

Alliance for Response Pittsburgh
February 27, 2009

The Pittsburgh chapter of the Alliance for Response initiative held its latest education session and conversation on February 27th at the University of Pittsburgh's Archives Service Center, located in Pittsburgh's Point Breeze neighborhood. This session focused on risk management issues, mutual aid agreements, and mold remediation. Some 25 attendees were present from Pittsburgh-area libraries, museums, archives, emergency response units, and disaster recovery organizations.

The information and discussion kicked off with a lively, engaging presentation by Richard Cessar of Marsh, Inc., Pittsburgh, a leading insurance broker and risk advisory company. Mr. Cessar helped define risk management for the group, the decision making and preparations involved, and the types of insurance coverage available for risk

The risk management session was followed by a presentation on developing mutual aid agreements for cultural institutions, which was offered by Johnathan Henry of the City of Pittsburgh's Office of Emergency Management and Homeland Security. Mr. Henry told the group about one already existing mutual aid network, Region 13, which covers Pittsburgh and counties in Southwestern Pennsylvania. Region 13 offers support, training, personnel, and equipment for incidents and special events, such as the aftermath of Hurricane Ike and the Steelers' victory parade.

Later, Kevin Lynch of BELFOR Property Restoration discussed their efforts at mold remediation in both large- and small-scale disaster recovery operations. Mr. Lynch detailed the categories of water involved in disaster situations and provided a timeline for water damage and recovery.

Finally, Bernadette Callery of the University of Pittsburgh's School of Information Science (SIS) gave a brief update on the Preservation Fair 2009, a joint effort by the SIS and the Carnegie Museum of Natural History. The Preservation Fair, held on February 28th, offered the general public an opportunity to speak

The meeting was led and organized by Tom Claeson, Program Director for New Initiatives, Lyrasis.

Submitted by John Barnett, Assistant Director, PALCI: Pennsylvania Academic Library Consortium, Inc.