

17 July 2015: storms and torrential rain in Cambridge overnight

- **9am:** staff discover flooding in bay windows in the Old Library, and the Lower Old Library
- Library disaster plan consulted and advice sought from Cambridge Colleges' Conservation Consortium
- 308 water-damaged books are removed from shelves and taken to supervision rooms attached to the Library (the designated salvage area in the College Chapel is deemed unsuitable due to distance and environmental conditions)
- Water absorbent cushions from the Library's "disaster box" are used to mop up pooled water
- "Airing" stations are set up to ventilate books with fans borrowed from the Porters' Lodge. 150 of the least damaged books are earmarked to air-dry in-house
- A dehumidifier is sourced from the Maintenance Department and set up in the Old Library
- Harwell Document Restoration Services are contacted to arrange collection of the most damaged items for freeze-drying and provide the hire of two dehumidifiers

18 July - 1 September 2015: salvage, stabilisation and monitoring

- In the Old Library and Lower Old Library the use of two dehumidifiers was combined with fans and opening and closing windows to promote effective air flow and prevent the growth and spread of mould
- Regular checks were made on temperature and humidity until conditions had stabilised around 4 August 2015 (approximate 2.5 weeks after the flood). The hired dehumidifiers were then removed and local fans turned off

- Monitoring of the books being air-dried in-house continued. These books were checked by a conservator and deemed to be dry on 7 August 2015
- The freeze-dried books returned from Harwell on Wednesday 23 September 2015. These were dry but damaged by the flood
- On 2 October 2015, an external conservator assessed the damage to the books that had been freeze dried. 26 were deemed to require significant repair



September 2015 onwards: ongoing environmental monitoring and repair

- At the beginning of September, Tinytag monitors were installed permanently at four points within the Old Library and Annex to enable longer-term environmental monitoring
- The College Maintenance Manager carried out an assessment of the roof and guttering. Remedial action was taken and regular checks are made as part of routine maintenance work

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