

ALA | **20**
25
Annual

*Conference
& Exhibition*

PHILADELPHIA
JUNE 26 – 30

FOR OUR LIBRARIES.

Disaster Response and Sustainability: How Libraries Are Using Federal Funds To Support Communities

Rebekkah Smith Aldrich | Sustainable Libraries Initiative

Denise R. Lyons | Kentucky Department for Libraries & Archives

Marcia A. Mardis | Florida State University



**Sustainable
Libraries
Initiative**

FSU

School of Information
College of Communication & Information



Kentucky Department for
Libraries and Archives



Marcia A. Mardis
Professor
Florida State University

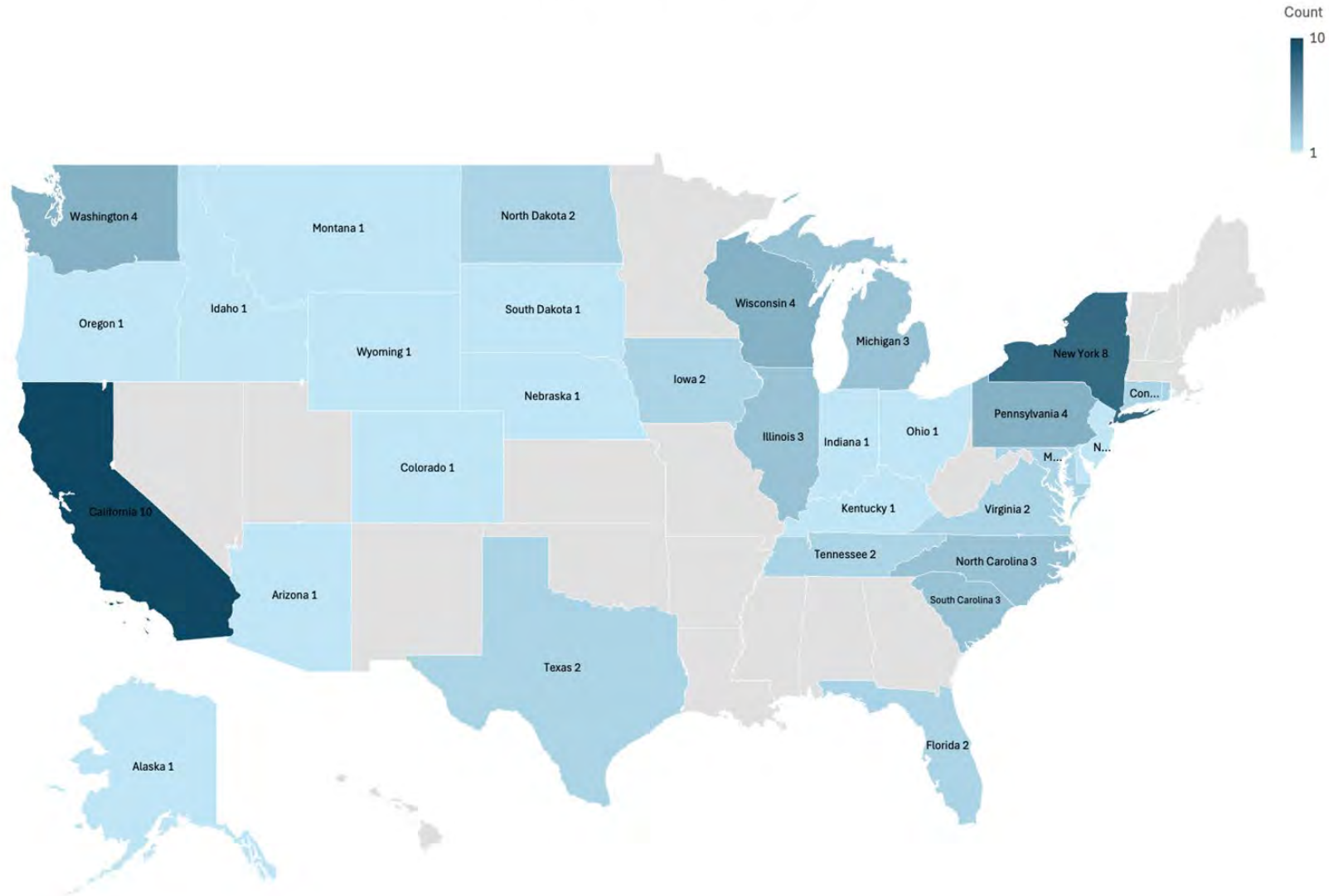


Rebekkah Smith Aldrich
Executive Director
Mid-Hudson Library System
& Co-Founder, **Sustainable Libraries Initiative**



