

# Bindings

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# *Heart of the University*

## *Held in the Hands of Hundreds*

Nancy L. Baker, University Librarian

I'm generally not a superstitious person, but when I drove to campus on Friday, June 13th I knew that it was going to be a day unlike any other in my career. All week we had been watching the flooding up river. We had been evaluating the potential level of threat to our collections in the Main Library; relocating evacuated staff from the Art and Music libraries; and trying to maintain "business as usual" as this very unusual situation unfolded.

That morning, I had learned the Main Library was going to be evacuated and the University would be reduced to essential services (key administrators, the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics and Facilities Management) the following week. My twin concerns were about helping the 100+ staff members in the Main Library manage this transition and moving the at-risk collections upstairs from the lower-level storage areas. The administrators and I immediately began identifying space in other campus libraries for Main, Art and Music Library staff. By the end of the day we had moved the necessary people and items that we would need to operate in our new temporary, scattered locations.


The evacuation of the at-risk collections was another matter entirely. Sid Huttner, Head of Special Collections and Nancy E. Kraft, Head of Preservation, had been directing teams of library staff volunteers to evacuate the bottom shelves of the Special Collections storage. They had devised a highly effective method using a line of staff members, book trucks and elevators. We began to realize Friday morning that we needed more people. As word spread through the Faculty Senate, Staff Council

and student government, people began to arrive. When Interim Provost Lola Lopes asked for volunteers to help evacuate books from the lower-level of the library at an early afternoon press conference, the "floodgates" had been opened. Literally hundreds of people descended on the library, and our circulation staff began organizing book brigades to remove books from the lower level.

There are nearly 500,000 books located in the basement storage area. This is a tightly packed space with bookstacks on tracks that must be slid over to create aisles. The positioning of the tracks and the width of the aisles makes it impossible to use book trucks in most places in the storage area. Moving just the books from the bottom shelves would be a monumental task, given those tight spaces. But when hundreds of people stopped by on Friday the 13th, we knew we could make an attempt.

As I walked around the building, I saw dozens of familiar faces and so many new ones. As you would expect there were faculty from the "book disciplines" (English and history, for example), but faculty from the health sciences, business and engineering were also volunteers. There were children passing books alongside their parents. Lynette Marshall, President of UI Foundation, was working in the basement for at least five hours that afternoon. Our circulation staff worked tirelessly managing these volunteers and determining which portions of the

storage were most vulnerable (i.e. the least replaceable). When we made the decision to stop the evacuation at 9 p.m. most of the volunteers wanted to stay longer. We had moved 50,000 books and hundreds of boxes of manuscripts to upper floors of the library in less than 24 hours. Frankly there was not much space left on the upper floors to move much more. Never had I expected support for the library to manifest itself so dramatically. Even today I do not have adequate words to express my sincerest thanks to the staff and volunteers. Fortunately the 2-3 inches of ground water that flooded the basement that weekend, did not reach any books. We were very, very lucky.

This is the kind of event that I hope I will never again experience in my career. But what I learned on that Friday the 13th is that the library truly is the academic heart of the campus and all those nay-sayers who predict the demise of libraries did not witness the commitment of hundreds of volunteers to save our books. 



# Flood Stories

Lindon Larson, Director of University Relations Publications

In the early weeks of June, as predictions of massive flooding were realized, the University and Iowa City community came together to help our friends and neighbors. Stories of these myriad efforts began surfacing, so we in University Relations decided to publish them online as a companion to the Flood Information Site. Below are a few about the library.

## Preserving Film

A crisis like the 2008 flood reveals things we might not notice otherwise—the sense of purpose that can unite a big institution, the muscles that start to ache after a day of sandbagging, and the diverse, often irreplaceable collections housed in pockets of the University.

Take the global cinema archive amassed by the Institute for Cinema and Culture. Many of its film prints, DVDs and tapes are gifts from visitors to campus, or finds by faculty traveling the world.

Corey Creekmur and colleagues had emptied their department's basement storage in the Adler Journalism Building. But as the flood threat grew more dire, they

decided to evacuate the institute's first-floor holdings, too.

"By then we had no power and no elevators, yet there was this amazing willingness to pitch in," says Creekmur, director of the institute and associate professor of cinema and comparative literature, crediting Jenny Ritchie, Lacey Plathe, Sarah and Donald Moeller, Rick Altman, Claudia Pummer, Ellen Sweeney and Teresa Mangum for their heavy lifting.

Creekmur later helped move Special Collections and University Archives materials from the Main Library basement next door, and found that the library's Media Services department had likewise rescued its film collection—thousands of reels.

"I knew we had a lot of films," he says, "but seeing them in stack after stack, literally taking up all the space in Media Services, was astonishing."

## Neighbor Helping Neighbor

UI alumnus, Iowa City resident, and *Wall Street Journal* editor-at-large Michael Judge published a column about the eastern Iowa

floods in the *Journal's* June 17 edition. He wrote:

"Even as we mourn, we prepare for the flood's aftermath and continue to salvage what we can. Among the thousands of stories of neighbor helping neighbor, volunteers sandbagging night and day to protect property that belongs to others, perhaps the most inspiring was the effort made to save the University of Iowa and its classrooms, libraries and museums.

Last week and through the weekend, hundreds of volunteers gathered on campus to reinforce the, in some places, 10-foot high sandbag walls erected to hold back the Iowa River. Students, teachers and townspeople formed a human chain to relay books from the basement of the UI Main Library to higher floors, moving thousands of titles, one-of-a-kind dissertations and rare books out of harm's way."






