EVOLUTION OF INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES RELATED TO EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

Céline Allain, Emergency Preparedness and Response Coordinator at the National Library of France
Written heritage in times of crisis
Collections during a disaster

- While written heritage requires a rapid intervention, its safeguarding may not be feasible

- Looting during wars or social conflicts

- Looting during and after a natural disaster
Challenges in the preparation phase

CHALLENGES IN THE PLANNING PROCESS

• Emergency operations planning is often time-consuming and difficult to sustain
• Libraries may face vastly different hazards and threats
• The staff in charge of the Plan doesn’t have access to the required information

CHALLENGES IN THE WRITING PROCESS

• Some plans do not address specific operational issues
• Some plans are narrative, wordy, difficult to use as a guide in an emergency situation
• The plan is stereotyped and not adapted to the organization nor the building
Why a standard-based approach?

ISO 21110

ICCROM

IFLA
How do they differ and how to use them?

- ISO 21110
How do they differ and how to use them?

- ICCROM guidelines and toolkits
- Practical and didactical
- Usable for an on-going disaster in any type of organisation when specific procedures have not been prepared
- Usable for educational purposes
How do they differ and how to use them?

• IFLA Disaster Preparedness and Planning

• Relevant
• Concise and straight forward
• Good introduction to the process of planning:
  • for beginners
  • and for small libraries with reduced staff and time.
Orientations for IFLA’s manual revision

Focus on the preparation phase

- Planning process towards simplification and guidance
  - First priority: prepare for fire: instructions for a fire brigade
  - Use of practical guides for leakage

- Writing process towards a standardized format
  - To be used as guidance
Conclusion

• While the writing of ISO21110 was based on performance and non-prescriptive principles, there seems to be a need for more guidance and practical orientations for the preparation phase,

• Although a standardized template would be useful, there is a risk of focusing on the format rather than the content

• The preparation of operational procedures must be considered the core of the plan.
Please share your thoughts!

We will be happy to discuss these during the Congress or in a working group

Thank you for your attention