

SURVEY ON EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS IN FRENCH LIBRARIES

*TITLE OF THE SATELLITE MEETING : STRENGTHENING EMERGENCY LIBRARIES PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE
DATE: 17-18 AUGUST 2023
LOCATION: AMSTERDAM, THE NETHERLANDS*

ISABELLE DUQUENNE

GENERAL INSPECTOR, GENERAL INSPECTORATE FOR EDUCATION, SPORT AND RESEARCH (IGÉSR), COLLEGE LIBRARIES,
DOCUMENTATION, BOOKS AND PUBLIC READING
EMAIL ADDRESS: ISABELLE.DUQUENNE@IGESR.GOUV.FR



Copyright © 2023 by Isabelle Duquenne. This work is made available under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License: <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0>

Priority topic inserted in the annual Work Program 2020-2021 (consequence of the fire in Notre Dame de Paris, April 2019).

Two instigators: Ministry of Culture (MC) and Ministry of Higher Education and Research (MESR).

The request: an extensive national study on the progress in developing Emergency Preparedness and Response Plans in french archival libraries of all categories (national, territorial, academic and large institutions in Higher Education).

A team of three persons from the General Inspectorate for Education, Sport and research, Libraries, documentation, books and public reading college.

The methodology:

- National survey
- Hearings and interviews (Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Higher Education and Research, Ministry of Home Affairs; National Library of France (BNF), Inter-ministerial archives Service, National Committee of the Blue Shield, directions of libraries, territorial authorities, services responsables for archival collections, training centers: French national library and information science school (ENSSIB), the regional training centres for academic library careers ...



Project deliverables (for MC and MESR ministries purposes):

- **Progress Report classified Public Libraries** issued in February 2022
- **Final report to MC and MESR ministries in september 2022** « Emergency plans in archival Libraries. Towards a national policy for risk prevention » : assessment and analysis of the situation, 17 recommendations.

- **70 millions archival records splitted among archival libraries of the Ministries of Culture (MC) and Ministry of Higher Education and Research (ESR) :**
 - **Two separated guardianships**
 - **Under the authority of the Ministry of Culture: 60 millions of records (more than 30 millions of records at the National Library of France (BNF) + 30 millions in the territorial libraries)**
 - **Under the authority of the Ministry of Higher Education and Research: 10 millions de records**
 - **660 libraries:** the National Library (BNF), 150 academic libraries, 510 territorial libraries



- **Terminology : towards a registered designation**

« emergency plan » (most libraries), « prevention plan », « emergency plan for safeguarding collections » (BNF), « safeguarding plan », « safeguarding plan of cultural works », «safeguarding plan of cultural property » (PSBC in museums, archives and historcial sites and monuments).

As part of an ongoing reflection with the Ministry of Higher Education and Research, Publications and Reading service of the Ministry of Culture – in close consultation with the Ministry of Home Affairs – decided to use the term «**Cultural Property Safeguarding Plan**» , or «**CBMP** » (July 2023).

Furthermore, since the fire in Notre-Dame this term states its purpose clearly among the departmental fire and emergency services, which facilitate the mobilization of appropriate resources.

Méthodology of the national survey:

- **National survey for libraries of all categories** (Culture, Academic, Territorial)
- **Online Survey at the end of may 2021** (Microsoft Form)
- **Comprehensive survey for 54 classified Public Libraries** (10 % of libraries with 25,75 % of territorial archival collections, or 7,7 M records- including State fund)
- **Representative sample**
- **18 questions** (existing plan, date de drafting, date of update, team training, test of the plan, types of collections, type of facility and repositories, safety and security equipment, safety and security teams, past disasters, type and severity, etc.) including a comment section for possible challenges



• **Answers:**

- Out of 660 archival Libraries, 192 answers (183 usable answers)
- Adequate participation

• **Distribution of answers:**

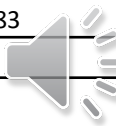
- 136 answers from territorial libraries / Culture (75% of answers)

