

**Año 2 Número 42 septiembre 2017**

**Contenidos de este número**

1. Texas Libraries Hit Hard by Hurricane Harvey

By [Lisa Peet](http://lj.libraryjournal.com/author/lpeet/)



Texas National Guardsmen assist Houston residents affected by Hurricane Harvey onto a military vehicle.  
Photo credit: Lt. Zachary West for the Army National Guard

Hurricane Harvey brought record-breaking rainfall and catastrophic flooding to southeast Texas during the last week of August. Unprecedented rainfall in the Houston-Galveston area caused what Texas Gov. Greg Abbott described as “one of the largest disasters America has ever faced.”

Tens of thousands of area residents crowded emergency shelters, hundreds of schools did not open as planned, and Houston Community College, Rice University, and Texas Southern University all announced closures.

By Tuesday, August 29 more than 3,500 Houston residents had been rescued, but with rain still falling at press time, the extent of the damage was still to be determined.

Area libraries have sustained damage from water and wind, although at press time floodwaters were still so high, and local roads so impassible, that assessment was impossible. “We don’t really know where we are in terms of damage to libraries,” [Texas Library Association](http://www.txla.org/) (TLA) director of communications Wendy Woodland told LJ. “We’re hearing anecdotally [about] different libraries that are open, different libraries that are closed, but not anything substantive and official.”

**READY TO REACH OUT IN HOUSTON**

The Houston Public Library (HPL) has been unable to check on any of its 42 locations spread out over more than 600 miles. “The teams that we would have going to them can’t get to them,” explained HPL director Rhea Lawson, “because they’re either dealing with their own evacuation or flooding issues, or they’re impeded by road closures. It’s just a really treacherous situation that we’re in right now.” About 25 staff members are in shelters, and many had to leave their homes.

Two HPL branches, the McCrain-Kashmere Gardens and McGovern-Stella Link Neighborhood Libraries, were used during the flooding as “lily pads”—temporary shelter for displaced residents until they can be transported to a more permanent location. The fire department had to break into the buildings to give people access, Lawson reported.

Lawson hopes to begin providing services at HPL’s Central Library as soon as possible, even if only in part of the building. Houston residents will need connectivity and help with insurance and Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) services, and programming for children because area schools remain closed. She also wants to get a team out to provide children’s services in the shelters, and bring laptops to evacuees who may only have cell phones on which to fill out government forms.

Lawson has experience providing disaster relief; Hurricane Ike hit the area in 2008, three years into her role as director. “We were able to provide similar services,” she told LJ, “so we’re taking those lessons, and lessons from others”—library systems from across the country have reached out in Harvey’s wake—“to see if we can stand up those services for our neighbors who need them.”

Lawson’s team has developed a damage assessment checklist, she said, so that all will know what to look for and report on as they begin to access the branches.

**TRACKING THE DAMAGE**

TLA is working in partnership with the [Texas State Library and Archives Commission](https://www.tsl.texas.gov/) (TSLAC) to track and log reports on area library conditions from local Listservs in order to put together an authoritative report. “We really don’t know what the damage is, other than—it’s going to be extensive,” said Woodland. “It’s going to be awful.”

News of the storm’s impact on local libraries is beginning to trickle in: the Rockport library, where the storm first made landfall, reportedly sustained significant damage, as did the Aransas County Public Library. Larger libraries, such as the Harris County Public Library and Fort Bend County Libraries, remain closed.

In addition to libraries located on Houston-area campuses, most of which are closed through Labor Day, the National Networks of Libraries of Medicine reported closings at the Texas Medical Center Library (Houston), MD Anderson Cancer Center Library (Houston), Houston Methodist Hospital Library, and Moody Medical Library at the University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston. Flooding was reported at the University of Houston Law Library.

**HELP NOW AND GOING FORWARD**

Local partners were lending a hand even before the storm hit; the Brownsville Public Library hosted a volunteer sandbag-filling in its parking lot on Thursday, August 4.

Now, as damage from the storm is assessed and library staff begin returning to their buildings, TLA will be working to offer them support and resources. “We’re addressing it on two levels,” explained Woodland. “Our members who are librarians may be impacted by this personally, whether their home flooded or they have family members who were flooded, they’re dealing at that level, and also dealing with the library…. They want to be there for the community, be a resource, offer people a place to go where they can plug in their phones and get on the computer and start their FEMA applications.”

TLA has posted a page of [disaster relief resources](http://www.txla.org/groups/DRC-resources) for those impacted, and wants to add to that information as more opportunities arise. “We want to put together ideas and guidance…that give [libraries] ideas of how to reach out,” said Woodland, “how to partner with different community organizations, how to make the library a community center for people looking for disaster recovery resources.”

