



Disaster Information Management Research Center



The National Library of Medicine (NLM) is developing a Disaster Information Management Research Center to ensure the effective use of libraries as major and untapped resources in the nation's disaster management efforts. The Center will be the natural evolution of NLM's historically strong commitment to the collection, organization, and dissemination of health information and will be part of the Federal effort to help prepare, respond, and reduce the adverse health effects of disasters in partnership with Federal, State, and local communities.

"Disaster" includes public health emergencies, manmade disasters, and natural disasters such as pandemic influenza and catastrophic seismic and meteorological events. The Center's informatics agenda will identify health topics and information resources essential for all-hazards preparedness, response, and recovery. Several activities under development include the creation of Emergency Information Centers within NLM and the National Network of Libraries of Medicine (NN/LM), a network of nearly 6,000 libraries, to work in conjunction with Emergency Operation Centers (EOCs); training and continuing education programs; a database of published and gray literature in disasters; Web 2.0 applications; syndromic and other surveillance research; and communication interoperability technologies to support continuity of operations (COOP) programs.

NLM Long-Range Plan 2006–2016



Establish a Disaster Information Management Research Center at NLM to make a strong commitment to disaster remediation and to provide a platform for demonstrating how libraries and librarians can be part of the solution to this national problem.

Ensure continuous access to health information and effective use of libraries and librarians when disasters occur.

Disaster Information Management Research Center Activities

Health Information Resources Relevant to Disasters

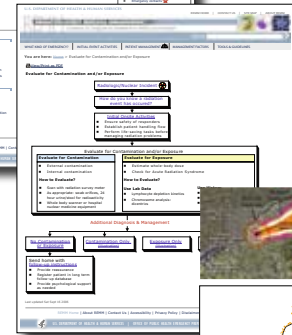
- Peer-reviewed published literature (*PubMed*; <http://pubmed.gov>)
- Gray literature resources (best practices, lessons learned, etc.)
 - Resource Guide for Public Health Preparedness <http://phpreparedness.info>
 - Central American Network for Disaster Health Information <http://www.candhi.org>
 - Inventory of government disaster health resources (in development)
- Wireless Information System for Emergency Responders <http://wiser.nlm.nih.gov>
- Radiation Event Medical Management (REMM) <http://remm.nlm.gov>
- Influenza Virus Resource (with the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases)
- OSIRIS—Human remain identification via DNA

Information Access, Education, and Training

- NLM and NN/LM Emergency Preparedness Plan
- COOP
- Emergency response resources
- Web 2.0 applications (virtual reality applications)



REMM



Research and Development

- COOP (systems interoperability, seamless communications)
- Surveillance methodology
- Scalable information infrastructure
- Information management tools
- Virtual reality and other Web 2.0 applications



Partnerships

- Institute of Medicine Disaster Preparedness Forum
- National Naval Medical Center/Uniformed Services University for the Health Sciences
- Pan American Health Organization/International Strategy for Disaster Reduction
- Central American Network for Disaster Health Information

Disaster Health Information Specialist

- Pilot project to provide several EOCs with a reference librarian trained in disaster preparedness and response resources to assist before and after events
- Emergency Information Lab at NLM



Summary:

The Disaster Information Management Research Center is a service of the U.S. Government that will provide tools and information and research ways to assist with the health aspects of disaster preparedness and response.

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