Notice "Books in peril: a history of horrid catastrophes"

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Résumé
This journal article describes the impact of natural and man-made catastrophes on archival and library collections. Disasters include fire, water (eg. floods), storms (hurricanes, tornadoes), earthquakes and acts of aggression (war, student riots, vandalism). Numerous case histories, mainly in the United States, are related. Entire rare book and manuscript collections (eg. Groenlandica, Magliabechiana) have been lost. Damage and deterioration includes physical damage to bindings, charring, swelling, warpage, sticking of coated paper, dirt, mold infestations, bleeding of dyes and inks, leaching of tanning agents (leather bindings), softening of starch and sizing, etc. Conservation and salvage operations include retrieval, reducing relative humidity (RH), increasing air circulation (ventilation), drying (fanning, interleaving), control of mold growth, and freeze-drying. References date from 1879-1972. This is a reference for emergency and disaster planning for libraries and museums.
It is not history in the conventional sense, either, which would normally entail making sense of a series of events and giving them a clear, linear meaning or interpretation. Perhaps the biggest clue to the nature of the book revealed in the title is that it is funny and intriguing, knowingly undermining its own grandiloquence. A history of the world in just ten chapters? And what’s this ancillary ‘half’? One chapter is divided into two distinct sections, while another is divided into three separate stories. A history of the world in 13½ chapters? Twelve chapters and three half chapters?) are relatively straightforward to summarise. The Stowaway tells the story of Noah’s Ark from the viewpoint of an uninvited burrower. The Visitors has a group of terrorists hijack a cruise ship.