Note : 100 % of the classified Public Libraries (54) answered

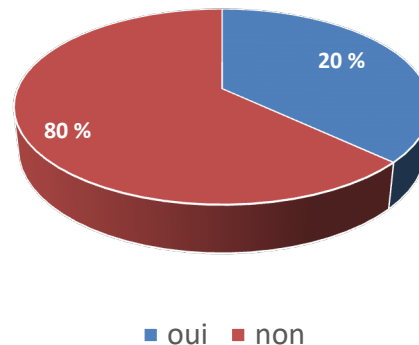
- 47 answers from academic libraries (representing 25% of answers)
- Representative sample

80 % of libraries (147 in the survey) have no Cultural Property Safeguarding Plan (CBMP)

	With a plan	No plan	Nb of answers
Academic	18	29	47
Territorial and Culture (BnF)	18	118	136
Total	36	147	183
% of answers	19,7	80,3	

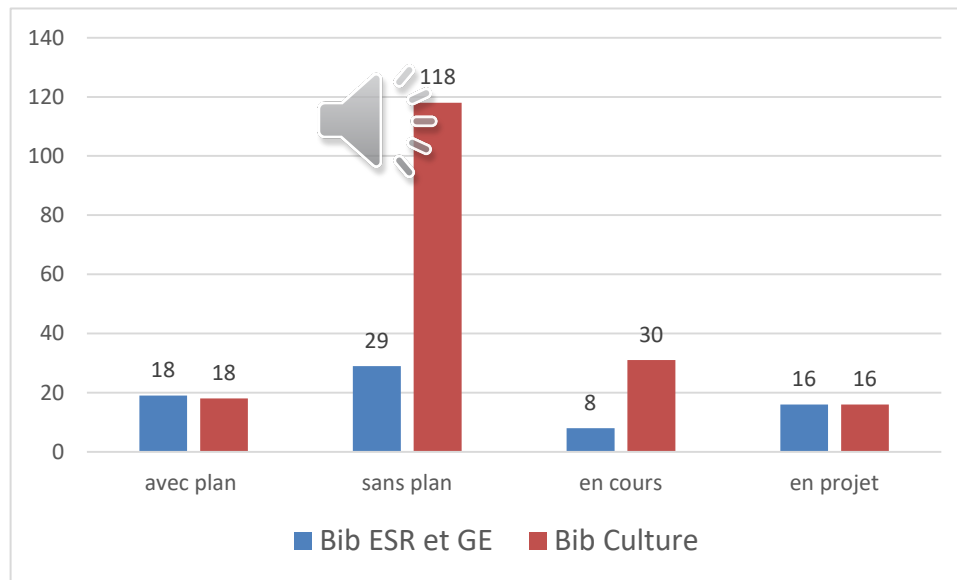


Libraries (all categories) with Cultural Property Safeguarding Plan (CBMP)



20% of libraries (36) with a Cultural Property Safeguarding Plan (CBMP)


- 18 academic libraries (38 % of responses in this category)
- 18 libraries Culture et territorial: BNF (1 counted /8 for the BNF 8 sites) et 17 territorial libraries – 12 classified Public Libraries et 5 others – (12,6% of responses in this category)
- Unexpected: academic libraries are better equipped than territorial libraries
- At the end of the survey in 2021, **38 libraries were engaged in the drafting of their CBMP(in progress)**



- **High-risk sites, inadequate library facilities or complex buildings** (including those classified as a heritage building), worrying conservation conditions of collections (caves, attics, outdated electrical systems)
- « **Notre Dame de Paris** » effect draw the attention on the vulnerability of the « **paper cathedrals**»
- **The experience** of a disaster in the library
- **Awareness of potential risk** and threats (geographic situation in a natural or industrial environment, climate change...)
- **Trainings, seminars, publications including the translation in french of ISO 21110 – *Emergency Preparedness and response* en 2020**, contribute to raise awareness.



