
This article highlights the roles of librarians in Louisiana and neighboring states in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. Library roles mentioned include offering temporary cards to refugees, providing gift books for children and adults at shelters, providing contact information for local service organizations, and setting up a housing information exchange.


This brief article reports that the FCC’s Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau (PSHSB) announced a Disaster Information reporting Systems (DIRS). DIRS is for communications providers to report the status of communications infrastructure, i.e. wireless, broadcast, and cable.


This brief article reports the effects that Hurricanes Katrina and Gustav had on communications in Louisiana, with a focus on Gustav's effects. The storms shut down technology firms in Louisiana and caused the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to propose a mandatory back up battery requirement for wireless carriers.


This article discusses Louisiana Lt. Governor Mitch Landrieu’s view of the importance of libraries in a range of activities but especially their role in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina as places to access the Internet and gather information.

This article focuses on the library’s role in providing E-government services, including the importance of public access computing and Internet access. It includes a discussion of the roles libraries play in response to emergencies, like hurricanes, when people come to libraries to access the Internet to request aid, locate missing family and friends, file FEMA and insurance claims, etc.


This article mentions the work of NetHope (http://nethope.org/) to develop a Network Relief Kit. This is a 4 pound, solar powered device that can connect laptops or satellite phones to the Internet via a global satellite network and is designed to facilitate disaster relief and humanitarian aid efforts.


This article documents early use of Web 2.0 applications for emergency management. It discusses the practicality of asking people to join new web-based emergency social networks versus using existing social networking sites such as MySpace and Facebook.


This article details ways librarians stepped up to provide disaster response services in the wake of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita by handing out water, clothing, and books, offering space for relief workers, and staffing phone banks and shelters. The article also discusses damage to libraries and restoration of libraries and library collections.

Laurie Bolger outlines guidelines for the disaster planning process to help mitigate the effects that disasters have on libraries.


This article discusses the destruction caused by Hurricane Ike on the Gulf coast and inland. Specifically, the article focuses on the academic and public school libraries that were affected by the storm, the types of damage these libraries incurred, i.e. materials and building, and the effects Ike had on mid-west libraries as it moved inland.


This article recounts a systems crash at Drake Memorial Library, SUNY Brockport that rendered the OPAC inaccessible and deleted MARC records. The library’s backup procedures are included as an example of protocol to plan for and mitigate disaster.


The author discusses the value of disaster planning by explaining that, after Hurricane Katrina, some companies were up and running quicker than others because they had business continuity and disaster recovery plans. Suggestions are offered for planning steps to prepare for disasters, including elements of a good recovery plan.


This article focuses on disaster mitigation planning concerning digital resources and the results of a disaster planning survey of libraries worldwide that was distributed by the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA).

This article details risks to digital media in a variety of formats, discusses collection level, organizational, and external factors to consider, and offers methods to reduce risk, particularly suggesting a risk management approach.


This article provides insights and lessons learned from Hurricane Katrina that help clarify and strengthen the role of RIMs (records and information management professionals). The article includes nine lessons, such as the need to consider worst case scenarios in disaster preparedness, rapid creation of new and flexible information forums, limited situational awareness, need for fast and reliable information for command control, and requirement to make decisions in crisis even without reliable or sufficient information.


This article documents the pre-hurricane and post-hurricane conditions affecting three Louisiana academic libraries and their parent institutions. The article reports on interviews with administrators and staff who provide unique perspectives on the challenges their libraries encountered as a result of hurricanes Katrina and Rita.


This article details the impact of Hurricane Katrina on gulf coast libraries, such as damage to libraries and collections, recovery efforts, and impacts on staffing. Post-disaster services to evacuees and others are discussed, including help filling out FEMA forms, contacting loved ones, general Internet access, borrowing privileges, and bringing library materials to shelters.

This article presents a case study on the impact of Hurricane Katrina on a public library system's department. The article addresses the following issues: collections reassessment, relocation, alternative resources, communication, technology, programming, continuing education, and grant funding.


This article details the impact of the 9/11 attack of an academic library in Manhattan. The focus is on keeping the web site up-to-date and the importance of disaster planning.


This editorial succinctly recounts FEMA’s failure to recognize the Cedar Rapids Public Library as an essential service in the city’s 2008 flood. The library’s lack of status hampers federal, state and county relations with FEMA and other federal, state and local government agencies.


This paper reports research that assessed the readability of disaster and emergency preparedness web pages intended for the general public. The authors recommend collaborations among public health educators, risk communication specialists, and web page creators and writers to ensure readable disaster and emergency resources.