### Visceral Effort of Saving Books

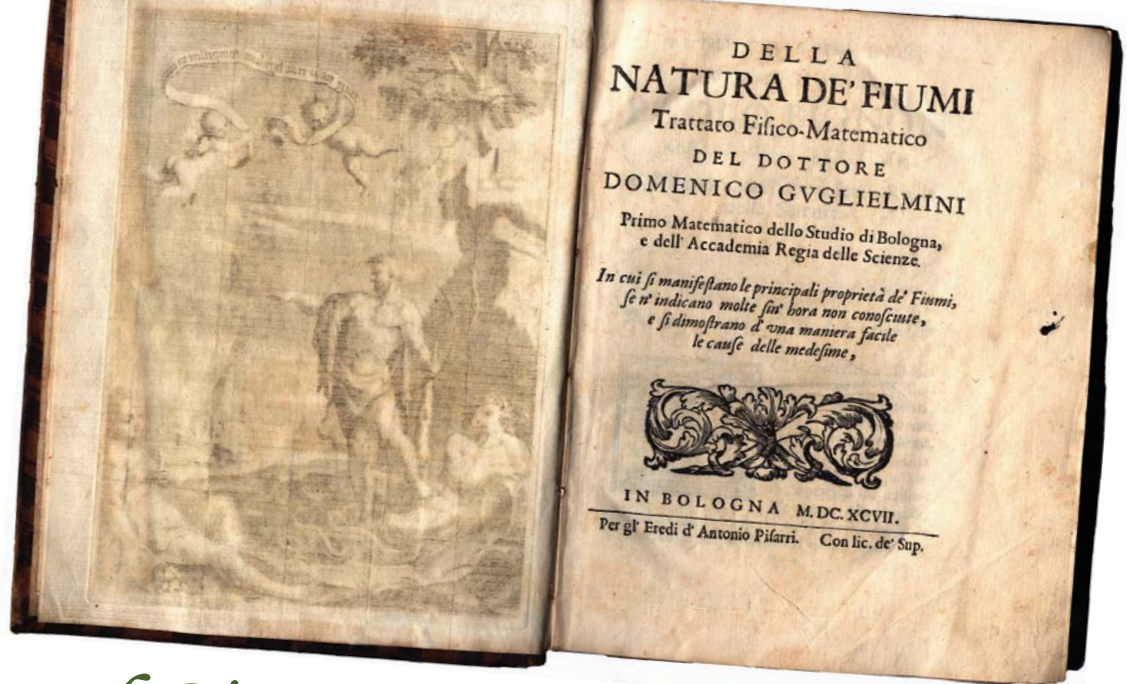
Teresa Mangum, associate professor of English, joined colleagues in moving library materials on Friday, June 13.

“As a member of the English Department, I was not surprised to find many of my colleagues—both faculty members and graduate students—in the Main Library ‘book brigade.’ In my line alone, I saw Mike Chaucer, Corey Creekmur, Eric Gidal, Loren Glass, Rob Latham, Laura Rigal and Phil Round. Many of us had been working in the sandbagging lines during the week, but I suspect we felt especially grateful for the visceral, physical effort of saving books—the words, ideas, conversations and knowledge at the heart of university life that we treasure deeply.

Being reminded that we share those values with the hundreds of students, staff, community members, and faculty from across the University who showed up to

volunteer at the library was a heartening gift during a tough week. But we are, after all, ourselves—English professors. To great general amusement, every time a lull fell, most of the book brigade grabbed snacks or bottles of water. Not the members of the English department. Given two minutes to rest, we opened whatever books we found in our hands...and started reading. Heartfelt thanks to the library staff members for your efforts and for letting us play a small part in preserving our library.” 





# *The Nature of Rivers*


Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow

Greg Prickman, Assistant Head of Special Collections and University Archives

In 1697, the superintendent of water for the city of Bologna, Italy, Domenico Guglielmini, published a book entitled *Della Natura dei Fiumi*, known in English as *The Nature of Rivers*. It detailed his studies of how water behaves in river channels, and the movement of sediment over time. Guglielmini's text is accompanied by a series of engravings depicting his observations, showing rivers cascading through the Italian countryside. *Della Natura dei Fiumi* was well-received in its time, though Guglielmini went on to practice medicine, giving up his study of hydraulics.

Three hundred eleven years after its publication, a copy of Guglielmini's book was one of several thousand items removed from the basement of the Main Library when, according to its nature after a winter and spring of heavy snow and rain, the water rose on the Iowa River outside the building. The book was removed quickly and placed on a book truck along with dozens of others, which was pushed by a chain of staff and volunteers through the narrow confines of the basement to an elevator that took it to a secure lounge on the fifth floor. In the frantic rush to beat the river's crest, most of the volunteers who arrived at the Main Library to help relocate material never had the chance to study the items they were handling. In addition to books like Guglielmini, volunteers might have grasped a box full of James Van Allen's papers, or documents from the Iowa Writers' Workshop, or scrapbooks containing thousands of postcards depicting long-vanished railroad lines.

The enthusiasm and hard work of the volunteers who assisted the library was overwhelming. But the question that haunts the

success of the effort still lingers - why were these collections at risk in the first place? In Special Collections & University Archives, one of our primary jobs is to protect the materials we collect - and yet, many of those materials are stored in a temporary basement location. It's an imperfect solution to the perennial problem of shelf space, one that we make the best of while planning for the upcoming state-of-the-art off-site storage facility. If the nature of the river is to remain powerful and unpredictable, as studied by Guglielmini and his contemporaries, then the nature of the library is to collect and protect in equal measure, remaining sensitive to the often conflicting demands of access, use, and space. My hope is that if there was anything irrefutably demonstrated by the floods in June, it is that we will do anything we can to preserve the materials entrusted to us, even if that means moving them when there is no other option. 



