



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Chicago Academy of Sciences Receives Conservation Bookshelf**

**CHICAGO** (July 7, 2009) – Treasured objects and artifacts held by the Chicago Academy of Sciences 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).

"Our collections, which are more than 150 years old, give us a window into the past, help us to understand better what we see today, and aid us in planning for the future," said Dawn Roberts, collections manager at the Chicago Academy of Sciences and its Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum. "This contribution from IMLS is invaluable, as it will help us preserve these important collections for future generations."

Anne-Imelda Radice, director of IMLS, said when IMLS launched this initiative to improve the state of our nation's collections, IMLS understood that the materials gathered for the Bookshelf would serve as important tools for museums, libraries, and archives nationwide.

"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," she said.

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The Chicago Academy of Sciences 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 IMLS Bookshelf is a crucial component of *Connecting to Collections: A Call to Action*, a conservation initiative that the Institute launched in 2006. IMLS began the initiative in response to a 2005 study it released in partnership with Heritage Preservation, *A Public Trust at Risk: The Heritage Health Index Report on the State of America's Collections*. The multi-faceted, multi-year initiative shines a nationwide spotlight on the needs of America's collections, especially those held by smaller institutions, which often lack the human and financial resources necessary to adequately care for their collections.

### **About the Institute of Museum and Library Services**

*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](http://www.ims.gov).*

### **About the Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum**

*The Chicago Academy of Sciences and its Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum inspire people to learn about and care for nature and the environment. The Academy, founded in 1857, improves the quality of life in Chicago and the region by delivering superior environmental and science education programs to students and teachers, by offering Museum exhibitions and conducting public programs, that foster green living, and by restoring local ecosystems and advancing scientific knowledge through collections and research.*

*During the past 10 years, the Chicago Academy of Sciences has welcomed more than 1.8 million visitors to its Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum. The Museum provides hands-on exhibitions and programs to 70,000 students annually and trains and provides resources for more than 1,700 Chicago teachers in over 430 schools. The Museum engages visitors, especially urban dwellers, in new ways to connect with and preserve the natural world through a unique indoor/outdoor experience. It is one of the city's best examples of eco-friendly building technology with lush outdoor nature trails and habitat, green roof, rain barrels and solar panels.*

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