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A project by  
Melissa Dubbin &  
Aaron S. Davidson

Books are earthquake proof. Fallen Books is a project we began while collecting before and after images. The project functions both as a survey and as a sequence of latent signs pointing to specific libraries and the copy of Fallen Books in their collection. The book is both an archive and a forecast. This collection of photographs of libraries after earthquakes is accompanied by locations, dates and the relative intensity of the earthquakes as measured by the Modified Mercalli Scale. The Modified Mercalli Scale is a descriptive and graphic alternative to the Richter Scale that quantifies the intensity of an earthquake and its effect on the Earth's surface, humans, man-made objects, and nature, on a scale of I through XII. Topographic maps of earthquake areas use the Mercalli Scale color code to indicate how far away from the epicenter the earthquake was felt and to what degree of intensity. A copy of Fallen Books can be found in the libraries featured in this publication.

Melissa Dubbin & Aaron S. Davidson





**Some books fell in the library.**







**Carol Nishijima and Roberta Ishihara, Gardena High School students, begin the massive job of sorting and re-shelving books at the Los Angeles Public Library's depository at 134 Glendale Boulevard. Several hundred student volunteers have cleaned up more than 100,000 books at the downtown branch and are hard at work on the remaining 61 branches.**

















**Bookshelves in the Stanford libraries toppled like dominoes. In the days that followed, library volunteers and staff began the daunting task of reshelving some 750,000 volumes.**