## *Just One Pair of Helping Hands*

Each of Us Has a Role

Randy Rumery, Director, Gift Planning and UI Library Liaison

The devastating flood of summer 2008 took its toll on the University of Iowa Libraries. Not only did the rising waters threaten the University of Iowa Main Library and many of its collections, but the flooding also closed the art and music libraries.

Though it certainly was a difficult summer, all of us associated with the UI Libraries are deeply grateful for the strong showing of support that brought countless people to the Main Library to help pass materials from hand to hand before water entered the basement. It reminds us that we are part of a vibrant community, full of helping hands.

Though the waters have receded, the flood's long-term effects have not—and private support for the Libraries is more important now than ever. Not only must we meet the new challenges that the flood created, but we also must continue to invest in Libraries projects that were top priorities before the flood.

Here are just a few of the Libraries initiatives that generous gifts can make possible:

- Supporting outstanding print collections for students, faculty, and other users, who count on the UI Libraries for comprehensive and up-to-date print collections.
- Providing exceptional online resources by offering access to valuable online journal articles—and by continuing to digitize unique and important manuscripts, photographs, and other materials from Special Collections and the Iowa Women's Archives.
- Fostering valuable collaborations between UI faculty and librarians through tutorials, workshops, short courses, and instruction within courses.

By joining together in providing crucial private support for the UI Libraries, this year and every year, alumni and friends can lend a helping hand in the important task of preserving our Libraries collections—and keeping them accessible—for generations to come.

For additional information about supporting the Libraries, please contact Randy Rumery, UI Libraries liaison for the UI Foundation, at [randy-rumery@uiowa.edu](mailto:randy-rumery@uiowa.edu) or at 319-335-3305 or 800-648-6973.

To learn more about a variety of giving options for the UI Libraries, through The University of Iowa Foundation, visit: [www.uiowafoundation.org/giftplanning](http://www.uiowafoundation.org/giftplanning).

To make a gift for the UI Libraries online today, please go to: [www.givetoioowa.org/libraries](http://www.givetoioowa.org/libraries).



# *The Show Must Go On*

## Serving Relocated Arts Faculty and Students

Ruthann McTyre, Head of the Rita Benton Music Library and Rijn Templeton,  
Head of the Art Library

Situated along the Iowa River, the arts campus is one of the most picturesque spots of the University of Iowa. This particular location also means that it is one of the most vulnerable. As the river rose in June, the arts campus was the first to be evacuated. When five-to-eight feet of water breached sandbag walls and filled seven buildings - Art Building, Art Building West, Clapp Recital Hall, Hancher Auditorium, Museum of Art, Theatre Building, Voxman Music Building - the arts campus was devastated. It will be one of the last areas to fully recover.

Luckily, the Art Library and the Rita Benton Music Library are both located on the second floor. Though the new Art Building West and Voxman Music Building both sustained significant damage, the libraries remained dry. After the water receded, crews started the long process of clean-up and renovation. One of the first steps in this process is to install a high-powered dehumidifier, which circulates hot, dry air throughout the building including the libraries. Keeping these collections free of mold and mildew is one of our biggest concerns. The University

Libraries' preservation staff has installed sensors through the collections, so they can monitor "the weather" throughout the rebuilding process.

When University of Iowa President Sally Mason said, "This university is known for its commitment to the arts, and we will honor that commitment to the fullest," those of us in the arts community felt a mix of emotions. We were pleased that the show would go on, so to speak, and art, music and theater classes would not be cancelled. We were also anxious about where all of our faculty and students were going to be physically located and how we could work with them to fulfill their teaching and research needs.

School of Music faculty are housed in a new office building in downtown Iowa City. Rehearsal spaces for the large ensembles, practice rooms, teaching space for private lessons and so forth have been secured in spaces around Iowa City. Production staff for opera, dance and theater, have been relocated elsewhere as well. The studio art programs of School of Art and Art History are housed in a former big-box, building supply store on the southwest side of Iowa

City. This relocation may be one of the first times in recent memory that all of the studio art programs are located under one roof.

Relocation issues for us in the Art and Music libraries also remain in flux. Though most of us will be located in the Main Library's Information Arcade for the next year, Rijn and Ruthann are splitting their time in offices near relocated art and music faculty. Adjusting to the "new normal" is taking some time, but we're getting there because staff members in the Main Library have been gracious and generous hosts and have gone out of their way to make us all feel at home.


We still miss our faculty and students. The music library is a gathering place in Voxman, and the sense of community is a strong one. After all, we're all used to performing in various ensembles and are accustomed to working together in creating our art. Now that we're all scattered all over Iowa City, like so many other campus units, we feel like orphans.

We have developed a procedure for retrieving materials from the art and music libraries. Our collections are still





Eric Dean, School of Art and Art History  
*On Friday, June 13th, floodwaters broke through the sandbag levees that were protecting the arts campus. By the afternoon water had crept to Art Building West, which is located on the west side of Riverside Drive. This photo, taken from the bluff behind the building, glimpses into the deserted Art Library.*

mostly print-based, and our students and faculty must have these materials for both academic study and for performance purposes. Faculty, staff and students can make requests for needed materials online, then at least once a day library staff make special trips to the libraries to retrieve these books, printed music and other media materials. Maintaining access to information resources is critical and our priority. We know that this will be a difficult year for arts faculty, staff and students and we want to do everything we can to help them. 

# Thousands of Books, Hundreds of People

## A Timeline of the Flood of 2008

Kristi Bontrager, Public Relations Coordinator

As the threat of potential flooding on the University of Iowa campus was communicated, members of the Libraries staff began the necessary work both inside the library and across campus to save as much as possible. Many parts of campus sustained massive damage and recovery efforts are expected to last at least a year.

