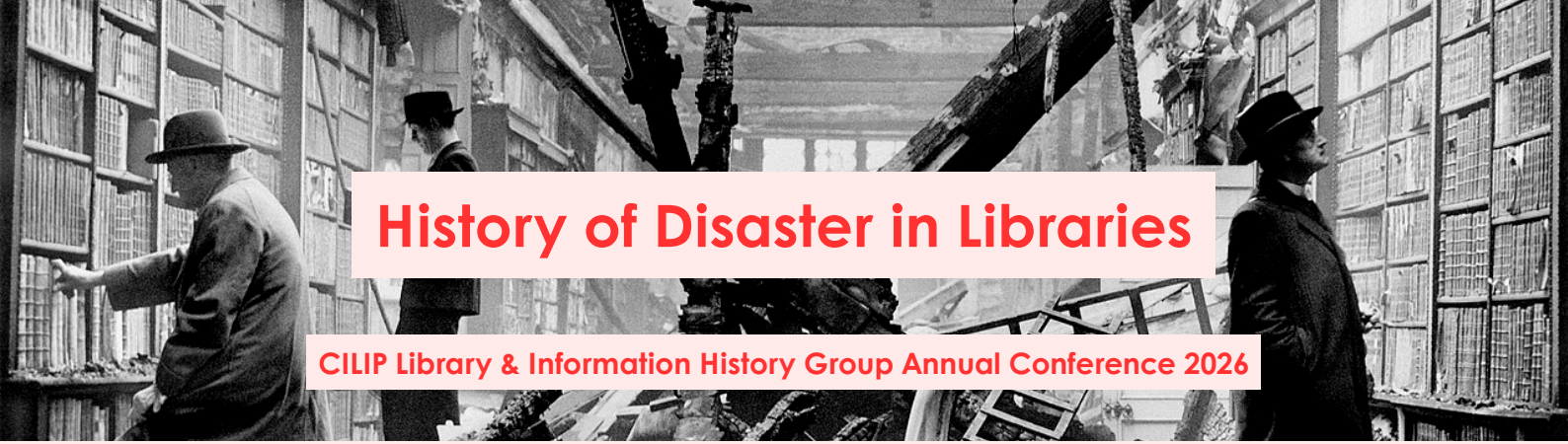




History of Disaster in Libraries

CILIP Library & Information History Group Annual Conference 2026

Tuesday 8 December 2026
Newnham College, Cambridge, UK

9am Arrival

9.30 Keynote: Arthur der Weduwen

10.30 Fire panel

- The Birmingham Central Library Fire of 1879: Disaster, Salvage and the Rebuilding of a Library and its Collections / Rachel MacGregor
- From Ashes to Archives: Afterlives of the 1820 Fire in Magdalen Hall, Oxford / Megumi Ohsumi

11.20 Break

11.45 Cultural Destruction panel

- Interregnum Cathedral Libraries: Survival despite Disaster? / Matilda Houston-Brown
- Objects Without a Library: The National Library of Cambodia, 1975–1979 / Mario Valori

12.40 Lunch

2pm Blitz panel

- The Bombing of the BM(NH) Botany Library / Grace Touzel
- “War damage replacement copy”: Institutional Solidarities and Community Collection (Re)Building at UCL / Kaja Marczevska and Vanessa Freedman
- Collection Management and Salvage Strategy during the Blitz: a Case Study of Lambeth Palace Library, 1938-41 / Victoria Gray

3.15 Break

3.40 Saving Information panel

- Avoiding National Disaster: Libraries, Information Management and Military Intelligence in Britain, 1873-1946 / Alistair Black
- Reconstructing Information Authority Through Disaster: Eleanor Sidgwick, Newnham College, and Women's Information Spheres in Late Nineteenth-Century Cambridge / Toni Weller

4.30 Tour of Newnham College Library with pop-up display