



Northern Illinois University (NIU) Dekalb, IL

Loss Event: Mold Damage

The Founders Memorial Library on the main campus at Northern Illinois University (NIU) in Dekalb holds about two million volumes of books and journals, plus the University Archives and various special collections.

After being exposed to moisture from a water leak, approximately 640 rare archival books in the University library were in need of mold remediation and another 40 rare books needed to be thermal freeze dried and pressed. About 80 percent of the books were leather bound.

Working with BELFOR, the University made the decision to ship the damaged books to the BELFOR Technical Service Center in Fort Worth, Texas. The Center is home to BELFOR's largest document recovery lab worldwide.

BELFOR's document restoration team cleaned and remediated the mold, and removed water or moisture from the books by placing them in the company's large freeze dry chambers. The books were then reboxed and shipped back to the University Library safely within eight weeks.



"I anticipated much more complexity in the process, but BELFOR took care of everything onsite. We truly appreciated the value that we received for the cost, and also the fact that it was very much a simple process from our perspective."

FRED BARNHART
Dean, NIU Libraries

24/7 Emergency Number
800-856-3333

Corporate Headquarters:
185 Oakland Ave., Suite 150
Birmingham, MI 48009-3433
Toll Free: 888.421.4111
Direct : 248.594.1144 Fax : 248.594.1133
www.belfor.com

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