mike Trinkley's Hurricane! Surviving the Big One on the SOLINET website <<http://www.solinet.net/preservation>>. Click on *Disaster Mitigation and Recovery Resources*, and scroll down to *Publications*. A full text Spanish translation, (Huracán!), is also accessible from this page.

In order to facilitate preparations the following websites may be of assistance:

Colorado State University, Department of Atmospheric Science <[typhoon.atmos.colostate.edu](http://typhoon.atmos.colostate.edu)>

Federal Emergency Management Agency <[www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov)>

National Hurricane Center <[www.nhc.noaa.gov](http://www.nhc.noaa.gov)>

National Task Force on Emergency Response <[www.heritagepreservation.org/PROGRAMS/taskfer.htm](http://www.heritagepreservation.org/PROGRAMS/taskfer.htm)>

SOLINET Preservation Services <[www.solinet.net/preservation](http://www.solinet.net/preservation)>

Weather Underground <[www.wunderground.com/tropical/](http://www.wunderground.com/tropical/)>

## HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS PRINT PUBLICATION AVAILABLE IN ENGLISH AND SPANISH

Preservation Services has reprinted one of its popular disaster preparedness publications, Hurricane: Are You Ready for the Big One? A Primer for Libraries, Museums, and Archive by Dr. Michael Trinkley, head of the Chicora Foundation. (Huracán!), the Spanish translation of Hurricane, has been an online resource since 2002. Now Preservation Services is pleased to announce the first printing of the Spanish version, an indispensable 95 page guide to preparing and responding to hurricane emergencies in your institution.

Like the English version, (Huracán! focuses on surviving a hurricane through appropriate planning. Sections include hurricane-resistant building design, retrofitting structures to improve survivability, necessary supplies, and actions to take prior to, during, and after a storm. (Huracán! is a revised translation of the 1998 edition of *Hurricane* with a new introduction by Hilda Abreu de Utermöhlen, M.Sc. Conservadora, Centro Cultural Eduardo León Jimenes Santiago, República Dominicana, and an appendix with information specific to Caribbean building structures by Maria Gonzalez, who has twenty-three years experience with two major construction companies, and is a 3rd-year doctoral student in the School of Information at the University of Texas at Austin, with a specialization in Preservation Administration.

For more information, visit the publications section of the SOLINET Preservation section at <http://www.solinet.net/preservation>.

## NEW PUBLICATIONS

### Prevention and Recovery from a Mold Outbreak

The Canadian Conservation Institute (CCI) has published Technical Bulletin #26, Mould Prevention and Collection Recovery: Guidelines for Heritage Collections, by Sherry Guild and Maureen MacDonald. The 34 pages cover the nature of mold, preventions techniques, and dealing with an outbreak. Includes specific information on mold removal on all types of artifacts (books, paper, artifacts in boxes, parchment or vellum, photographs, magnetic media, film, art on paper, paintings, textiles, baskets, leather, wood, bone, glass, ceramics, metal, rubber and plastic), next steps after cleaning, health risks, and personal protective equipment. Supply and web resources are listed in the bulletin. The 34 page bulletin sells for \$20 and is available on CCI's website: <https://www.cci-icc.gc.ca/bookstore/index-e.cfm>.

### Protecting Collections while Under Construction

SOLINET announces the online publication of Under Construction: Preservation and Collections Care Issues during Building Projects and Renovations, the proceedings from a SOLINET Preservation Conference held May 30, 2003, in Atlanta, GA. The six individually authored papers, plus an introduction, provide practical information from library administrators and preservation professionals. The papers address preservation issues in planning, design, construction, moving collections and disaster preparedness. The printable PDF proceedings are listed in the "Preservation Publications: Collections Care" section of the Preservation & Access web pages: [www.solinet.net/preservation/construction](http://www.solinet.net/preservation/construction).

## PRESERVATION EDUCATION DIRECTORY IS PUBLISHED

The 8th edition of the Preservation Education Directory, edited by Christine Wiseman and Julie Arnott, is now available on the American Library Association (ALA) website. Published by the Association for Library Collections and Technical Services Division of ALA, the directory lists graduate preservation and conservation programs, preservation courses at library schools, and opportunities for continuing education in preservation in North America. Programs and courses are also index geographically by state/province. The directory may be found by searching for "preservation education directory" on the ALA website: [www.ala.org](http://www.ala.org).