MCI

Topics in Museum Conservation

March 7, 2019
11:30 am
Thursday

MCI Theater
MUSEUM SUPPORT CENTER
4210 Silver Hill Road
Suitland, MD 20746
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Smithsonian
Museum Conservation Institute

Climate and Collections

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Climate change in Australia is evident. The Australian Bureau of Meteorology has reported that the past six years are the warmest years on record. Known as the 'angry summer,' 2013 recorded a national mean temperature of 1.2°C above average. Climate modelling by the CSIRO indicates the temperature will continue to rise, with more frequent hot days and heat waves and more intense weather events, and that southern regions of the continent will experience the most dramatic changes in climate including soil drying, temperature extremes, increased risk of wild fires, and high intensity rain events but lower overall annual rainfall.

As citizens and community members make adjustments and adapt to climate change, are cultural heritage professionals doing enough to adjust our practices and adapt our thinking when it comes to managing collections in response to climate change? This presentation will discuss the December 2018 *Australian Institute for Conservation of Cultural Material (AICCM) Environmental Guidelines for Australian Cultural Heritage Collections*. These guidelines are based on a 2014 *AICCM Interim Temperature and Relative Humidity Guidelines for Storage and Display Conditions* and a 2018 national survey, *The Collection Environment.*