Like many other people in Iowa City and Coralville, several library staff members lost their homes and possessions to the flood. The University has established an emergency relief fund to assist faculty, staff and students displaced from their homes by the flood of 2008.

In the Main Library, we were lucky; the situation could have been much worse. No collections in the Main Library were harmed. The only materials that sustained damage were checked out to a graduate student whose basement apartment in Coralville flooded. In total the Main Library was closed for 23 days.

**JUNE**  
**9**  
MONDAY

Preparations were made to relocate staff and essential book materials from the Art Library in Art Building West and the Rita Benton Music

Library in the Voxman Music Building to the Main Library.

Special Collections and Preservation librarians began assessing potential trouble spots in the Main Library basement.

Staff from across the Libraries volunteered for sandbag duty on campus.

**JUNE**  
**10**  
TUESDAY

The Art and Music libraries were evacuated along with the rest of the Arts Campus.

A link to the online *Flood Recovery Booklet* was distributed through the UI Flood Information website and the Libraries website.

Administrators met with Dave McClain from Facilities Management to further assess flood risk to the Main Library.

Staff members continued working on volunteer sandbag crews.

**JUNE**  
**11**  
WEDNESDAY

The fifth floor study lounge in the Main Library was converted to a temporary storage space

for Special Collections materials. Through the efforts of the student workers, the bottom shelves (essentially 12-18 inches of space) were relocated upstairs.

**JUNE**  
**12**  
THURSDAY

After receiving new flood estimates, staff determined to move materials from the Special Collections storage area in the lower level of the Main Library. Student workers as well as staff continued relocating materials.

**JUNE**  
**13**  
FRIDAY

Administrators were notified that the Main Library would be evacuated. More than 100 staff members in the Main Library packed their belongings and prepared to disperse to other libraries and locations across campus.

IT staff moved servers out of the Main Library and relocated them to the Engineering Library. These servers provide access to all of the Libraries' electronic resources.

Relocation of Special Collections and other difficult-to-replace materials continued through the efforts of hundreds

of volunteers throughout the day and evening. Handing books along a "book brigade" that snaked down hallways and up stairwells, volunteers were able to move tens of thousands of books from storage including thousands of theses of University masters and doctoral candidates. One volunteer estimated that they were "passing nearly 100 books a minute."

Sandbaggers built a dike along the west side of the Main Library and around the loading dock entrance.

Governor Chet Culver, Senators Tom Harkin and Chuck Grassley and Representative Dave Loebsack along with UI President Sally Mason other University and City officials visited the Main Library and thanked volunteers for their efforts.

Satisfied that as much of the irreplaceable collections as possible were out of harm's way and concerned about the additional weight load on the upper floors, officials ended the book relocation at 9 p.m. The building was locked and alarmed.

**JUNE**  
**16**  
MONDAY

The University of Iowa suspended classes and all non-essential services for the week of June 16.

**JUNE**  
**23**  
MONDAY

Staff returned to work, and those from the Main Library dispersed throughout the rest of the library system or worked from home. Library administrators and others took over the group study rooms in the Pomerantz Business Library; some days working side-by-side with business students who were finishing their summer classes. Central Technical Services staff set up operations in the Information Commons classroom in Hardin Library. Staff in Reference and Library Instruction,



who were all working independently from their homes, communicated via Google Chat and answered incoming email reference questions.

Sandbags were removed from the around the Main Library, and crews began working to remove water and clean the resulting “muck” from the lower level. A fire panel that had been removed in the flood evacuation had to be re-installed and the air quality had to be tested before the building would be approved for occupancy. Once the environmental quality assessment was complete, a team consisting of people from UI Police/Public Safety, Facilities Management, ITS and Risk Management collectively made the decision for re-occupancy.

**JUNE**  
**27**  
FRIDAY

Circulation and Media Services staffs developed system to take requests from faculty and students for needed materials for teaching and research. Once a day, for 30 minutes, designated library staff were allowed into the Main Library to retrieve materials.

The American Library Association Annual conference began in Anaheim, California. Many library staff members attended this conference.

**JULY**  
**2**  
WEDNESDAY

The servers were moved back to the Main Library in preparation for re-opening.

**JULY**  
**7**  
MONDAY

After the 9 a.m. campus briefing, Nancy Baker was notified that the Main Library had been certified for re-occupancy. Administration, Information Technology and Circulation were the first departments to return to the building. Other Main Library departments would return to the building over the next two days.

**JULY**  
**9**  
WEDNESDAY


Main Library re-opened to the public, and most departments resumed business as usual.

The third floor hallway was filled with stacks of Special Collections materials; theses from the University Archives covered the tables in the Government Documents Reading Room; the fifth floor study lounge, which was also filled with special collections materials, remained locked and secured. Special Collections librarians and volunteers began to move the materials back to the storage area. Being unable to secure the third floor hallway, work moving these materials continued every hour the building was open.

Study space in the Main Library is very limited. An estimated 800 seats were unavailable because evacuated materials were temporarily being stored upstairs. The Main Library has about 1450 seats (study tables and leisure seating).

Circulation staff began the complex job of returning over 51,000 evacuated books to storage. Working in teams to re-sort materials and transport them to the lower-level, staff estimated the project could continue through the rest of the summer.

**AUGUST**  
**6**  
WEDNESDAY

Nancy Baker hosted a “Books are Back” celebration for all staff. 





