Moving collections in an emergency

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1982 main building, reading rooms and (underground) storage

2007 additional storage
Physical collections

Books 3.500.000
Periodicals 700.000
Newspaper 100.000
Special collections 575.000

Total > 4,4 million items
125 linear kilometres
Challenge

Current location is not ‘future-proof’:
- Renovation is too costly
- Long term exploitation is not sustainable:
  • Active climate control (HVAC)
  • Systems out of date
  • Huge replacement costs
  • Increasing energy costs

Our new storage facility is not ready until 2026/2028

Our current building is not properly maintained
Challenge

Installations and systems (hardware and software) in current building are beyond lifetime.
- Increased risk for flooding
- Increased risk for fire
- Increased risk for mould
31 May 2019 KB national library
Clean water from a burst drainage pipe leaked about 8,000 liters in the underground storage. The excess water was quickly removed, but it took several days for the concrete to dry and the RH to drop below 60%. Building driers were used to collect the moisture from the air.
What to do for emergency preparedness?

Standard practice:
• Update emergency preparedness plan
• Emergency organisation: crisis team, collection-help-team
• Staff training in crisis management, collection salvage, fire extinguishing
• Regular exercises – table top and simulations

In addition:
• Creating a risk map
• Plotting collection priorities
What to do for emergency preparedness?

In addition:
• Creating a risk map
• Plotting collection priorities
• Developing 3 disaster scenario scripts with salvage experts
  • Evacuation and treatment of large parts of collection
  • Indication of costs
• Re-connect with security region first aiders (fire brigade)
• Creation of waterproof floorplans for use in an emergency
• Improve emergency documentation for quick evacuation
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