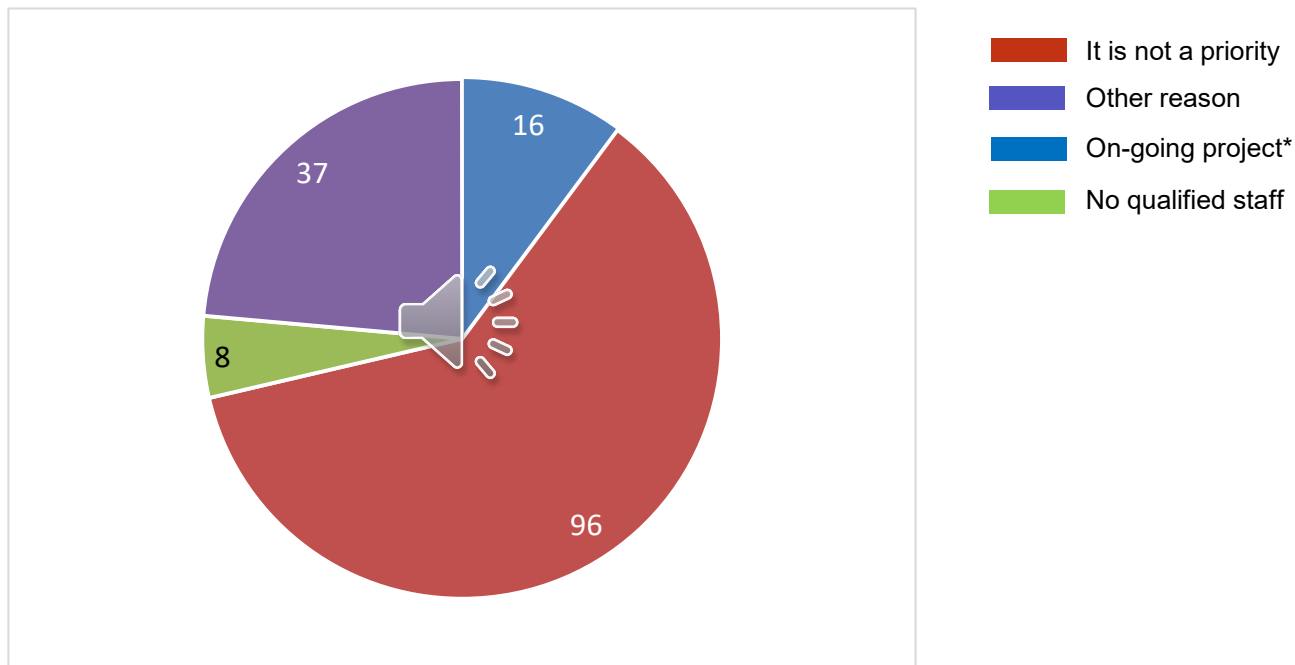
Libraries aware how at risk and challenged in achieving their Cultural Property Safeguarding Plan (CBMP)

- **Barriers stem mostly from lack of time and skills in all libraries (Culture / ESR):**
 - **Human resources and time:** staff shortage, other key internal priorities
 - **Skills gap in preservation and conservation field** and lack of a project leader
 - Lack of basic training, challenges with the facilities, equipment cost, connexion with local / University authorities, difficulty to insert Libraries Emergency Preparedness and Response Plans in local risk management plans
- **Difficulty to insert the Cultural Property Safeguarding Plan (CBMP) in local risk management plans:**
Councils Emergency Action Plan (PCS), plans for preventing natural or technological risks (PPI/PPRI) or ÉTARÉ plan drafted by the fire services.


For instance: 55 libraries are listed in the fire services plans / 137
- **Difficulty in developing a Cultural Property Safeguarding Plan (CBMP) :** standardized document that must be tailored to remain specific, and prepared in consultation with external partners (Local or University's facility and safety management services, local fire services...)
- **High expectation for a methodology and coaching to effectively support their efforts**

