Long-Term Recovery of Cultural Resources

USA Seven Years Later
Japan One Year Later

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Library of Congress
• Disasters

• Recovery

• Cultural Resources

• Needs and Next Steps
Catastrophic Disasters

• Katrina and Rita 2005 USA
  – Two Hurricanes
  – Failure of Levees

• 3/11/11 Japan
  – Great East Japan Earthquake
  – Tsunami
  – Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Reactor Meltdown and Radiation Emissions
Recovery Timelines

Life Safety
Building Safety
Collection Safety

Days & Weeks →
Services
Buildings
Collections

Months & Years →
Short-term Recovery
stabilize
Long-term Recovery
rehabilitate

The larger the incident, the longer the recovery.
The longer the recovery, the more uneven the recovery.
Ofunato

One year later
320,000 items treated

4/13/11
Cultural Resources

National Treasures

Historic Materials

Personal Property
National Treasures
Katrina Lessons Learned

- Dept. of Homeland Security Reorganized
  - FEMA elevated in hierarchy
- A Multi-State Coordinator with up to four deputies can be appointed by the President
- Cultural Institutions are now eligible for Public Assistance Funding
- Development of the National Disaster Recovery Framework (NDRF)
Katrina & Rita
Lessons Learned

Disasters do happen

The bigger the incident the less control anyone has over it

Be as prepared as you can be

Do what you can, when you can, with what you have
Capacity in Japan is limited, compared to the US.

Why?
Emergency Awareness

Can this degree of preparation be applied to cultural resources?

Why hasn’t it been?
What can we do?

- Continue our positive support
- Keep asking how people and collections are doing
- Recovery of collections will continue for many, many years.
- For some long-term recovery may be just beginning
- International collaboration will help us both do better
  - Japan build capacity
  - US better organization, especially for small disasters
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