

HERA Meeting – December 15, 2010

On December 15th, HERA held a presentation at the Atlanta History Center featuring John Thomason, who spoke on the new state “Contract to Assist with Vital Records Recovery Following Disasters”. Representatives from the three primary disaster recovery companies, Belfor, BMS-CAT and Munters were available to field questions and hand out company literature.

In the second half of the meeting Christine Wiseman, Preservation Manager at the Georgia Archives and co-author of the Pocket Response Plan (PReP), reviewed a fillable version of the PReP and spoke about the importance of creating one for your institution. The PReP is a concise document designed for use in the first 12-24 hours of a disaster, recording essential information needed by staff. Every person having a response-related assignment should carry a PReP with them at all times.

Participants left with a partial document, plus resources to facilitate the completion of this valuable response tool.

The primary aim of HERA is to mitigate the loss of cultural heritage in the event of a disaster. We are a group of curators, archivists, librarians, preservation specialists, conservators, emergency management personnel, disaster recovery vendors, safety and security staff, and anyone with an interest in protecting cultural institutions.