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River Museum Receives Conservation Bookshelf

Dubuque, Iowa – June 18, 2009—Treasured objects and artifacts held by the National Mississippi River Museum & Aquarium will be preserved for future generations with help from the *IMLS Connecting to Collections Bookshelf*, a core set of conservation books and online resources donated by the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS). IMLS has now awarded almost 3,000 free sets of the IMLS Bookshelf, in cooperation with the American Association for State and Local History (AASLH).

“When IMLS launched this initiative to improve the dire state of our nation’s collections, we understood that the materials gathered for the Bookshelf would serve as important tools for museums, libraries, and archives nationwide,” said Anne-Imelda Radice, Director of IMLS. “We were both pleased and encouraged by the overwhelming interest of institutions prepared to answer the call to action, and we know that with their dedication, artifacts from our shared history will be preserved for future generations.”

The National Mississippi River Museum & Aquarium will receive this essential set of resources based on an application describing the needs and plans for the care of its collections. The IMLS Bookshelf focuses on collections typically found in art or history museums and in libraries' special collections, with an added selection of texts for zoos, aquaria, public gardens, and nature centers. It addresses such topics as the philosophy and ethics of collecting, collections management and planning, emergency preparedness, and culturally specific conservation issues.

The Institute of Museum and Library Services is the primary source of federal support for the nation’s 123,000 libraries and 17,500 museums. The Institute's mission is to create strong libraries and museums that connect people to information and ideas. The Institute works at the national level and in coordination with state and local organizations to sustain heritage, culture, and knowledge; enhance learning and innovation; and support professional development. To learn more about the Institute, please visit www.ims.gov.



NATIONAL MISSISSIPPI RIVER MUSEUM & AQUARIUM

IN ASSOCIATION WITH THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

The Bookshelf includes a core set of books, DVDS, online resources and an annotated bibliography essential for the care of collections. These resources focus on collections found in art and history museums as well as added texts for zoos, aquariums, gardens and nature centers.

The Bookshelf is scheduled to arrive at the National Mississippi River Museum & Aquarium in July.

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