# *After the Water Receded*

## Salvaging Cultural Treasures

Nancy E. Kraft, Head of Preservation

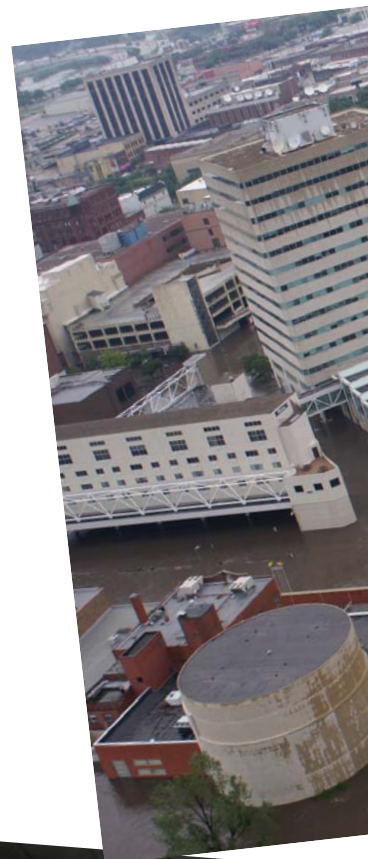
Every day I commute to work in the Main Library at the University of Iowa with my husband, Randy Roeder who is also a librarian, from our home in Cedar Rapids. Named for the river that bi-sects the city, Cedar Rapids was devastated this summer when record-breaking floodwaters breached the riverbanks. The river came up fast and ugly, reaching well beyond the 500-year flood plain. The downtown business district, the historic Czech village and countless homes were submerged under eight feet of water. But nearly as fast as the floodwaters came up, they receded. Then we were able to begin the recovery process.

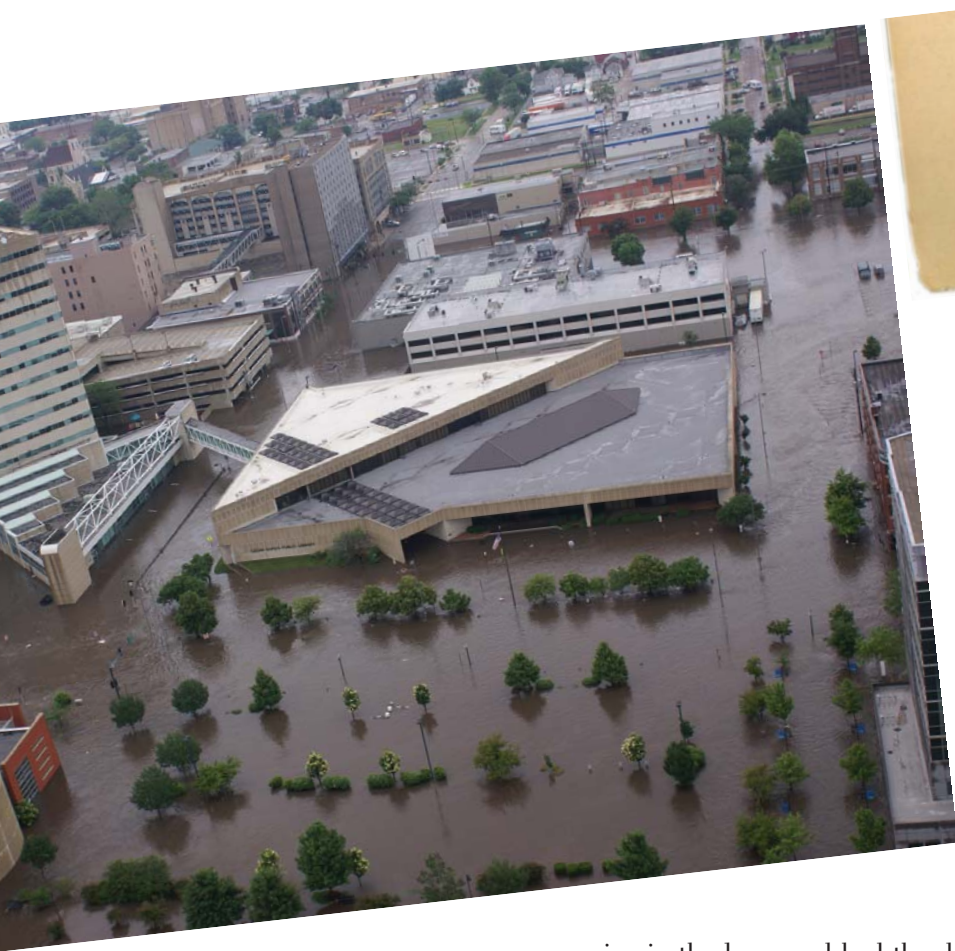
Most of our cultural resources – Cedar Rapids Public Library, Theatre Cedar Rapids, Science Station, African American Historical Museum and Cultural Center of Iowa, Czech & Slovak Museum & Library, Cedar Rapids Symphony Orchestra – are located along the river and stood no chance against the floodwaters.

In the middle of June when the University of Iowa closed for the week and Iowa City braced itself against the flooding Iowa River, I worked through the

initial recovery process with the Czech and Slovak and the African American Heritage museums in Cedar Rapids. With the help of city officials, we were able to get a recovery team and freezer truck to the Czech museum on Tuesday, June 17. That first day the mud and gunk was so thick that we weren't able to do much more than shovel it out. Over the course of the week, we were able to salvage materials and rescue damaged materials. On Wednesday, June 18, we turned our attentions across the river to the African American Museum, which sits directly across from the Czech museum. Thanks to the hard work of staff and volunteers, we were able to remove almost all of the artifacts from both museums by Saturday, June 21.

