

Archivists Round Table of Metropolitan New York, Inc. (ART) Disaster Planning for Archives and their Communities: Call for Participation

As we approach the one-year anniversary of Hurricane Sandy, train service has been restored to the Rockaways and City beaches have opened for the summer, however many archives, libraries, museums and homes have only just begun to get back to "normal" and others are still a long way away. In the spirit of Archives Week it is appropriate to take time to look back at what happened, what went wrong, what went right, and what can be done differently next time.

The Archivists Round Table of Metropolitan New York, in conjunction with the Center for Jewish History, is organizing a one-day symposium with the aim of bringing together archivists, records managers, librarians, museum professionals, emergency responders, disaster recovery professionals, volunteers and the general public to address how professional and citizen archivists as well as related professionals can both better protect their collections from disaster and also become a resource for the larger community in disaster situations.

Possible areas of interest include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Case studies and "lessons learned" from Sandy or other disasters
- Protecting personal and family records -- providing outreach to the general public
- Continuity of operations and logistics -- how to get back up and running after a disaster
- Navigating FEMA and other disaster relief assistance
- Preventative care of collections versus post-disaster recovery
- Lone arrangers and small shops -- how can small archives band together to help one another?
- Using a disaster to advocate within your organization -- making the archive valuable during a disaster
- Archivists as volunteers -- fostering a culture of giving and creating a network of archivist volunteers
- Disaster planning and recovery on a budget
- How archives and cultural institutions fit into the larger emergence response picture, especially post-Katrina.
- Keeping up morale, resources and volunteer support weeks and months after a disaster
- Disaster planning for born-digital and electronic records
- Protecting vital records for both the archive and the larger organization
- Archiving disaster -- how does a significant event like 9/11 change the normal retention of records? what is the role of the archivist? how are records appraised?
- Man-made versus natural disasters -- the international perspective, especially in areas subject to armed conflict.
- Advocating for archives during larger disaster situations when disaster recovery resources and relief are stretched.

Date: Monday, October 7, 2013

Location: Center for Jewish History, New York, NY

All individual presentations will be 20 minutes long (10 page paper).

Submissions must include a title, name of author and institutional affiliation (if applicable), abstract (250 words max) and indication of technological requirements.

Individual papers or entire panel proposals accepted.

Deadline for Proposals: Proposals should be emailed to admin@nycarchivists.org by August 1, 2013.