Denise R. Lyons
Commissioner/State Librarian
Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives

IMLS Disaster Related Grantees
All Programs FY 2002-2024



IMLS Disaster Grantees, All Programs FY 2002-2024* (N=94)

* Note: For visual economy, this map excludes projects from Federated States of Micronesia (1), Palau (3), Puerto Rico (1); U.S. Virgin Islands (2)

State Library Agency Projects & Special Grants

Denise Lyons

State Librarian/Commissioner

Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives



South Carolina October 2015

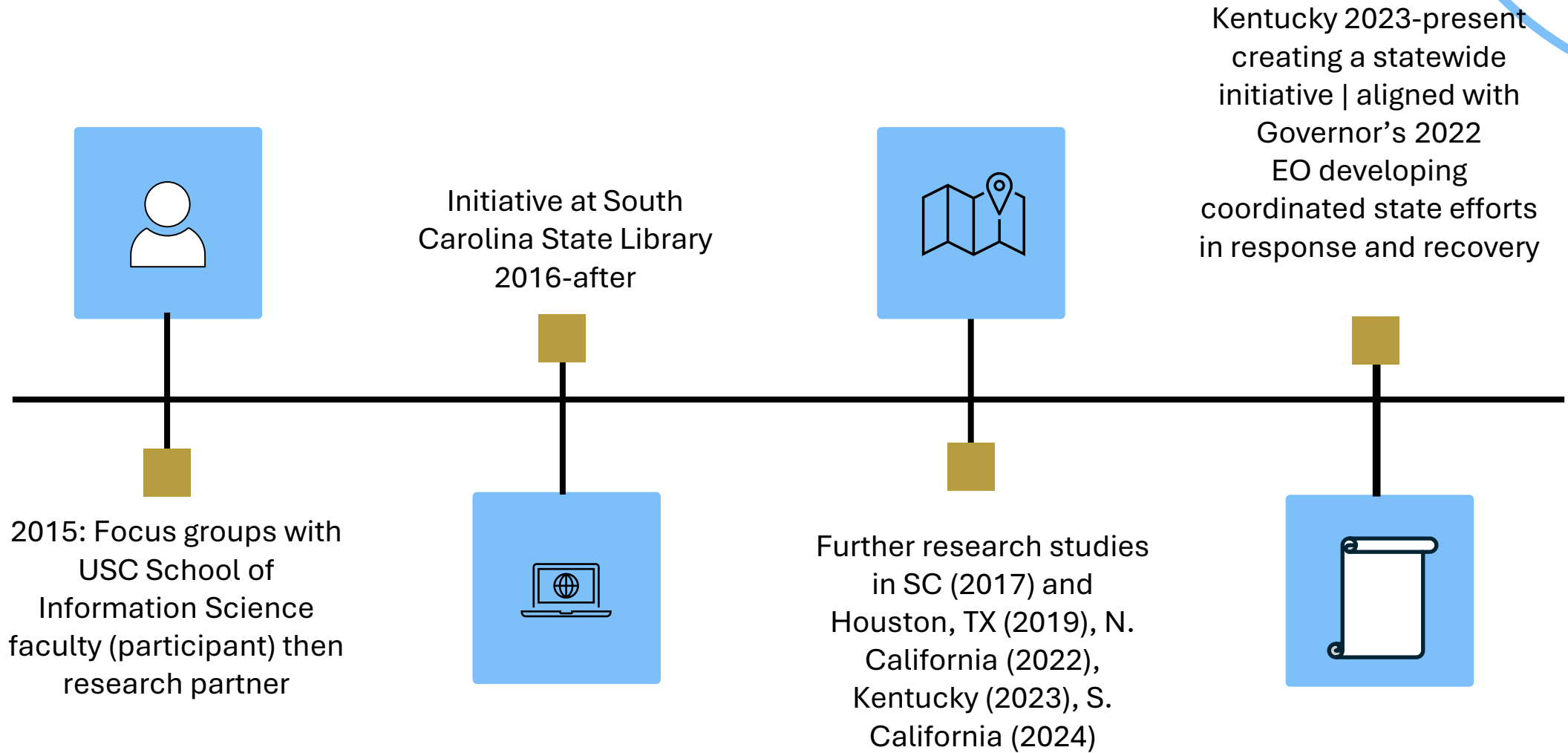
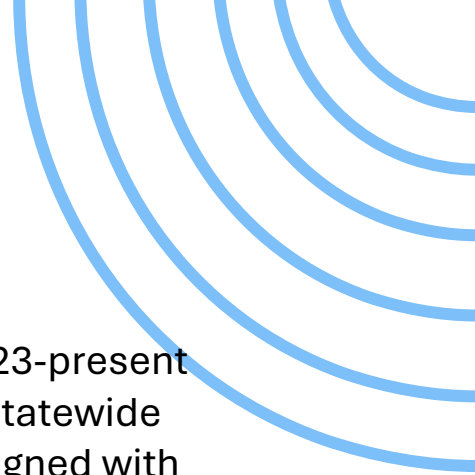
That's Two Notch road in Columbia, SC ...

