



The American Institute for Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works (AIC) exists to support the conservation professionals who preserve our cultural heritage. As the only national membership organization in the United States dedicated to the preservation of cultural material, the AIC plays a crucial role in establishing and upholding professional standards, promoting research and publications, providing educational opportunities, and fostering the exchange of knowledge among conservators, allied professionals, and the public. From humble beginnings and a handful of members in 1972, the AIC has grown to over 3,500 conservators, educators, scientists, students, archivists, art historians, and other conservation enthusiasts in over twenty countries around the world, all of whom have the same goal: to preserve the material evidence of our past so we can learn from it today and appreciate it in the future.

Visit our website at www.aic-faic.org to learn more about AIC, membership benefits, and caring for works of art and other material culture.

**For 24-hour assistance,
call (202) 661-8068**



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Rapid Response Team for Cultural Institutions

*Salvaging the Past
for Our Future*



Morgan Library flood, University of Colorado, Fort Collins, Colorado, July 1997. Photo by Randy Silverman.

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AIC-CERT American Institute for Conservation— Collections Emergency Response Team

Mission Statement

The mission of AIC-CERT is to respond to the needs of cultural institutions during emergencies and disasters through coordinated efforts with first responders, state agencies, vendors and the public.



AIC-CERT team, Charleston, SC.

The American Institute for Conservation received funding from the Institute of Museum and Library Services in 2007 to support an advanced training program for conservators and other museum professionals that resulted in a force of 60 “rapid responders” trained to assess damage and initiate salvage of cultural collections after a disaster has occurred.

The participants were selected to bring expertise in a variety of specialties and were trained to a high level in emergency response procedures, damage assessment methods, salvage techniques, and the organization and management of a recovery operation.

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Benefits

Many of America’s cultural institutions are administered by volunteers or a single, full-time staff person. The Response Team will provide human resources and skills to these understaffed institutions in a time of need through phone support, damage assessments, and help with salvage organization.



Water damaged book. Photo courtesy of MJ Davis.