A Green New Deal for Archives

Eira Tansey, University of Cincinnati
May 20, 2022, Society of Ohio Archivists
Four key points

1. Risk to archives is inevitable and increasing because of climate change
2. The main line of defense against archival loss is people
3. We can learn from the precedent of the New Deal
4. We need a Green New Deal to ensure a future for archives
Key Point #1

1. Risk to archives is inevitable and increasing because of climate change
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Climate change and archives

American archives and climate change: Risks and adaptation

T. Mazurczyk, N. Piekielek, E. Tansey, B. Goldman

https://doi.org/10.1016/j.crm.2018.03.005

Highlights
- Climate risks to cultural heritage in archives are unevenly distributed across the U.S.
- Climate change will modify archive risk exposure in the future.
- Archivists need reliable and local climate risk information for planning.
- Climate risk analysis and mapping can inform adaptation efforts.

https://doi.org/10.1016/j.crm.2018.03.005
Hurricane Katrina

https://www.nbcnews.com/id/wbna9316512
Key Point #2

1. Risk to archives is inevitable and increasing because of climate change
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Closure of Georgia Archives

The Georgia archives has state-of-the-art equipment, including four floodproof vaults in the building's core. Virginie Droppa-Kiropetse for The New York Times

By Kim Severson
Sept. 26, 2012

MORROW, Ga. — The Georgia Archives, which holds both historical curiosities and virtually every important state government document ever created, is about to become nearly impossible to visit.

## CoSA data

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<th>State</th>
<th>2020 Census Pop</th>
<th>FY20 State Archives and RM Program FTE</th>
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<tr>
<td>California</td>
<td>39,538,223</td>
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https://www.statearchivists.org/viewdocument/2021-the-state-of-state-records-a
Key Point #3

1. Risk to archives is inevitable and increasing because of climate change
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Historical Records Survey in Cincinnati and Cleveland

https://ohiomemory.org/digital/collection/p267401coll34/id/4239/
https://www.ohiomemory.org/digital/collection/p267401coll34/id/5475
1. Title: River Improvement Contracts

2. Dates: 1892-1931

3. Quantity: 1 book

4. Labeling: none

5. Discontinued and missing records: no

6. Contents: A record of river improvement contracts. Principal items of information shown. Summary of forms used in making record: showing date, name of river, location, between what points, nature and kind of improvement, kind of material, cost of labor, contractor's name & obligations. Also 17 B's of original contracts (1892-23)
INVENTORY OF THE COUNTY ARCHIVES OF OHIO

NO. 31
HAMILTON COUNTY (CINCINNATI)

Historical Records Survey
WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION

Auditor, 365-72

365. LONGVIEW HOSPITAL BUILDING COMMISSION RECORD, 1915-24. 1 vol. Record of bills and accounts for the construction of a new addition to the hospital listing nature of work, name of firm supervising work, time and cost accounts. Alph. arr. by names of contractors. No index. Hdw. 74 pp. 16 x 13 x 1. C.C., aud. strm., bmt.


367. MINUTES, HAMILTON COUNTY TUBERCULOSIS HOSPITAL BUILDING COMMISSION, 1928--. 1 vol. Records minutes and proceedings of Hamilton County tuberculosis hospital commission. Record is kept in the auditor's office as he is an ex officio member of the commission. Chron. arr. No index. Typed. 600 pp. 15\(\frac{1}{2}\) x 12\(\frac{1}{2}\) x 3. C.C., Rm. 109.

https://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=mdp.39015041071054&view=1up&seq=1
Resettlement Administration/ Farm Security Administration

"Destitute pea pickers in California. Mother of seven children. Age thirty-two. Nipomo, California" 1936

https://www.loc.gov/item/2017762891/
https://guides.loc.gov/migrant-mother
“Cheap partly-constructed houses lacking water and sewage, Lockland, Ohio” 1935
“Car has just entered the safety lane at an auto emission inspection station in downtown Cincinnati, Ohio.” 1975.

Inspections began in 1940 and were made on a semi-annual basis until January, 1975 when they became an annual event. In addition to the safety check all light duty, spark ignition powered motor vehicles are hooked up to an exhaust analyzer and monitored for carbon monoxide and hydrocarbon emissions. Officials hoped to have 74 percent of the cars in Cincinnati and Norwood inspection by the end of 1975.
Lessons from Ohio’s Archivists: The Ohio Network
Lessons from Ohio’s Archivists: Ohio Labor History Project
Key Point #4

1. Risk to archives is inevitable and increasing because of climate change
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A Green New Deal for Archivists

1. Establishing appropriate archivist and records manager staffing for archives with vital records

2. Partnering with emergency management and planning authorities for adaptation and inland migration

3. Archivists as research partners for policy decisions

4. Data management partnerships with scientists

5. Bioregional documentation strategies
WPA Illinois Art Project, https://www.loc.gov/resource/cph.3f05175/

Aaron Hughes, https://justseeds.org/graphic/warehouse-workers-for-justice-earth-day-to-may-day-day-7/