

Western States and Territories
WESTPAS
Preservation Assistance Service

Service goal: Deliver education and training workshops to libraries and archives on 1) disaster preparedness, response, and collection salvage; and 2) disaster scenario planning and mutual aid collaborations (see www.westpas.org “Overview”). Maintain a 24/7 collection emergency telephone assistance service to support institutional disaster response capabilities.

Participating states and territories: Alaska, American Samoa, California, Colorado, Guam, Hawai'i, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Northern Marianas Islands, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming

Funding sources: National Endowment for the Humanities, with contributions from BELFOR (disaster recovery service), Preservation Technologies LP (paper deacidification service), and Archival Products (preservation suppliers). Participating states contribute staff time and travel expense to attend the workshops.

Workshop Data

Objectives: 1) Train staff to take appropriate action in the event of an emergency, 2) have participants complete written disaster response and collection salvage plans, and 3) develop mutual aid agreements to enable library and archives staff to work collaboratively to respond to disaster.

Schedule: 31 workshops between April 2009 and December 2010 among the 14 participating states and territories based on projected need. www.westpas.org “Course locations and dates”

Location: Local and regional libraries and archives selected to maximize participation.

Format: 2 separate workshops, both of which require advance preparation:

- 1) Disaster response plans and staff training in collection salvage (two days; days one and two are separated by 5-8 weeks to enable participants to draft institutional plans)
- 2) Scenario planning and mutual aid agreements for disaster response (one day; participants are guided through a simulated impending disaster and its impact on an institution's collections, followed by "lessons learned" that are used to frame development of mutual aid agreements)

Participant selection: 1) Letter of administrative support for drafting plans, training staff, and pursuing mutual aid agreements; 2) two staff per institution per workshop.

Registration: Online, no charge www.westpas.org “Course locations and dates – WESTPAS schedule of workshops”

Trainers: Senior preservation professionals from California, Hawai'i, Oregon, Utah and Washington.

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