In addition, said TSLAC director Mark Smith, “We’re going to reach out to FEMA and other types of government organizations to make sure that libraries are listed as in need of emergency services.” Working together, TLA and TSLAC are working to put together a list of resources for librarians once they are back to providing programming.

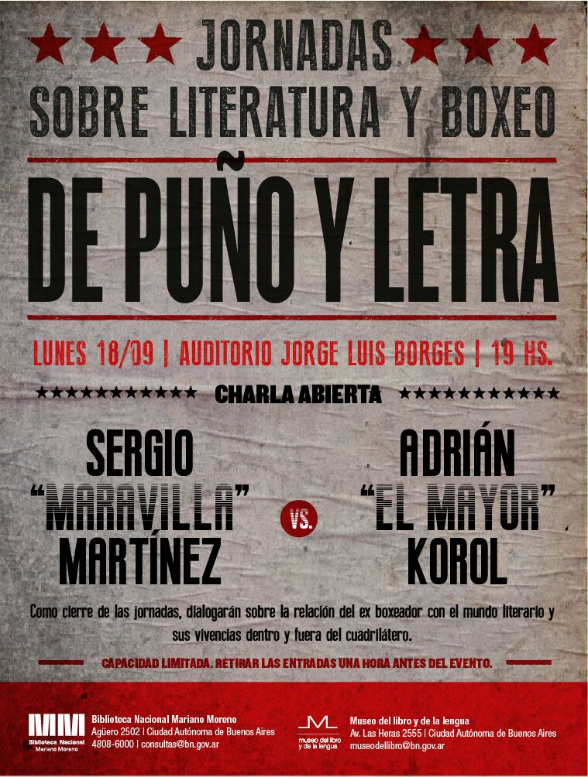
[**http://lj.libraryjournal.com/2017/08/public-services/texas-libraries-hit-hard-by-hurricane-harvey/**](http://lj.libraryjournal.com/2017/08/public-services/texas-libraries-hit-hard-by-hurricane-harvey/)

1. ***Literacy Redefined***

Dear Reader,   
  
The editors of *Library Journal* and *School Library Journal*  have convened some of today’s leading advocates, thinkers, and doers on literacy programming in public libraries, including speakers from the March 2017 Public Library Think Tank in Miami, to discuss in actionable terms how public librarians are redefining literacy. The result is our upcoming [**Literacy Redefined**](http://mediasource.actonservice.com/acton/ct/10574/s-13d9-1709/Bct/q-0291/e-0290-l-0281:47b79/ct2_0/1?sid=TV2%3AkrQgu8vGd) online course.  
  
From September 27-October 19, this live, interactive online workshop features leading advocates for literacy programming in public libraries. In just six hours over four weeks, the program will address literacy in its widest sense—digital, media/information, civic, reading readiness, visual, multicultural, and health literacy—and will identify tools for leveraging partnerships to fuel programming and funding.

As a subscriber to our newsletter, your readership is greatly appreciated. So, I am pleased to offer you a discount of **25% off** our standard rate for the course. Simply enter the promotional code “LJREVIEWS” to receive your discount as you [**register**](http://mediasource.actonservice.com/acton/ct/10574/s-13d9-1709/Bct/q-0291/e-0290-l-0281:47b79/ct3_1/1?sid=TV2%3AkrQgu8vGd).   
  
For more information about the course, please visit our website, where you can [**download the agenda**](http://mediasource.actonservice.com/acton/ct/10574/s-13d9-1709/Bct/q-0291/e-0290-l-0281:47b79/ct4_0/1?sid=TV2%3AkrQgu8vGd) and [**view the full list of speakers**](http://mediasource.actonservice.com/acton/ct/10574/s-13d9-1709/Bct/q-0291/e-0290-l-0281:47b79/ct2_1/1?sid=TV2%3AkrQgu8vGd) **.**   
  
  
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5. IU Professor’s Archives Inspire Cross-Discipline Projects

By Julia Lee Barclay-Morton



“Lineage as Legacy” exhibition at the Ivy Tech   
John Waldron Arts Center

When Carrie Schwier moved into her position as outreach and public services archivist at the Indiana University (IU) Archives, Bloomington, in 2015 after serving as a full-time staff member at the Archives for nine years, she decided to reach beyond her “avid partners” such as the history department “to departments such as fine arts, folklore, media studies, [and] theater.” This outreach program “has grown from one that was virtually nonexistent three years ago, to one that last year served nearly 700 students in 60 separate sessions. We are now regularly serving about 20 separate departments.”

