

Documents Restoration - Water damaged library books

A library located in the city offices of a national organisation was affected by a water damage Event when a burst pipe on the level above caused water to flow through various sections of the concrete floor and through the ceiling tiles. The water fell directly onto a number of books stored on the shelves. The librarians were quick to act and moved all of the affected volumes to an adjoining room where they attempted to dry them. When they realised there were too many affected books for them to dry effectively they contacted local records authorities to seek advice. The organisation contacted ADR and requested urgent assistance to mitigate any further damage to their valuable collection of volumes and books. ADR staff attended site and carefully packed out the water damaged books and transported them to the ADR Document Restoration Facility. Once the books were packed and transported to ADR they were placed in an environmentally controlled chamber for storage, condition assessment and monitoring awaiting authorisation from the Insurer to begin the Restoration. With the appropriate authorisation granted, ADR began drying the books using a process developed through many years of experience in documents and records Restoration. The process involves specifically trained ADR staff interleaving every page of each book with special material designed to prevent the pages from blocking (sticking together) as the books are dried in specially designed drying chambers. The drying chambers are designed to reduce the moisture levels within the paper in a controlled fashion so as not to damage the fibres and make the pages fragile and brittle. During the drying the moistures levels are regularly monitored until they are reduced to an acceptable level. When acceptable moisture levels were achieved, the books were removed from the chambers, the interleaving was removed and biological samples were collected from a random selection of books and sent to an independent laboratory for culture and analysis. The biological testing forms part of ADR's standard practice in regards to wet documents and records, the results are used to determine if mould has grown on the water affected documents. In this case the irreplaceable books and volumes were clear of mould and with a clearance certificate issued by the independent laboratory, the books were placed into new boxes, delivered to the customer and returned to their shelves.





COMMERCIAL



DOMESTIC



MITIGATION



RESTORATION

COMIC RECOVERY

"Yes Sir, we can dry your box of fishing magazines, but might I suggest that you shouldn't actually take them with you when you go fishing on the boat next time"



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