**Note the bracing attached to the tops of stacks did not prevent shelving collapse.**























**Location is the 4th floor, subjecting the shelving to the most severe shaking in the building.**



















**Broken spines and book pages separated from their covers.**















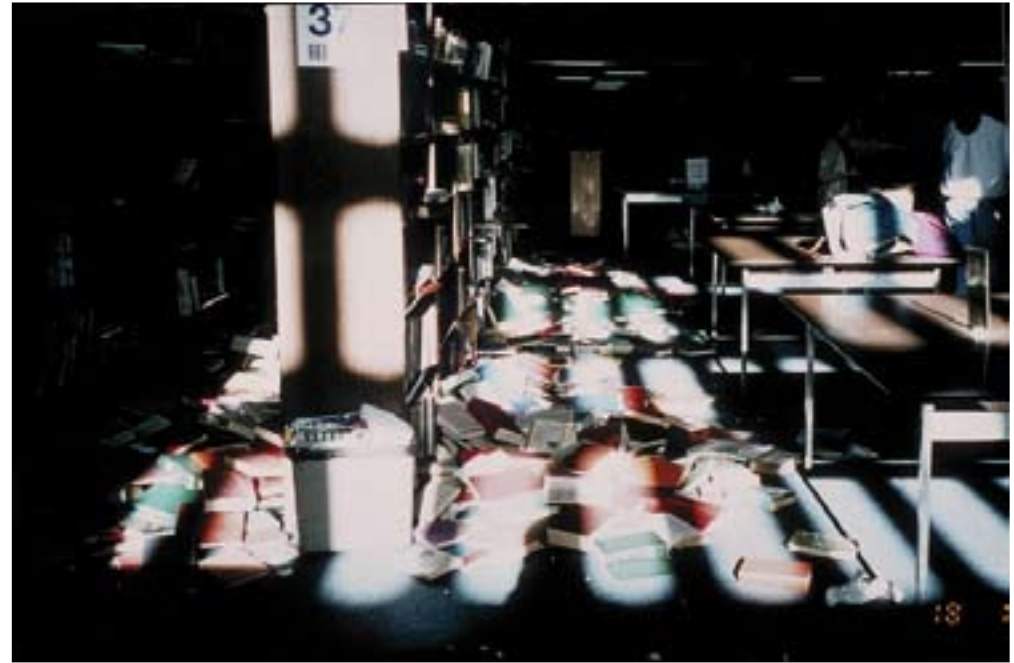












































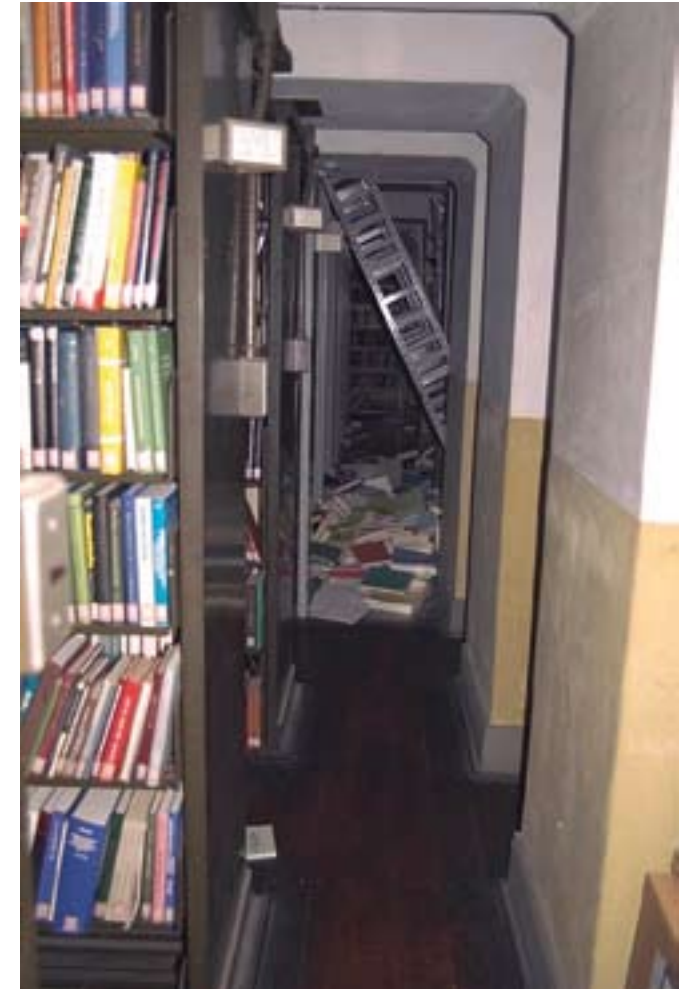


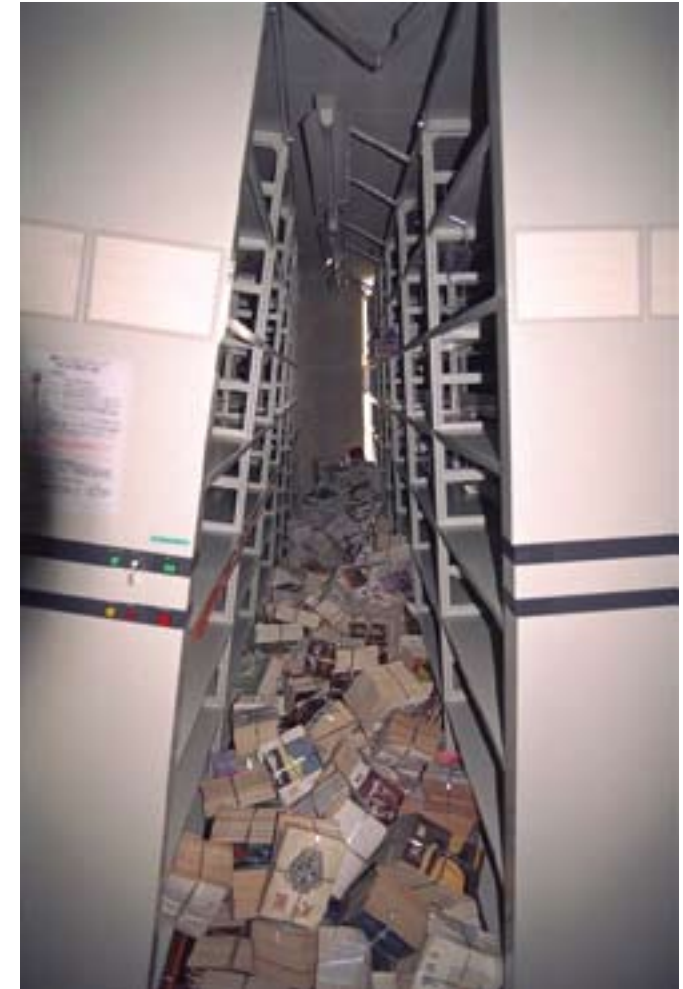


























































**Cheryl Heywood, community librarian for the Olympia  
Timberland Library, looks over earthquake damage at the  
downtown library on Thursday. “The library is closed until  
further notice,” she said.**