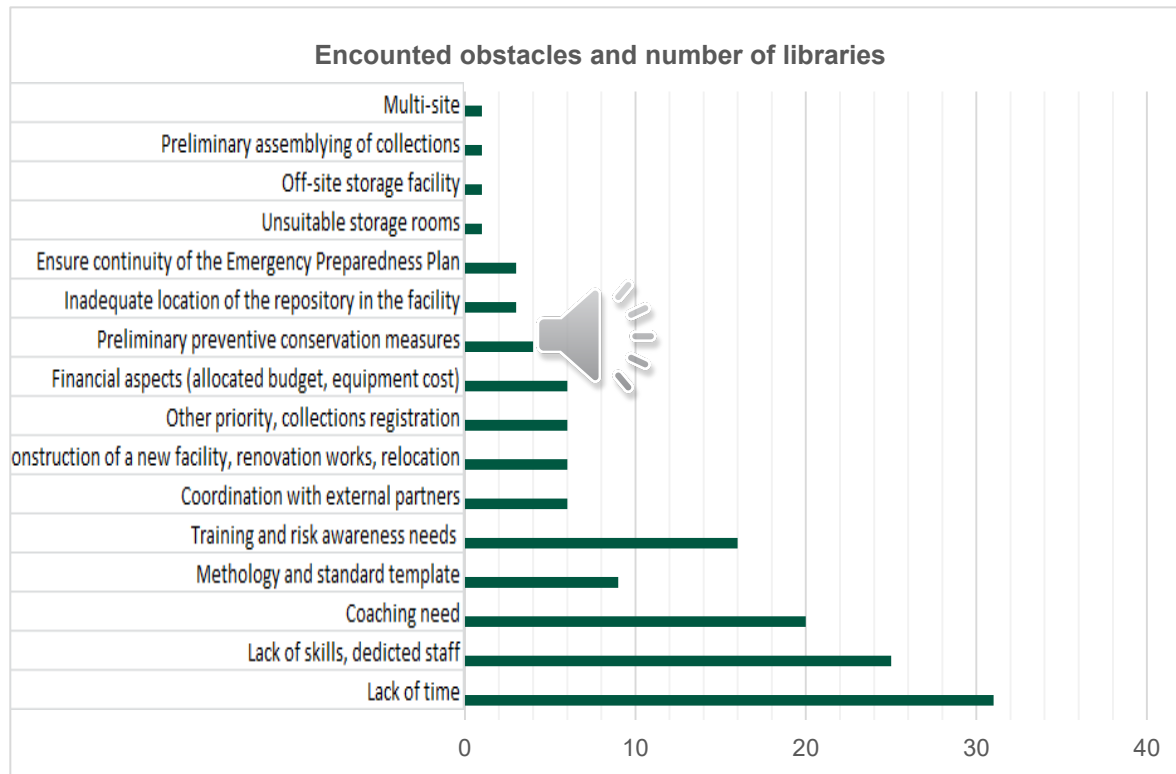
Need expressed by 45 local libraries and most of academic libraries

Libraries with no CBMP: causes and reasons cited



*« on-going project » : no deadline is set, no project leader identified, pending decision, ...

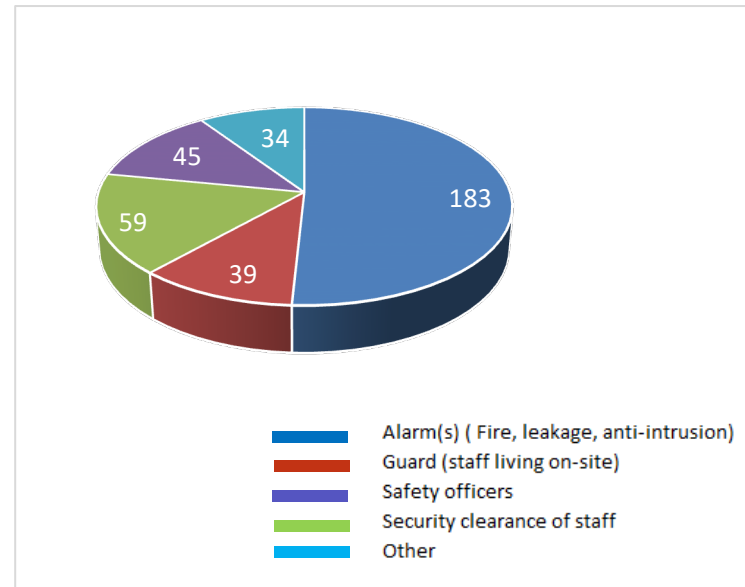
Libraries with no CBMP : typology of obstacles



- **Basic safety and security equipment:** 95 % libraries (183) equipped with at least fire alarm/ anti-intrusion alarm or both.