The staff members at both museums handled this difficult situation remarkably. They followed all the response steps we presented at a refresher course on disaster preparedness held in Cedar Rapids only three weeks before the flood. They assessed materials before going to work; divided into teams; assigned a coordinator; kept the disaster recovery





Nancy E Kraft

service in the loop; and had the director answer questions from the media, insurance company, board of directors and volunteers. They unflinchingly made tough decisions on what to save or discard based on an in-depth knowledge of their collections. They worked hard to keep their volunteers fed and hydrated.

Dry materials from the museums went to a newly secured location in Cedar Rapids. Wet items were put into the freezer truck, which will stop mold from growing, to begin the drying process and buy the conservationists some time to work on the items. We also invited local churches and other cultural institutions to add their wet and damaged materials to the freezer truck, which is now at a special facility in Fort Worth, Texas. Textile conservators from the Chicago Conservation Center came on-site to clean textiles; a wood conservator did an initial assessment and provided advice. Jane Meggers, State Historical Society of Iowa Conservator and Anna Embree, University of Alabama Conservator also provided some needed expertise and assistance. Items that could not be frozen or rescued on site have been

sent to a University of Iowa storage site on the Oakdale campus. The Preservation and Conservation staff members at the University of Iowa have now begun the long process of cleaning and preserving these cultural treasures.

To see more of Nancy's photos of the clean-up work in Cedar Rapids, check online at:

[www.flickr.com/photos/10805964@N06](http://www.flickr.com/photos/10805964@N06).







## *I Answered the Call*

Library Staff on the Sandbagging Lines  
Duncan Stewart, Cataloging Librarian

In mid-June the University of Iowa called for volunteers to sandbag along the Iowa River as it rose higher and higher. Staff from the University of Iowa Libraries turned out in droves to fill sandbags on the Arts Campus, then to clear our own basement shelves of irreplaceable material, and finally to sandbag around the Main Library itself.

When I volunteered to sandbag over by Hancher Auditorium I had visions of a team of intrepid library workers, chest deep in the raging flood waters, forming sandbags into an impenetrable wall to preserve the sousaphones in the School of Music. In reality the team of librarians I worked with shoveled sand, filled bags and twisted the nasty wire closers around the neck of the bags, from the safety of a dry parking lot.

My crew included the Archivist, the Georgia photographer and the Cowgirl. There were many more from the Libraries there as well. We worked hard in the hot sun, but the catering by Facilities Maintenance and the Salvation Army was superb: lots of water, some pop and a dump truck full of donuts, which were a bit sandy from the truck's earlier load. While most of the people bagging were librarians there were a few souls from other parts of campus—students, admissions staff, nurses, professors—but the librarians definitely set the sizzling pace.

One guy from Acquisitions strolled by lugging a pallet of full sandbags; the next time I saw him he was carrying a broken forklift on his back. When we had the strength to talk, the Archivist regaled us with stories about the foul-mouthed parrot who survived a tornado in his hometown, the guy from Georgia

promised to bring me a real can of possum on his next trip home, and the Cowgirl made us laugh with her deadpan humor.

Sandbagging was tough, but inspiring in a way—as we do our myriad different jobs day in and day out it is possible to lose sight of the fact that everyone at the Libraries and the University is working toward a common goal. I had time to ponder this more when I returned to the Main Library and joined the team working to save the collections in the library basement.

The orderly evacuation of collections from the bowels of the library reminded me of the pictures I've seen of lines of people passing books hand to hand from the Old Armory to the new Main Library building in 1951. Special Collections staff oversaw the move, but I saw everyone, from student workers to library retirees in the narrow aisles of the basement storage area.

I had planned to stay for another 24-hour sandbagging shift with the group working on the west side of the Main Library, but was ordered to go home by the Technical Services Lieutenant Colonel, because all the bridges across the Iowa River were expected to close.

As I staggered out of the Main Library with a duffel bag full of my most precious cataloging possessions—my foreign language dictionaries—I met my wife. We waded through the waist-deep water roaring over the Burlington Street Bridge and dripped our way home. OK, not really waist-deep, but it did look like it was going to rain again. B





When the Risk Management Office at the University of Iowa sent out a call for volunteer photographers to document the destruction of campus buildings, two members of the library staff stepped forward. Donald Baxter and Carol Johnk, both Library Assistants in the Acquisitions Department, volunteered to wade through sludge covered buildings with their cameras.

Each day they would be assigned a different location on campus. The photo session would begin with the outside of the building, then they would work their way inside photographing hallways, common areas and eventually individual offices, classrooms, laboratories, storage spaces and studios. They photographed each room from a variety of angles trying to capture the whole of the destruction.

Early on in the project they were photographing buildings before the cleaning crews had arrived on the scene. Some of the building still had standing water in them.

"I wore the same clothes and boots every day," said Johnk. "They smelled so bad that I wouldn't even go into my house with them; I would change clothes in the garage and immediately throw them in the wash."

As the floodwaters receded and more buildings had been cleaned, Donald and Carol would return to document the progress of the recovery. Between the two of them, they estimate that Mayflower dorm was photographed during at least five different stages of recovery.

"Taking these pictures took me to parts of campus that I had never been to before," said Baxter. "It was dramatic to see all of the equipment and materials that had been lost. Things like printing presses, developers and other equipment that was just too big to move."

In addition to the personal volunteer efforts of Donald and Carol, the Libraries has stepped up to be the repository of all of these digital images. Staff in Digital Library Services has created a password-protected collection of these images in the Iowa Digital Library. The Risk Management office will utilize these images as they work with the University's insurer and the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

# *Libraries Across Iowa*

## *Stories of Devastation and Hope*

Annette Wetteland, Communications Coordinator, State Library of Iowa



**W**ild weather this spring and summer has wrecked havoc on the libraries across Eastern Iowa. Three Iowa libraries have been seriously damaged by flooding: Cedar Rapids Public Library, National Czech & Slovak Library and Museum, and New Hartford Public Library. Additionally the African American Historical Museum and Cultural Center of Iowa in Cedar Rapids lost a small book collection (1,000 volumes). The public libraries in Chelsea, Creston, Elkader, Iowa Falls, Rockford, St. Charles and Waterloo had water damage ranging from mild to fairly serious.