What she considers the most creative outcome to emerge from these efforts is a recent exhibit at the Ivy Tech John Waldron Arts Center created and curated by fine arts students, Lineage as Legacy, inspired by the archives of metal- and silversmith and jewelry designer Alma Eikerman, founder of the jewelry making program at IU and a professor from 1947–78.

Eikerman, who died in 1995, left her papers to IU. The collection arrived in 2016, and Schwier contacted professor of metalsmithing Randy Long, “to alert her to the fact we’d recently received the Alma Eikerman papers,” she told LJ, “The plan[ was] to have the students write short biographical sketches of Eikerman and then design two pieces of art inspired from the collection or her work. It was actually the students who proposed the idea of the exhibit—they were so excited with what they were finding and producing that they wanted to be able to share it with a wider audience.”

Long was grateful to the library for paying shipping costs for the archive and for providing “the perfect room for researching in the archives for a class of 12–18 students” and considered this “one of the best learning experiences the students ever had.”

Nicole Jacquard, head of jewelry and metalsmithing at IU, who also taught on the project, said that this was the first time she had ever worked with an archive, “and we thought it would be a wonderful way to show our students…how the program developed—back in the 40’s—by a woman who is still having a very strong influence through her legacy in the field today.”

Jacquard believes the students “really got the opportunity to find out how important archives are to understanding history.” Each student was assigned a box and asked to write a paper on the contents, reflecting on what they found interesting and relevant. They were also asked to each make two pieces of jewelry—“one inspired by the work/style during Alma’s tenure,” explained Jacquard. The collection included photos and personal correspondence, including extensive correspondence with her students: “She kept in touch with many of them long after she retired and even put out a newsletter for years, which she sent to her former students on all their accomplishments,” Jacquard told LJ.

**http://lj.libraryjournal.com/2017/08/academic-libraries/iu-professors-archives-inspire-cross-discipline-projects/**

6. MIT Libraries to Host Summit on Grand Challenges in Information Science and Scholarly Communication

Filed by [Gary Price](http://www.infodocket.com/author/gprice/) on August 22, 2017

From MIT:

MIT has received a grant from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation to host a summit on the Grand Challenges in Information Sciences and Scholarly Communication in spring 2018. Inviting experts from across disciplines and sectors, the summit aims to identify critical problems in information science that are solvable within 10 years and which have broad implications across the scholarly community.

Libraries Director Chris Bourg and Director of Research Micah Altman are the grant’s principal investigators. The summit will invite national and international thought leaders from a broad range of disciplines, sectors (corporate, nonprofit, government, university), and domains. Three consecutive 1.5-day workshops will produce draft research agendas in the areas of scholarly discovery, digital curation and preservation, and open scholarship.

The project is a direct outcome of the Institute-wide [Future of Libraries Task Force](https://future-of-libraries.mit.edu/), which was convened by MIT Provost Martin Schmidt in October 2015 and which released its preliminary report in October 2016. The Task Force recommended that MIT establish an initiative to enable bold experimentation and to serve as a hub for best-in-class research on the great challenges in information science and scholarly communication.

More information about summit details and participants will be available in fall 2017.

**http://www.infodocket.com/2017/08/22/mit-libraries-to-host-summit-on-grand-challenges-in-information-science-and-scholarly-communication/**

7. Confederation of Open Access Repositories (COAR) Releases 2016-2017 Annual Report

Filed by [Gary Price](http://www.infodocket.com/author/gprice/)



The COAR Annual Report (public version) [was posted online earlier today.](https://www.coar-repositories.org/files/4_COARAnnualReport2016-2017_public_final.pdf)

Here’s one section from the report:

Membership in COAR has slightly grown over the past year, with eleven new institutions from nine different countries joining since March 2016 (Brazil, Canada, France, Italy, Latvia, Peru, Portugal, Turkey and the USA).

New members since GA 2016:

● Arts et Métiers ParisTech (France)  
● Atilim University Kadriye Zaim Library (Turkey)  
● Getúlio Vargas Foundation (Brazil)  
● ISCTE – Instituto Universitário de Lisboa (Portugal)  
● MIT – Massachusetts Institute of Technology (United States)  
● Padova University Libraries (Italy)  
● Queen’s University (Canada)  
● Universidad Peruana de Ciencias Aplicadas (Peru)  
● University of Windsor (Canada)  
● University Ca‘ Foscari Venice (Italy)  
● University of Latvia

**http://www.infodocket.com/2017/08/17/confederation-of-open-access-repositories-coar-releases-2016-2017-annual-report/**