# With Wind and Rain in Your Face: Racing to Survive

LCC: Water in the Archives

Elizabeth Uhlig
Lane Community College
Archives

Oregon Heritage Conference Eugene - May 5, 2008



#### LCC: Water in the Archives

- Chronological account, with photos, of the 'flood' and the response and recovery process
- Lessons learned
- Factors in successful recovery
- Resources and links handout

#### Archives Work Area / Storage Room - April 19



### Source of Leak - April 18





# Wet Boxes - April 18





### Wet Boxes - April 18





### Drying Out – April 19



BELFOR (•)



#### Drying Out – Security - April 19





# Drying Out Shelves - April 19

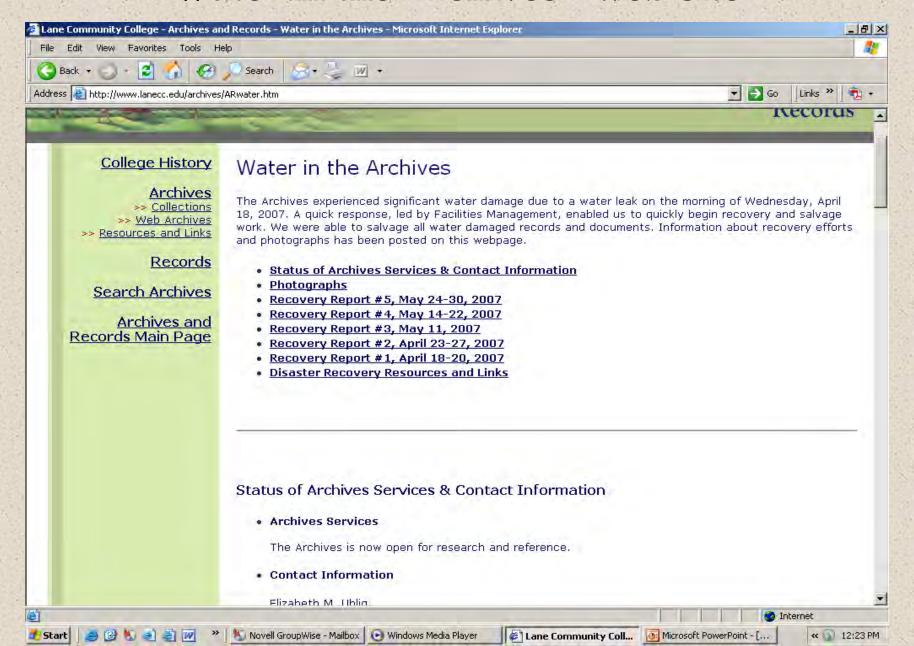




#### **Dehumidification Room – April 19-20**



#### Water in the Archives - web site



#### Contaminated Records – May 1-2



# Removing Carpet & Wall – May 3-4



# Shelving – May 3-4



# Moving Boxes Out – May 3















#### Boxes Returned from Texas - August





### Reshelving Completed - September



#### Lessons Learned

- Have a current disaster response and recovery manual
- Know how to respond don't rush in
- Know source & extent of damage
- Evacuate / Isolate / Evaluate
- Problems
  - Contamination of water
  - Shelving

#### **Factors for Success**

- Institutional support
- Support of supervisor
- Commercial support
- Professional support
- Communication
  - Within institution
  - With public
- Importance of colleagues & friends

#### Resources

- LCC Archives website
- WESTPAS Western States & Territories Preservation Assistance Service
- Heritage Emergency National Task Force
- Oregon Emergency Response System (OERS)
- COOL Conservation On-Line Disaster
   Preparedness & Response website at Stanford Univ.
- A Primer on Disaster Preparedness, Management and Response: Paper-Based Materials LOC, Smithsonian, NARA, National Park Service
- FEMA Federal Emergency Management Assoc.