### **Cedar Rapids Public Library**

Viewing the first floor of the Cedar Rapids Public Library today is deceiving. The ground floor has been stripped down to its concrete base and walls; it looks much like it did 25 years ago—under construction. Onlookers would never guess that just four weeks ago, it held secrets of the universe.

Everything on the first floor of the 85,000 square foot facility - which occupies a city block - was lost to the flood including the entire adult and youth collections (approximately 200,000 items), public access computers and a state of the art check-out system. In addition, thousands of furniture items, including tables, chairs, book carts, filing cabinets, shelving and display racks were damaged beyond repair. Also, hundreds of pieces of electronic equipment, including

printers, fax machines, microfilm readers, projectors, recording equipment, video cameras, amplifiers, cash registers, security cameras and public address systems—lost.

The good news is that the collections on the second floor were unaffected by the flood. This primarily is a collection of children's books which are in good condition and will be able to be re-circulated.

"We're truly lucky in so many ways," says Interim Director Tamara Glise. "A third of our collection is intact, our building appears to have survived, our staff remains with us, and members of the community have been wonderful. We're counting our blessings every day."

The library is currently operating out of the West Side Branch in Westdale Mall.

The mall management has generously donated extra space that approximately doubles the total space of the facility. They hosted a Grand Opening Celebration of their "West Side Annex" at the beginning of August.

### **New Hartford Public Library**

Located just 20 miles west of Waterloo, Iowa, New Hartford Public Library suffered significant damage to its building, collections and equipment when nearly two feet of water flooded the library. Nearly 80 percent of the collection was destroyed. Librarian Valerie Ballhagen has been working with city officials, the Northeast Iowa Library Service Area and the State Library of Iowa to manage the flood recovery. Teams have been working to renovate the electrical systems, finish the walls and install new carpet.

Thanks to the generous support of several Iowa librarians, the children's summer reading program will take place in another city building.


The State Library of Iowa actively champions libraries. Our two roles are improving library services in Iowa and





delivering specialized information services to state government and to Iowans. Our mission is to advocate for Iowa libraries and to promote excellence and innovation in library services, in order to provide statewide access to information for all Iowans.

For more information about the State Library of Iowa or for an update of libraries affected by the flood, please check our website at [www.statelibraryofia.org](http://www.statelibraryofia.org).

*For information about the flood recovery efforts of the National Czech & Slovak Library and Museum and the African American Historical Museum and Cultural Center of Iowa, see Nancy E. Kraft's article on page 10. *



Libraries affected by the floods are not able to accept book donations. Monetary donations are welcome and may be sent to the following:

**Cedar Rapids Public Library Foundation**  
500 First Street Southeast  
Cedar Rapids, IA 52401  
[www.crlibrary.org](http://www.crlibrary.org)

**Friends of New Hartford Public Library**  
P O Box 292  
New Hartford, IA 50660  
[www.newhartford.lib.ia.us](http://www.newhartford.lib.ia.us)

**National Czech & Slovak Museum and Library**  
30 Sixteenth Avenue Southwest  
Cedar Rapids, IA 52401-5904  
[www.ncsml.org](http://www.ncsml.org)

**African American Historical Museum and Cultural Center of Iowa**  
P.O. Box 1626  
Cedar Rapids, IA 52406-1626  
[www.blackiowa.org](http://www.blackiowa.org)





## Exhibits



### **Community, Education, Family, Tradition: Latinos in Iowa**

*Comunidad, Educación, Familia, Tradición: Latinos en Iowa*  
August – November 2008

The exhibit documents and celebrates the history of Latinos in Iowa. By emphasizing four aspects of the Latino experience the exhibit

shines a light on a community that is experiencing a historic growth in the state. The Latino population in 2006—nearly 120,000—represents an increase of 30% since 2000.

### **Lincoln Bicentennial**

*December 2008 – February 2009*

February 12, 2009 marks the 200th anniversary of the birth of Abraham Lincoln. In conjunction with exhibits and programming at the State Historical Society of Iowa, Inc. in Iowa City and the Herbert Hoover Presidential Library in West Branch, Iowa, these exhibits will highlight the remarkable life and times of our 16th President.

### **When the World Spoke Arabic**

*March – July 2009*

For more than 300 years during the 9th – 12th centuries the new Islamic empire stretched from Spain to Central Asia, and Baghdad was the intellectual capital of the civilized world. This new civilization served as the transmitter of knowledge from the ancient Greeks and Romans to our modern civilization.

## Recent Events

### **Memories of a Hiroshima Atomic Bomb Survivor**

*Wednesday, September 10, 2008*

Ms. Yoshiko Kajimoto was working as a mobilized student in an airplane parts factory 2.3 km from the epicenter of where the atomic bomb was dropped on Hiroshima. She visited the University of Iowa to share her atomic bomb survivor experience. Mr. Steven Leeper, Chairman of the Hiroshima Peace Culture Foundation, accompanied Ms. Kajimoto. He is a well-known peace activist and the first American to head the foundation.



### **Under the Current, Collecting Stories from the Flood**

*Tuesday, September 30 – Saturday, October 11*

In an effort to document the Flood of 2008, the UI Libraries invited StoryCorps to the

University of Iowa to record oral histories. This collection will highlight the remarkable efforts of people across the University and in the community in the face of the most devastating flood in recent memory. These oral histories will become part of the Iowa Digital Library and be archived at the Library of Congress. For more information about the project, please check the Libraries website [www.lib.uiowa.edu/events/floodstories](http://www.lib.uiowa.edu/events/floodstories).

