

Tornadoes Impact on the Library Community in Alabama

The tornadoes that devastated Alabama and other states this past week killed over 318 people and did millions if not billions in damage. What follows is current information on the status of our colleagues, friends, and libraries in Alabama.

If you know of librarians or libraries that have been impacted, please forward that information to me at the following email addresses:

- From now until Thursday, May 4: ron.leonard@ache.alabama.gov
- Between May 4 and May 16: rpauleonard@hotmail.com

While nothing can replace those lives lost, all of us can help the living and rebuild communities. Please give generously to the relief agencies listed here.

NAAL Members and Friends Impacted

Birmingham Public Library: <http://www.bplonline.org/>

The Pratt City Branch of Birmingham Public Library was severely damaged. The library's website has photos showing the damage and a response team hard at work.

Pell City Public Library

Per state librarian Rebecca Mitchell, "Pell City ...received roof damage."

University of Alabama - Weather Advisory Page: <http://www.ua.edu/weather/>

- Information on the University's status, relief efforts, and more.

Although university libraries weren't damaged, the homes of some faculty and staff of both the libraries and the School of Library and Information Sciences were severely damaged or destroyed. Dr. Louis Pitschmann, Dean of University Libraries, reports one social work librarian suffered minor injuries, but is doing okay; five people lost their homes, and four people had major damage to their

homes. Per Dr. Elizabeth Aversa, Professor and Director of the School, if people would like to provide assistance to the faculty and staff, she encourages them to give to the UA Acts of Kindness Fund.

University of North Alabama

Per Melvin Davis, Director of Library Services, one of his staff members lost her home. The university may establish a fund to help her.

Preservation Resources

Alabama Cultural Commons

Randy Silverman, a preservation librarian who provided disaster preparedness workshops for the Commons last fall, is volunteering to help librarians whose collections have been damaged.

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Mr. Silverman provides a tip to the public: "The number one thing people should be aware of is that if their family photos got wet they need to be separated immediately or they will irreversibly stick together. This needs to happen in the first 24-48 hours generally so we are already out at the edge of the time to do that. If people want to help, offering to take a person's family photos home and separate them if they can still be peeled apart to allow them to air dry (face up) would be a huge step in terms of saving people's photos."

Lyrasis

Disaster Resources: <http://www.lyrasis.org/Products-and-Services/Digital-and-Preservation-Services/Disaster-Resources.aspx>

- Call Lyrasis Preservation Services, 1.800.999.8558, day or night for help with emergencies.

- The Disaster Recovery and Response section has numerous resources identified by type of damage and type of material.

Per Kate Nevins at Lyrasis, if anyone's library is closed due to damage, Lyrasis will notify vendors.

Relief Efforts

Alabama Cultural Commons – Disaster Recovery Resources:

<http://alabamaculturalcommons.org/about-the-project/tornado-recovery-resources/>

- "...ways for us to give, volunteer and advocate for our friends and neighbors"

American Red Cross: <http://www.redcrossblood.org/>

- Per Dr. Elizabeth Aversa at UA's School of Library and Information Sciences, "Because of the number of injuries, please consider donating blood. You can donate blood at any [American Red Cross location](#) and designate it for Tuscaloosa. This is one of the most important actions we can take to help those affected in the Tuscaloosa area."

State of Alabama – The Governor's Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives:

<http://www.alabama.gov/sliverheader/Welcome.do?url=http://www.servealabama.gov>

- "For information on donating to the Governor's emergency relief fund for the recent Alabama tornado outbreak" and volunteer opportunities.

School of Library and Information Science – University of Alabama:

<http://bama-slis.libguides.com/helpBama>

- "A guide to resources on how to help our friends in Alabama recover from the recent national disaster."

UA Acts of Kindness Fund:

<https://www.ua.edu/advancement/giving/donate/?division=2&account=349>

- "...an emergency-assistance program for UA employees and students."

Per Donna Adcock, Director of Public Relations at the University of Alabama Libraries, "Anyone who is interested in contributing to the UA Acts of Kindness Fund may donate online here: <http://bit.ly/uaactsofkindness>. More information on UA's tornado relief efforts may be found at <http://www.ua.edu/tornadorelief/>. On

the online form, there is a place to designate if you are making a gift in honor or in memory of someone. Please type in "Please Notify UA Libraries" or "In honor of UA Libraries".