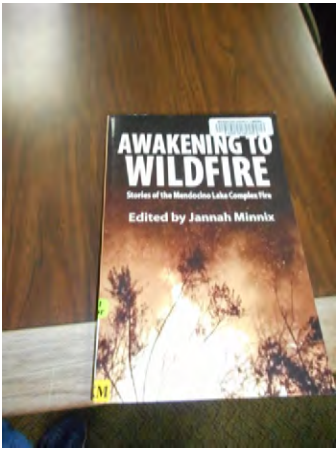


Columbia is normally the inland city where people travel when evacuation happens.

- 42 requests for aid, fulfilled by 10 states
- 36/46 counties declared disasters
- 4100 National Guard members deployed
- More than 1500 water rescues, 500+ roads and bridges closed, hundreds of failed dams
- Congaree River at Columbia reached a peak of 31.81 feet
- 120- year-old Broad River diversionary Columbia Canal breached, compromising drinking water
- USGS gage along Gills Creek at FT. Jackson Blvd showed a peak stage of 19.6 feet

Project Timelines





South Carolina

- Library Director outreach
- Emergency Preparedness Statewide Committee
- Emergency Preparedness and Disaster Planning Summit
- Conference Attendance
- Training with NEDCC
- Local library grants—kits, conferences, training

Kentucky

- Focus group coordination
- In person training from NEDCC (introduction and hands-on wet salvage)
- Staff discussions/participation in KDRF meetings
- Small and rural emergency preparedness plan workshops (2025)

National Leadership Grant

- In 2024, USC was awarded an IMLS NLG to create and implement a series of training programs to assist libraries before, during, and after disasters: Project Library PREPARE: Planning, Response, Emergency Preparedness, and Resilience Education (terminated 2025.)
- Trainings to follow FEMA disaster life cycle phases; emphasize community crisis communication, risk perception, assessment, immediate response, and preparedness; Included disaster management plans and technology.



Five Core Tasks of Crisis Leadership

1. Sense Making: Grasping Crisis as They Unfold
2. Decision Making and Coordinating: Shaping the Crisis Response
3. Meaning Making: Constructing a Crisis Narrative
4. Ending a Crisis: Managing Accountability
5. Learning and Changing: From Crisis to Reform

"Leadership competence determines the success or failure of crisis management efforts."



Supporting Staff in Emergencies and Natural Disasters

Feili Tu-Keefner, MLIS, PhD
Denise R. Lyons, MS, MLIS
April Hobbs, MLIS
J. Caroline Smith, MLIS



Equity of Access

Needs addressed by libraries:

- Computer literacy
- Functional literacy
- Information literacy
- Access to internet and technology
- Language access

2015-2016:
"We had to disseminate information about being scammed... we did some posts on scams, ... these are vulnerable people that we're working with anyway..."
 [Library Administrator/Librarian Subject #5]

2017:
"People could utilize our internet connection and our computers.. We also provided the availability for people to get on board our vehicles to apply for FEMA assistance to check up on housing arrangements that they had to Skype or to have virtual conversations with other family members... we always provide Internet access and connectivity but we kind of had to tweak that a little bit to respond to the need."