This article reports on the response of Ontario public libraries to inquiries for health information made during a SARS outbreak. The authors found that the quality of reference service raises questions about the appropriateness of public library consumer health information provision.

This article reports on the CARALL Conference workshop on disaster planning which included such topics as the vulnerability of the Caribbean to natural disasters, effects of disasters on libraries with a large focus on water-related damage, recovery efforts, and lessons learned regarding disaster planning and preservation.


This editorial is a first person account of the impact of the 2008 Iowa City flood on the University of Iowa library, particularly on information technology.


This news brief announces that the Harris County Public Libraries had reopened and mentions services offered by the library, such as computer and Internet access, electricity to charge cell phones, air conditioning, etc. There is also a note about which branches had and had not yet opened.


This article discusses the roles public libraries play in their local communities, as well as the high customer satisfaction and credibility ratings of public libraries. These roles include acting as a neutral, welcoming haven for all types of people; building communities through local partnerships; enhancing education, workforce and businesses through literacy programs; change agents; and communication hubs.

This article details the roles played by U.S. Gulf Coast public libraries in the aftermath of the 2004 and 2005 hurricane seasons. It explores the place of libraries in society and details lessons learned and recommendations for public library disaster planning.


This article discusses a variety of natural disasters, earthquakes, fire, floods and droughts, hurricanes, landslides and avalanches, lightning, tornadoes, tsunamis, and volcanoes. It includes numerous resources with annotations under each disaster, as well as sections on prevention and recovery.


This article discusses issues about central/main public libraries as spots for possible terrorist attacks versus the need to remain centrally located to be vital to communities they serve. This article also discusses creating guidelines for security and emergency evacuation.


This news article reports on the first of a series of public meetings that Hillsborough County, Florida is holding to discuss and receive feedback on the county’s draft Post-Disaster redevelopment Plan. Additional meeting times, dates and locations are included.


This article discusses the activities of parish libraries in the wake of hurricanes Katrina and Rita. LeBoeuf discusses the stories of librarians helping hurricane victims locate missing relatives, file for FEMA forms, provide comfort to victims, assist organizations (i.e. Red Cross and FEMA) set up local areas of operation, volunteering their time to assist organizations in providing aid to victims. The article also discusses the rebuilding phase of destroyed libraries and the lessons learned from the two disasters.

This article discusses the situations faced by the librarians of public libraries in a number of parishes affected by hurricanes Katrina and Rita. From locating missing family members to providing conference rooms to set up disaster centers for the Red Cross and FEMA, the article details the difficulties faced by public librarians. The article concludes that public libraries play an essential role delivering online and other services in times of disaster.


This article discusses how the Massachusetts model of libraries as disaster recovery centers (DRCs) is being adopted by other states. Additionally, the article discusses how the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has created a GIS database of Massachusetts libraries so officials can locate them efficiently to rapidly deploy disaster recovery services.


This article discusses library response to disasters and advocates for collaborations that are put in place prior to an emergency, rather than in reaction to an emergency. The article includes a detailed review of the East Midlands Museums Service’s Regional Emergencies and Disaster Squad (REDS), suggesting REDS as a model for United Kingdom libraries to adopt.


The three ladies in this article title are Hurricanes Katrina, Rita, and Wilma. McCoy reports on the response provided to evacuees by the academic library at Lamar State College – Orange. The library provided Internet connections, helped people fill out forms, look for jobs and housing. The article also reports McCoy’s personal experience as an evacuee during Hurricane Rita, including the helpfulness of Texas librarians.

This article cites four incidents of medical/health librarian’s response to Hurricane Katrina as a step toward determining best practices for post-disaster reference services.

This article discusses library responses to Hurricane Katrina in the context of a research project designing evidence-based disaster preparedness training for librarians. Part of the article discusses service roles libraries reported through the survey, including children’s services, meeting/office space, modified circulation rules, collecting donations, transporting evacuees, etc.


This article reports on the response of Texans to Hurricane Katrina with particular emphasis on the sense of community that emerged. Meraz describes libraries and librarians “at the heart” of service provision to hurricane victims. These services included computer access, help finding family, jobs, and housing, assistance with government forms, and children’s services, among others.


Miller and Fisher’s article discusses the role of public libraries in community leadership. Specifically, the article discusses the importance of and approaches to relationship building with community leaders.


This article reports on the disaster recovery efforts of the Boston Public Library in response to a flood in 1998. It concludes with recommendations for libraries to build disaster recovery plans.


This article discusses ways Florida libraries responded to the 2004 storms. It talks about damage to libraries and related closures, services libraries provided (including conversion to emergency operations centers and locally assigned services), and external support for libraries from publishers, vendors, and the library community.