### **African Film Series**

*War Dance - Wednesday, October 1, 2008*

*Ezra - Wednesday, October 15, 2008*

In collaboration with the UI Center for Human Rights One Community, One Book project, the Libraries and the African

Studies department sponsored screenings of related films. *War Dance* tells the story of three children living in a displacement camp in northern Uganda who compete in their country's national music and dance festival. It was nominated for an Academy Award in 2007 and won the directing award at the Sundance Film Festival that same year.

*Ezra* is the first film to give an African perspective on the disturbing phenomenon of abducting child soldiers into the continent's recent civil wars. It was awarded the Grand Prize at the 2007 Festival Panafricain du Cinema à Ouagadougou (FESPACO), Africa's largest and most prestigious film event, and was selected for the International Critics Week at the 2007 Cannes Film Festival.

### **One Community, One Book Discussion**

*A Long Way Gone*

*Second Floor Study Lounge, Main Library*

*Wednesday, October 22, 2008, 8:00 p.m.*

The Libraries' hosted a discussion of Ishmael Beah's **A Long Way Gone**, this year's selection for the One Community, One Book Discussion – All Johnson County Reads. There may be as many as 300,000 child soldiers, hopped-up on drugs and wielding AK-47s, in more than fifty conflicts around the world. Ishmael Beah used to be one of them. He is one of the first to tell his story in his own words.

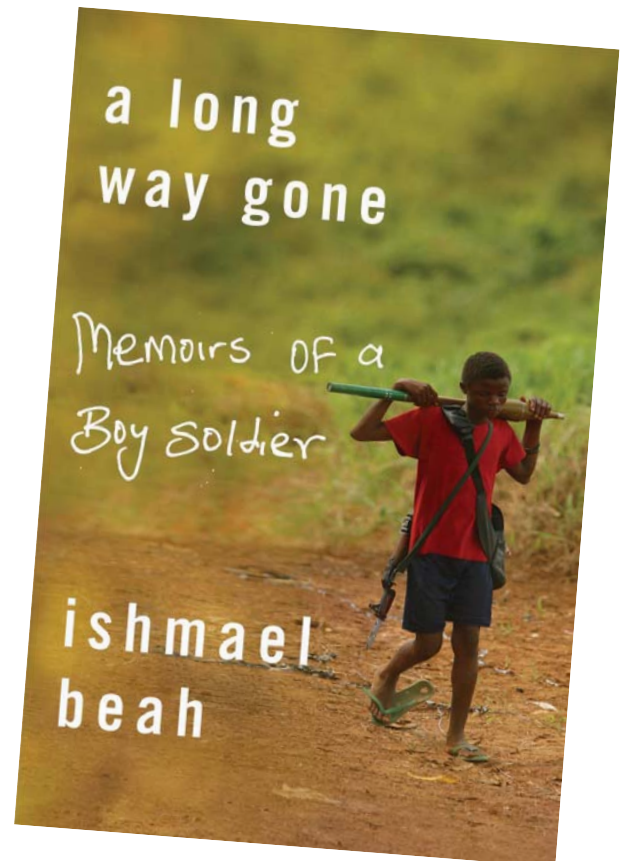
### **Celebration of Community, Education, Family, Tradition: Latinos in Iowa**

*North Exhibition Hall, Main Library*

*Wednesday, October 8, 2008, 12:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.*

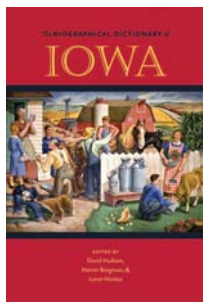
It was an afternoon of food (Tres Leches cake and Pan Dulce), music and an interactive presentation of traditional Latino paper

arts. Herminia Albarrán Romero, a National Endowment for the Arts National Heritage Fellowship Award honoree, will travel from San Francisco to teach the art papel picado (paper-cutting) for Dia De Los Muertos altars.



# *The Lives of Iowans*

Contained at the UI Libraries



With the acquisition of our 5 millionth volume, the University of Iowa Libraries joins an elite group of libraries in the US. Only a small percentage of libraries ever reach that mark.

This coming year, the Libraries will reach that milestone and at the same time the University of Iowa Press will be celebrating its 40th anniversary. To mark these occasions, the Libraries has chosen *The Biographical Dictionary of Iowa*, edited by David Hudson, Marvin Bergman and Loren Horton, published for the State Historical Society of

Iowa by the University of Iowa Press, to be the 5 millionth volume in our collection.

Iowa has been blessed with citizens of strong character who have made invaluable contributions to the state and to the nation. In the 1930s alone, such towering figures as John L. Lewis, Henry A. Wallace and Herbert Hoover hugely influenced the nation's affairs. Iowa's Native Americans, early explorers, inventors, farmers, scholars, baseball players, musicians, artists, writers, politicians, scientists, conservationists, preachers, educators and activists continue to enrich our lives and inspire our imaginations.

Written by an impressive team of more than 150 scholars and writers, the readable

narratives include each subject's name, birth and death dates, place of birth, education, and career and contributions. Many of the names will be instantly recognizable to most Iowans; others are largely forgotten but deserve to be remembered. Beyond the distinctive lives and times captured in the individual biographies, readers of the dictionary will gain an appreciation for how the character of the state has been shaped by the character of the individuals who have inhabited it.

*Look for more information about this celebration in the Spring of 2009 in the coming months.*

University of Iowa Libraries

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