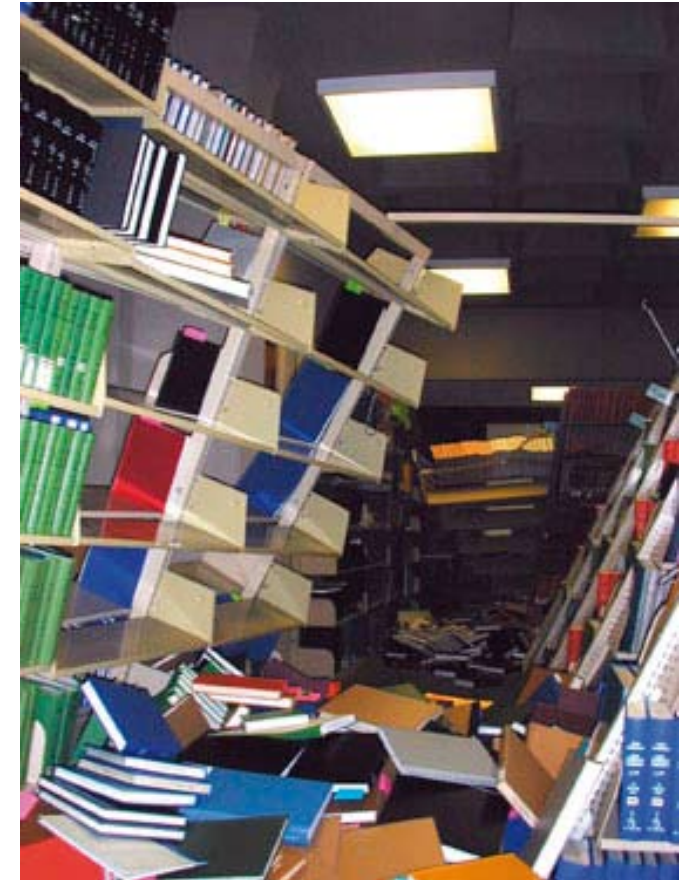


**The library had already started weeding books from its selection prior to the quake, having removed 73,000 volumes in the past year. Resorting to fallen books has proven helpful in the project to remove unneeded books.**



