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## Information Institute to Develop Hurricane Preparedness Portal for Librarians

The [Information Use Management & Policy Institute](#) at Florida State University has been awarded a grant to examine how libraries and communities have united to better prepare for and recover from hurricanes. One important part of that effort is to establish a website portal that will provide an easy to use resource for librarians, providing valuable information on all aspects of hurricane preparedness. This information portal will be a dynamic, content rich web site that delivers timely and relevant information to librarians through the use of such innovative web 2.0 applications as wikis, blogs, and searchable databases. These interactive features will help to promote collaboration and information exchange to help libraries prepare for and react to emergencies, as well as promote more effective communication with the emergency response organizations that serve the needs of the local community.

This portal for hurricane preparedness will be an integrated and coordinated point where librarians can find emergency information, web based resources, and informative web links across multiple resources. These resources will include guidance on developing effective hurricane plans, integrating efforts with governmental agencies, and identifying best practices for public librarians. Web portals provide the capability to consolidate numerous resources in a way that allows information to be easily found, while providing content that is both timely and relevant.

The [Information Use Management & Policy Institute](#) has developed a working prototype site which is demonstrating a proof of concept by improving the ability of librarians and the general public to gather, manage, use, and disseminate information within the website portal. This innovative portal site will be tested by librarians to refine its content and usability. The hurricane project is an interdisciplinary effort with [Lyrasis](#) (formerly SOLINET), the [State Library of Florida](#) that brings together web site designers, information professionals, government leaders, disaster management experts, and experienced librarians in order to deliver the right information to the right people at the right time. This portal project is scheduled for completion during the first quarter of 2009, so check this blog regularly for updates.

**How You Can Help:** Do you and your public library have experience assisting your community prepare for and recover from a hurricane? If so, send an e-mail to Charles R. McClure [charles.mcclure@cci.fsu.edu](mailto:charles.mcclure@cci.fsu.edu). By identifying the most successful examples of these synergistic relationships, a set of best practices can be developed that will help all libraries and communities more effectively work together during emergencies situations. See a [project summary](#), [LibraryJournal.com article](#), or [radio interview](#) for further information.

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