



Cincinnati Alliance for Response Kick-off Forum

December 12, 2003

Cincinnati Art Museum, Cincinnati, Ohio

The Cincinnati forum, organized by the Online Computer Library Center (OCLC), OHIONET, and other members of the Ohio Preservation Council, took place at the Cincinnati Art Museum on December 12. The morning program featured presentations by Wes Boomgaarden, Preservation Officer of the Ohio State University Libraries, and Julie Page, Preservation Librarian at the University of California–San Diego and also training coordinator for the California Preservation Program. Both speakers urged cultural institutions to reach out to local responders, and they offered successful examples for local and regional planning, mutual aid agreements, and resource-sharing. An afternoon panel outlined disaster response protocols for various levels of government and sparked ideas for training and cooperative efforts with emergency management professionals. The panel included Edward Buikema, director of FEMA's Region V Office; Greg Keller of the Ohio Emergency Management Agency; and J.R. Thomas, director of the Franklin County Emergency Management Agency and immediate past president of the International Association of Emergency Managers. Breakout sessions in the afternoon were organized by regions and gave participants an opportunity to assess local needs, identify regional resources, and define the next steps to take in building regional disaster response networks.

The forum was positively evaluated by attendees. Responses to the question "What significant insights or learnings will you take away from today's meeting?" included "Importance of cooperation within the conservation community and outside," "Regional networks can be effective and add value. Mitigation efforts need additional emphasis," and "...most important, that local [emergency management] offices are interested in hearing from me."