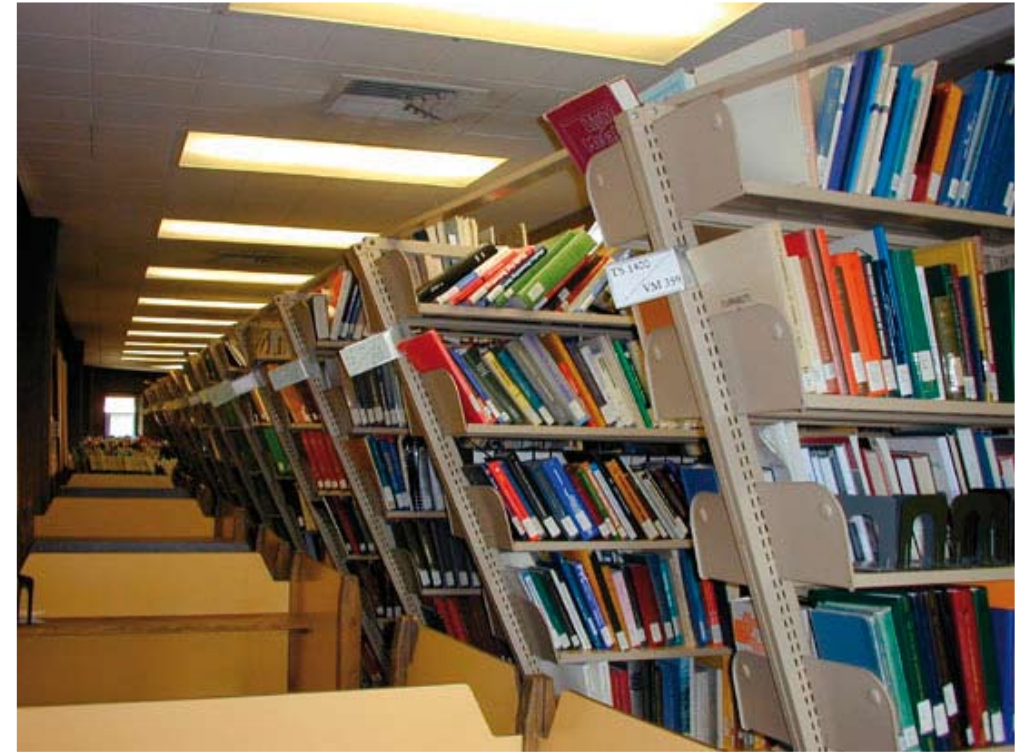


















**Congressional hearings on the floor.**













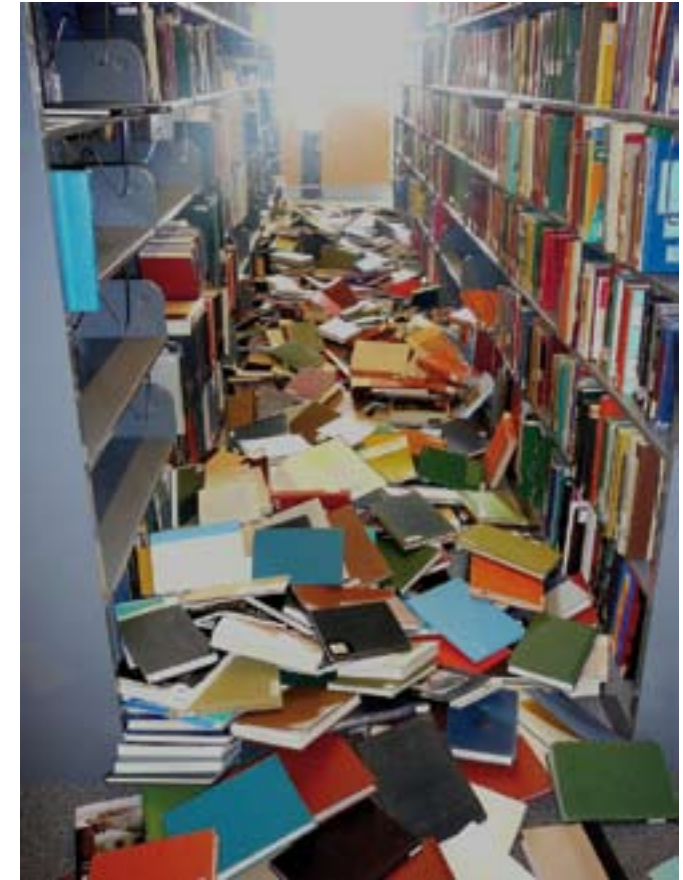






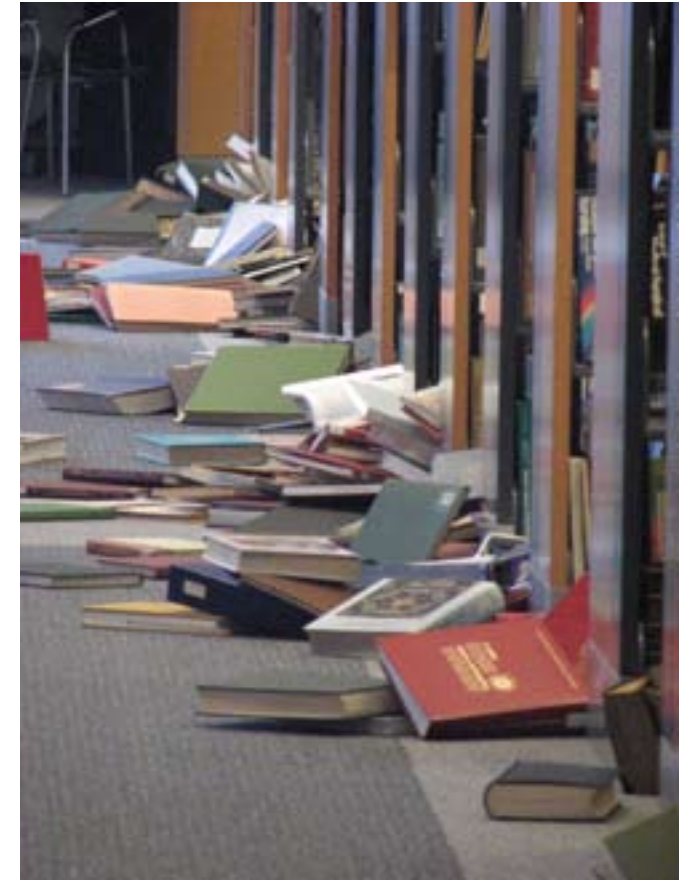








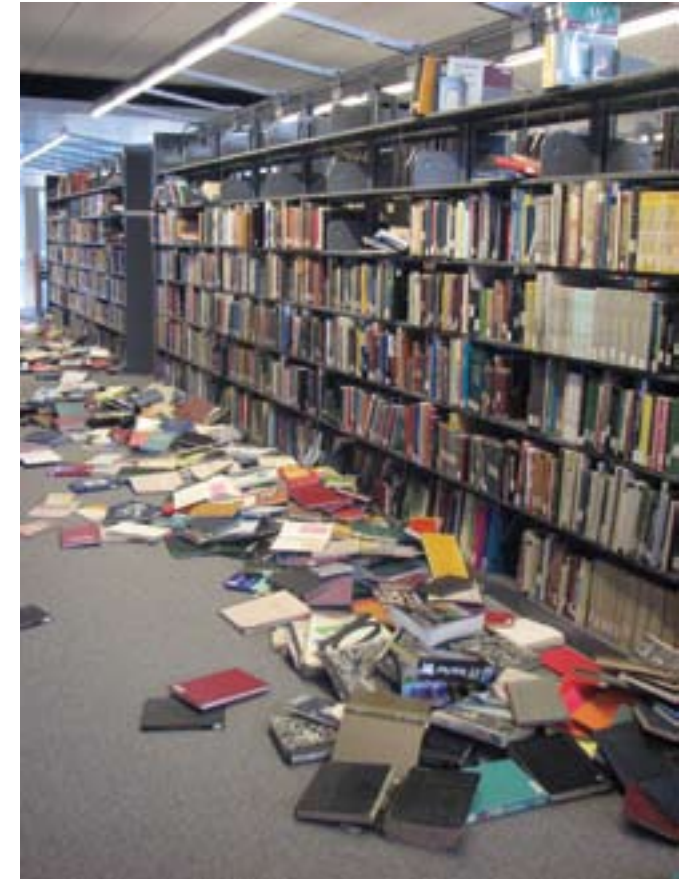






















**A number of buildings will need demolishing, many homes will need repairs and tonnes of glass and crockery have been lost. Everyone agrees on one thing ... in the words of Civil Defence Controller, Jon Davies 'I think we have actually come out of this one quite luckily' It could have been a lot worse.**



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[Page 7 (B69.11.22)]

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[Page xxxx]

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[Page 7]

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[Page 11, 13, 17]

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[Page 15]

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[Page 19, 23-45, 53-67]

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[Page 21]  
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[Page 49, 51]  
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[Page 69]

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[Page 71-109]

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Northridge, Oviatt Library,  
Special Collections and  
Archives  
[Page 5, 111-113]

pp. 115-147  
Earthquake Digital Disaster  
Archive of Kobe University,  
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[Page 115-147]

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[Page 149-155]  
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[Page 157, 158]

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[Page 159-163]

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[Page 209-213]  
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[Page 215, 221]  
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