

# Disaster Health Information Outreach and Collaboration Projects

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## OBJECTIVE

Do collaborations between libraries and disaster organizations improve use of disaster medicine and public health information and result in closer working relationships among agencies?

## METHODS

Disaster health information outreach projects were funded as partnerships between a library and an organization with disaster-related responsibilities. Seven projects each year, 2012-2013, designed programs for improving disaster medicine and public health information access for health professionals, first responders, and others involved in health-related disaster preparedness, response, and recovery.

Partnerships are across the United States and in rural, urban, and suburban settings. They include:

- public, university, and hospital libraries
- health departments
- professional associations
- university disaster and emergency research centers
- hospital alliances

Funding for 2013 will be announced on the DISASTR-OUTREACH-LIB listserv. To subscribe: <http://disasterinfo.nlm.nih.gov/dimrc/dimrclistserv.html>

## PROJECTS

<http://disasterinfo.nlm.nih.gov/dimrc/disasterinfofunding.html>



2011

- American Academy of Pediatrics with Univ. of Illinois /Chicago Lib. of the Health Sciences
- Health Sciences Library, University of Alabama with Institute for Rural Health Research
- Inova Fairfax Hospital Health Sciences Library with Northern Virginia Hospital Alliance
- Kanawha-Charleston Health Department with WV School of Osteopathic Medicine
- Marshall County Health Department with Marshall County Public Library
- Monroe County Department of Public Health with Rochester Public Library, Arnett Branch
- University of New Mexico Health Sciences Library with Center for Disaster Medicine



2012

- Arkansas Department of Health with University of Arkansas Medical Sciences Library
- University of Miami Louis Calder Memorial Library with William Lehman Research Center
- Southeastern (NC) Regional Medical Ctr. with Robeson Co. Dept. of Public Health & Dept. of Emergency Management, City of Lumberton, and Lumberton Emergency Management
- Western Maryland Area Health Education Center, Learning Resource Center with health departments of three counties, community organizations, and local colleges
- Managed Emergency Surge for Healthcare with Central Indiana Health Sci. Lib. Consortium
- Pacific College of Oriental Medicine with Public Health Services, County of San Diego
- Georgia Health Sciences University Medical Library with Georgia East Central Health District

## OUTCOMES



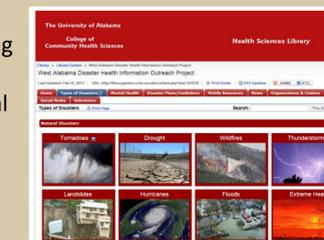
Brian Bunnett, Univ. of New Mexico Health Sciences librarian, working with Medical Reserve Corps at Bataan Memorial Death March Marathon held March 2012



Collection of disaster-related books at Arnett Branch Library in Rochester, NY



Kimberly Loper, University of Miami librarian, teaching WISER at Miami-Dade County Emergency Management Center



University of Alabama Health Sciences Web page for "West Alabama Disaster Health Information Outreach Project"

*Libraries can play a critical role in planning for emergencies:*

- Knowledge of neighborhood
- Skill in connecting people with reliable information
- Are viewed as a trusted source of information
- May have meeting rooms and other resources to meet with residents
- Informatics/research/demographic studies, etc.
- Grantsmanship resources
- Willingness to partner

Source: Vickie Souve, Monroe County NY Dept. of Public Health, 2013