This article discusses the use of web 2.0 technology, during wildfires in California in October 2007.


This article announces that Fort Bend libraries had computers and staff assistance available for filling out FEMA forms and includes contact information for the library branches.


The “Critical Connectors” article discusses the role public libraries in as “first responders” in emergency situations, especially during times of hurricane disasters. According to the article, public librarians assist hurricane victims with filing FEMA forms and helping victims locate communicate with family and friends online. Additionally, the article discusses how public librarians have worked with Emergency Management Teams to provide assistance with answering emergency hotline phones and provide wireless mobile wireless connectivity. Finally, the article talks about the overall played by public libraries in delivering online government assistance to citizens in need of guidance when filling for a variety of government forms.


This article examines the response to Katrina, after the storm made landfall. Specifically, the article examines the storm from an Internet perspective that focuses on housing issues, missing persons, and post-storm fraudulence.


This web site includes an explanation of what a post-disaster redevelopment plan is, background information on Polk County, the plan, involved stakeholders, and a timeline for implementation. Additionally, the site serves as an example of a county-wide post-disaster redevelopment plan.

The article explains what a hurricane is, the dangers that arise from storm surge and high winds, and the value of disaster planning.


This article stresses the importance of disaster planning for records and information management (RIM) professionals and organizations, focusing on the dangers of losing data, physical assets and workspace, and the resulting cost in terms of money, time and effort. The article defines and describes disasters, explains the business impact assessment (BIA), and provides step-by-step processes for writing a disaster plan and recovery and salvage efforts.


This article details the numerous ways water can leak into and flood a library. Robertson explains the importance of planning to deal with water damage, including knowing the building and how to conserve the collection.


This article is a news brief that reports on Florida libraries and the 2004 hurricane season. In the article, State Librarian Judi Ring comments on the roles (e.g. serving as day care centers, providing Internet access, and serving as shelters


This article is a news brief stating that the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation is awarding $10.9 million in grant funding to state libraries to help sustain free, public access to computers and the Internet.

This article focuses on the role that the Internet can play in disaster relief. The article lists national and international organizations that play a part in disaster relief around the world. Though the list is not exhaustive, each organization on the list is has a brief description of its work and an accompanying url.


This article discusses the importance of communication to the recovery of a business after an emergency. The article focuses on the use of communication technology (i.e. email) as an effective tool that allows businesses to remain in touch with employees before, during, and after an emergency. The article highlights specific examples of successfully deployed email messaging systems utilized during the 2004 hurricane season.


This article argues that special librarians and knowledge managers are well suited for developing emergency preparedness practices and procedures because of their ability to identify information relevant to the needs of their organization. Additionally, the article outlines and describes how these information professionals can succeed in leading and organizing the emergency preparedness efforts of their organizations.


This article discusses how the Miami Dade Public Library System met the challenges of post-disaster recovery. After Hurricane Andrew devastated the south eastern communities of Florida, the Miami Dade Public Library System (MDPLS) assumed emergency response roles by turning libraries into relief centers and centers of communication. The article identifies the challenges the libraries faced by the libraries and how the libraries successfully faced those challenges.

This article was written in response to 9/11. It discusses disaster recovery planning for businesses and explains why small businesses are especially vulnerable. The focus of the article is on technology infrastructure, backing-up data, and multi-format storage solutions.

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This article discusses the need for realistic expectations when recovery from a disaster. Specifically, the article focuses on how employees experience disaster and how their ability to cope with loss and be well enough to return to work cannot be planned.

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This article discusses how libraries can prepare their digital systems and data for potential disasters. The article provides information on ways in which data loss can be prevented, how data can be backed up, and what to do after the disaster has occurred.

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This article reports the results of an IFLA survey of national libraries that asked if they have a disaster plan, if they have suffered a disaster and if so, what the effects were, the frequency with which disaster plans are updated, whether the disaster plan is tested, and any preventive measures being taken. The authors recommend cooperation among institutions and coordination in the face of disaster.
Will, Barbara H. (2001). The public library as community crisis center: The public library has the resources and expertise to address the need for prompt, reliable, and relevant information in any crisis situation. However, librarians cannot wait to be asked to become involved. *Library Journal, 126*(20), 75-77. Retrieved May 14, 2009, from http://www.libraryjournal.com/article/CA185136.html

This article discusses ways libraries in which libraries can help their communities cope with disasters. Service that libraries can offer during times of crisis include the provision of different types of information, getting involved with local government emergency planning, and preparing for recovery portion of emergency planning.


This article is an analysis of scholarly literature that investigates the efforts of libraries and librarians to address the major economic, political and social, and technological changes that have occurred since 2003. The analysis is of an international focus.