Yes, but... connected to what unit? Who is responsible for responding?

- **Safety and security agents « generalists » :** 59 libraries (30,7 %)
- **A security clearance of the staff :** 45 libraries (23,4 %)
- **Staff live on site / guard:** 39 libraries (20 %)



According to the survey

- **The 54 classified Public Libraries' level of equipment is slightly above the national average:**
 - 18 (33 %) have fire-safety agents;
 - 14 (26 %) have a guard living on site ;
 - 13 (24 %) have a dedicated team to the fire safety system (SIS system)
 - 5 (9,2 %) have a liaison with the local authorities' security control center (24/24, 7/7).
- **The 19 academic libraries in Paris and its region:**
 - Are equipped with alarms (a minima fire and et anti-intrusion), except 1
 - 9 have a guard living on site (9 cases), fire-safety agents(11 cases), can rely on a dedicated team to the fire safety system (SIS system) appropriate to their facility (10 cases)
 - 4 libraries combine these four criterias and have a **CBMP**. Among libraries combining three of these criterias, 3 have a **CBMP**, 2 are are getting prepared, 1 has projects to have a CBMP, and the last one doesn't have this project.
- **The 28 academic libraries outside Paris and its region:**
 - Are equipped with alarms,
 - have fire-safety agents (15 cases), have a guard living on site (4 cases), or can rely on the team of the campus dedicated to the fire safety system (SIS system) (9 libraries).



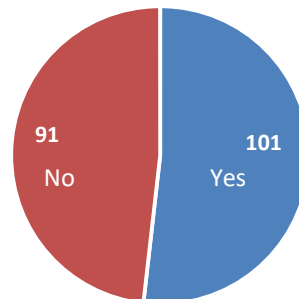
A large percentage of libraries experienced disasters

101 libraries (55 %) declared a disaster during the last 10 years

- Minor emergencies in which the state of unpreparedness was experienced
- Frequent disasters: water leakage, deficiency in air-conditioning or humidity control
- Flood risk is the leading natural risk in France, 1 in 3 towns being exposed including 300 major cities
- Disasters from climate hazards (floods, stream overflows, bad weather) have increased fourfold in 40 years
- Disasters reported in libraries are due to facility deficiencies or are caused by human error during renovating works.



Number of libraries that reported a disaster having affected the archival collections



« Heritage teams » weak and insufficient in numbers

« Heritage teams » insufficient in number or in competences:

- **Many libraries hold archival collections but all of them don't have a mission of « conservation ».** Yet, the conservation of archival collections require a skilled staff.
- **Basic training for managers (curators, librarians)** ; less training offers for other categories of staff.
- **For 15 years, recruitment and jobs in libraries are focused on other missions** : reception and communication to the public, research data, digitization, cultural activity

=> **Create or strenghten « Heritage teams »** (small core of 1 to 2 trained and dedicated staff)

Development of a legal and regulatory framework with the Ministry of Home Affairs

A directive providing national orientation (DNO) or an inter-ministerial circular on the obligation for every archival Library to have a CBMP.

When? By the end of summer 2023

The appointment of a Person in charge of the CBMP au Service du livre et de la lecture du ministère de la Culture

When? Start work in January 2023

Design of a national action plan for CBMP



Census, mapping, follow-up and support mission for the national plan of CBMP and for the training program

Design and implementation of a training plan

When? Ready for last trimestre 2023

A replica of the training-*coaching* developed by the par le research and restoration center of the Museums of France (C2RMF)

The 54 classified public Libraries are the first priorities.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION

Note d'étape sur les bibliothèques territoriales classées remise en février 2022.

<https://www.education.gouv.fr/les-plans-d-urgence-dans-les-bibliotheques-patrimoniales-francaises-340613>



Rapport remis aux ministres en septembre 2022 « Les plans d'urgence dans les bibliothèques patrimoniales françaises. Pour une politique nationale de prévention des risques ».

<https://www.education.gouv.fr/les-plans-d-urgence-dans-les-bibliotheques-patrimoniales-francaises-pour-une-politique-nationale-de-343294>