Mapping a Tornado Tragedy: A Crowdsourcing Case Study

Melody Dworak, Librarian, Iowa City Public Library
Job Description

- Digital Archive
- Selection
- Cataloging
- Reference
- Other
Pre-Project Launch

Digital Archive
Roles & Responsibilities

Collections Manager
Digital Archive Librarian
Hourly Assistant
Reference Manager
Outreach Librarian
IT Manager
Graphics
One Project: Many Deliverables

- Build digital collection
- Curate digital exhibit
- Engage with print exhibit
- Connect and host program
Collecting from the Crowd
A tornado ripped through Iowa City on April 13, 2006, carving a path of destruction that left cars overturned, trees uprooted, traffic lights snapped off their poles, and roofs torn off buildings, including the historic St. Patrick’s Catholic Church.

Read to the Rhythm

Is “Read more books” one of your New Year Resolutions? If so, our Winter Reading Program – Read to the Rhythm – will help you get started!

This new addition to the Library’s lineup of winter programming combines three of our favorite things: books, BINGO and pizza! To play, all you need to do is pick up a Read to the Rhythm BINGO card at any of our public service desks beginning Jan. 4. There’s a BINGO card for everyone: babies, children, teens and adults.
Processing & Reformatting
Digital Collection

2006 Iowa City Tornado
Digital Collection

2006 Iowa City Tornado

Coding by Brent Palmer
Print Exhibit: Citizen Stories
The home in kitchen of Mrs. Redd Adcock.

We took a trip to Iowa Ave. and stopped to play. Past Iowa Ave. was a very quiet street.

The Iowa Ave. home was 2 1/2 years old, 4 bedrooms, and no light sleeper. Everything just seemed to go through like I even though it was quiet.

Our garden shed was completely destroyed, on its roof. The family was very small.

The two year-old girl was very quiet, and the family was young. Her whole thing was frightening.

Lost a tree at the attic windows. Washington & Summit.

-Susan

Drinking coffee at Takanami's.

Todd
Program

Iowa City Tornado

On April 13, 2006, an F2 tornado formed in southwest Iowa City. Eight minutes and 4.5 miles later, the twister dissipated, leaving more than $12 million in damages. In honor of the 10th anniversary of this historic event, the Iowa City Public Library is collecting images and stories from people who lived through this event. We hope you enjoy this tornado tour.
Program
Program
2018: Flood Retrospective

Can we replicate success?
What gap exists?
Takeaways

Crowdsourcing = community = inclusion

How to give selection as much weight as inclusion?

Control that scope of work!

Plan for unfulfilled wish list

Find a topic that affects a critical mass

Make time
Project Tools & Resources

- FADGI Technical Guidelines for Digitizing Cultural Heritage Materials
- Project tracking: Trello
- Website architecture: Omeka
- Exhibit architecture: Neatline
- Metadata standard: Dublin Core
- Metadata wrangling: Excel & CSV spreadsheets
- Scanner: Epson Expression 10000XL