PROTECCT-GLAM: Providing Risk of The Environment's Changing Climate Threats for Galleries, Libraries, Archives & Museums

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Abstract

More than ever before, cultural heritage institutions must assess their unique climate change-related threats to their collections and missions as part of their overall disaster and emergency management plans. PROTECCT-GLAM is a three-year IMLS-funded project to develop a national categorical climate change risk assessment scale for galleries, libraries, archives, and museums (GLAMs) through a geographic information system (GIS) analysis of existing climate change threats and models. The scale will help repositories identify their associated risks from a changing climate and direct a future research agenda toward meeting GLAM's specific challenges. The research addresses the following questions: What are the climate change-related risks most likely to provide threats to GLAMs? How can climate change risk for GLAMs be understood as a categorical scale when combining those threats most likely to need significant consideration? What are the GLAM-specific climate change challenges? The national scale of this project allows us insight into how climate threats vary across space, providing GLAM-specific information to assist in future preparedness. This presentation will highlight the project's initial risk assessment scale, discuss its development, and how it will be utilized moving forward.

About the authors

Edward Benoit, III is Associate Director and Associate Professor in the School of Information Studies at Louisiana State University. He coordinates the archival studies and cultural heritage resource management programs. He received an MA in History, MLIS and PhD in Information Studies from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. His research focuses on participatory and community archives, non-traditional archival materials, climate change, and archival education. He is the founder and director of the **Virtual Footlocker Project**, which examines the personal archiving habits of the 21st century soldier in an effort to develop new digital capture and preservation technologies to support their needs. He also directs **PROTECCT-GLAM**, an IMLS-funded project focused on identify climate-change-related risks for GLAMs.

Jill Trepanier earned her B.A. in Geography from the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh (2007), a M.S. in Geography from Florida State University (2009), and a Ph.D. in Geography from Florida State University (2012). She is currently an Associate Professor in the Geography and Anthropology Department at Louisiana State University and also serves as the Director of Graduate Studies. Research interests include understanding extreme weather events, particularly North Atlantic tropical cyclones, general tropical climatology, and climate change. She utilizes statistical methods, risk assessment, and geographic information systems to answer research questions. Ongoing research investigates climate change influences on galleries, libraries, archives, and museums; climate change impacts to local farm shareholders; climate change impacts to Native American cultural resources in the Gulf of Mexico; and K-12 education on climate science and extreme weather through a growing weather station network.

Jennifer Vanos is an associate professor in the School of Sustainability at Arizona State University. She focuses on extreme heat, thermal comfort, and air pollution in her research, and examines health impacts on vulnerable populations, such as children and athletes. She is currently running numerous field projects in Arizona and collaborates with schools, government, and non-profits in community-based research. Vanos is an active member of the Urban Climate Research Center at ASU and a scientific advisor for the Korey Stringer Institute. She currently serves on the executive board of the International Society of Biometeorology and is the chair of the Board on Environment and Health for the American Meteorological Society (AMS). She completed her PhD in 2012 at the University of Guelph in Canada and her post-doctoral degree with Health Canada.

Emily Fisher earned her B.S. in Environmental Science from the University of West Florida (2022). She is currently a Geography Masters student in the Geography and Anthropology Department at Louisiana State University. Research interests include understanding the impacts of extreme weather events on vulnerable communities, tropical cyclones, climate change, and science communication.

Annie Waddell earned her Bachelor of Arts in Political Science with an emphasis in Political Communications from Elon University in 2021. She is now pursuing a Master of Library and Information Science with a focus in Archival Studies from Louisiana State University. While pursuing her Masters, Annie works as a graduate assistant to Dr. Edward Benoit and a student worker in the Audiovisual Collections Department of the Louisiana State Archives. Annie's interests lie in the intersection of political communications and archival studies, with a particular interest in what stories and artifacts are deemed worthy of archival preservation. Following graduation in August 2024, Annie plans to move to Washington, D.C. to pursue a career as an archivist.