

In the wake of damage from Hurricanes Katrina and Rita in 2005 on the United States Gulf Coast, disaster recovery rises to the forefront of many librarians' and archivists' concerns. The problem is that we are still talking, usually after the fact, about how to recover from a disaster, not how to protect collections and buildings before a disaster strikes, nor are we preparing to mitigate disaster. It takes money, time, and unrelenting commitment and attention to create, adopt, absorb, and practice disaster prevention and recovery. Once the adrenaline rush of the disaster is behind us, we complacently go back to life as usual until the next calamity. Most manuals deal with the best-case scenario of treating the damage within forty-eight hours to avoid mold, and *An Ounce of Prevention* espouses that approach. When the roof is gone, the staff has evacuated to another state, and whatever security forces in charge do not allow anyone to enter the area for weeks or months, not just hours, what hope is there for recovery of mold-damaged collections? The reality of catastrophic occurrences such as Katrina and Rita raises the question of the value of following instructions in a disaster recovery manual designed for a burst water pipe or leaky roof. Whole mindsets have to change so they do not fall back into the it-cannot-happen-to-me syndrome.

*An Ounce of Prevention* lays out the groundwork in logical progression for librarians and archivists to start today to plan for all the stages of a disaster. Not only is it essential reading, but an absolute necessity to consult as a practical handbook while writing an institution's disaster plan. The detailed chapters go far beyond most published compilations of conference papers, which often focus on "how I did it in my shop." Wellheiser and Scott include two eye-opening tables dealing with the costs—per book and per box—of recovering and rehabilitating fire- and water-damaged books and archival documents. This book joins its predecessors—Sally Buchanan's *Disaster Planning, Preparedness and Recovery for Libraries and Archives*, Judith Fortson's *Disaster Planning and Recovery: A How-to-Do-It Manual for Librarians and Archivists* (New York: Neal-Schuman, 1992); Camila Alire, ed., *Library Disaster Planning and Recovery Handbook* (New York: Neal-Schuman, 2000).<sup>1</sup>—Susan Hamburger (*sxh36@psulias.psu.edu*), Pennsylvania State University, University Park

### Reference

1. Sally Buchanan, *Disaster Planning: Preparedness and Recovery for Libraries and Archives* (Paris: General Information Programme and UNISIST, United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization, 1988); Judith Fortson, *Disaster Planning and Recovery: A How-to-Do-It Manual for Librarians and Archivists* (New York: Neal-Schuman, 1992); Camila Alire, ed., *Library Disaster Planning and Recovery Handbook* (New York: Neal-Schuman, 2000).

***Out-of-Print and Special Collections Materials: Acquisition and Purchasing Options.*** *The Acquisitions*

*Librarian*, no. 27. Ed. Judith Overmier. New York: Haworth, 2002. \$49.95 cloth (ISBN 0-7890-1674-5); \$29.95 paper (ISBN 0-7890-1683-4).

***Guide to Out-of-Print Materials.*** *ALCTS Acquisitions Guides*, no. 12. By Narda Tafuri, Anna Seaberg, and Gary Handman. Lanham, Md.: Association for Library Collections & Technical Services, in cooperation with Scarecrow, 2004. 50p. \$18.50 paper (ISBN 0-8108-4974-7).

Despite the similarity of their titles, *Out-of-Print and Special Collections Materials: Acquisitions and Purchasing Options* and *Guide to Out-of-Print Materials* are two very different sorts of book, both in terms of purpose and integral quality. The former collects—or rather, amasses—a dozen articles of varying quality, from the intriguing to the banal. Adding to the confusion, the writers clearly had no shared vision of audience in mind. The uneven result is a haphazard assortment of articles, some of which—based on one's experience and interest—may well be worth reading, and several of which should be ignored.

Librarians new to collection development or acquisitions work may appreciate the primer-style contributions. Linda Fidler's "The Acquisition of Out-of-Print Music" clearly and succinctly reviews the vocabulary, formats, publishing landscape, and methods of print music acquisition. Stephen C. Wagner's "Acquiring Materials in the History of Science, Technology, and Medicine" performs similar service for its subject matter, but it also includes discussion of the development of collections policies and the selection of materials. Also of interest to new or new-to-rare-books librarians may be Marilyn Bailey Ogilvie's "Books from Abroad, One Collection Development Strategy." Focusing on the Western European trade, Ogilvie anecdotally shares common wisdom well-known to those experienced in the rare book world but that is seldom recorded in print for neophytes.

Several articles offer exemplary approaches for collection building, thoroughly describing a specific and perhaps unique collection, but in ways that may serve as models for others. In "Underground Poetry, Collecting Poetry, and the Librarian," Michael Basinski offers an extensive overview of underground poetry and its history, spelling out along the way implications for a special collection. In "Acquisitions in the James Ford Bell Library," Carol Urness details a true-to-life example of how collection scope and policies have been defined and renegotiated over time. Elaine M. Doak's "chat" titled "Decisions, Decisions, Decisions: A Tale of Special Collections in the Small Academic Library" offers another case study, one less exemplary perhaps only for its greater frankness.

While the Purdue University Libraries' Books on Demand pilot project and subsequent studies of its results are both strong and strongly provocative, the content of Suzanne M. Ward's "Books on Demand: Just-in-Time

Acquisitions” may be found elsewhere in her co-authored articles. Collection development librarians should read this material in one of its iterations.

Less helpful are the literature review articles. Editor Judith Overmier’s own “Twenty Years of the Literature on Acquiring Out-of-Print Materials” unfortunately provides mere summary rather than a critical overview. Svetlana Korolev’s “Gifts to a Science Academic Librarian” is little if anything more than a summary of others’ work.

Out of place in this book is John Alhouse’s too-brief (approximately two pages) article, “Using Older Materials in Support of Teaching.” Barbara Patterson’s “Four Factors Influencing the Fair Market Value of Out-of-Print Books: Part 1” offers no new insights, and Overmier and Wallace Koehler’s “Part 2” follow-up study provides only an example of what not to publish. Their own conclusion that their sample size is insufficient for reliable results neither fails to dissuade them from publishing their study, nor stops them from relying on this data for other conclusions.

Unlike the former book, *Guide to Out-of-Print Materials* fulfills an explicit purpose, “to provide an overview of both the traditional and online resources available to the acquisitions librarian in locating and acquiring materials that are considered to be out of print” (1), covering resources related

to books, videos, sound recordings, and serials. Presented in outline format, the guide provides a wealth of crucial information in concise, well-ordered snippets. Comprising mainly vendor contact and bibliographical resource information, its coverage with regard to English-language materials and the English-speaking world is excellent, and thus it deserves a place in any library acquisitions department.

The strong value of the guide’s information intensifies its greatest weakness—its print format limits its usefulness as a quick reference. The reader is bound by the categories into which the entries are sorted, with not even an index to aid in finding information regarding a specific vendor, Web site, or other entry. For example, while the Web sites of AddALL.com and Bookfinder are (correctly) classified as metasearch engines, this separates them from the listings for such close cousins (in practice) as Abebooks and Alibris. In addition, some Web addresses and other contact information, as might be expected, are already out of date. Librarians using this book will quickly long for an electronic format, which could be more easily searched and kept current (not to mention hotlinked). A must-read for those new to the area, the guide will yet hold value for even the most senior acquisitions librarian.—*Darby Orcutt (darby\_orcutt@ncsu.edu), North Carolina State University, Raleigh*