Disaster Health Information Access and Public Libraries' Situation-Specific Information Services: What Public Librarians and Library Users Said

Feili Tu-Keefner, Jingjing Liu, Denise Lyons, April Hobbs, J. Caroline Smith & Mike Corbo

To cite this article: Feili Tu-Keefner, Jingjing Liu, Denise Lyons, April Hobbs, J. Caroline Smith & Mike Corbo (2020) Disaster Health Information Access and Public Libraries' Situation-Specific Information Services: What Public Librarians and Library Users Said, Journal of Consumer Health on the Internet, 24:3, 201-227. DOI: 10.1080/15398285.2020.1791666

To link to this article: <https://doi.org/10.1080/15398285.2020.1791666>



"In several neighborhoods the library was the only facility that had power and internet."
Houston Public Library staff member

Emergency Preparedness Initiative

Establish Statewide Emergency Preparedness Committee

- To have internal staff and public library staff come together with a goal of forming emergency preparedness resources, trainings, and events that would help in the time of disasters (primarily weather, mold, fire, active shooter); give guidance during these situations.

Resources

- Toolkit: easy reference of what to do before, during and after an emergency (weather-related disasters, Active Shooters, public health crises): Description of each disaster, Safety considerations and hazard materials (includes equipment that would be needed), Preparing for a disaster, Training opportunities, and Recommended resources
- LibGuide: Emergency plan, External partnerships, Communication, Preservation, Best practices (<https://guides.statelibrary.sc.gov/disaster-preparedness>)

Grants

- Emergency Preparedness Kits: Will include non-consumable items, UV light for sanitizing library materials, Reusable plastic totes, Fans (box shaped), Dehumidifiers, Plastic sheets/tarp, Generator, PPE

Training

- NEDCC: Modeled after California State Library program
 - Full/multi day in-person [workshops](#) which included specific content areas (collection care, preservation, fundamentals, collections management) including wet salvage hands-on workshops. Designed originally to be in three parts of the state, online during the pandemic. Provided discussion online as well as free, self-guided, online learning: [Preservation 101](#) and [Fundamentals of Audiovisual Preservation](#).
- Emergency Preparedness & Disaster Planning Summit
 - Modeled on the Georgia Public Library Service Facilities and Disaster Preparedness Summit (<https://georgialibraries.org/facsum>).
 - Workshop for library administrators, staff, and partners who seek to improve their knowledge around preparedness before, during, and after disasters.



Emergency Preparedness & Disaster Planning Summit 2021

Agenda:

- Introduction to Emergency and Disaster Preparedness Planning
- Creating a Disaster Plan
- Emergency Preparedness Considerations for People with Disabilities
- Design before Disaster
- Crisis Communications
- Mental Health for Staff
- Librarians' Roles and Supporting Staff in Emergencies
- Library Director Panel: After the Disaster
- Collections & Salvage workshop and Disaster Plan Stress Test with the NEDCC

<https://guides.statelibrary.sc.gov/summit-handouts>



able
SOUTH CAROLINA
independent
living for all

Emergency Preparedness:
Integrating Individuals with
Access and Functional Needs

Empowering Equity and Inclusion
www.able-sc.org



California Wildfire Research 2022



- Zoom focus groups held with representatives from Plumas County, Tehama County, Napa County (retired), Yolo County
- In person focus groups held with representatives of Mendocino, Lake, Napa, Sonoma, El Dorado, Placer, and Nevada Counties
- Zoom meetings and in-person meetings held with NorthNet staff and "Recovery Together" IMLS grant coordinators/participants

2021-2023

Building a Culture of Preparedness: Librarians Lead in Times of Crisis

April Hobbs
University of Memphis
and
Denise Lyons
Denise Lyons Consulting

#coreforum2022



SUSTAINING OUR PEOPLE, PLANET & PERFORMANCE INTO THE FUTURE

CLA Conference • June 1-3, 2023 • Sacramento, CA

Community Resilience from Coast to Coast: Lessons from Disaster Research to Engage Your Community and Empower Your Library Staff

Emergency Preparedness and Disaster Planning

Denise R. Lyons
UNCG Department of Library and Information Science
LIS 688 Week 2
drylons@uncg.edu
214.681.9800

Supporting Library Staff in Emergencies and Natural Disasters

Dr. Feil Tu-Keefner, feiltu@sc.edu, University of South Carolina | April Hobbs, hobbsa@ccpl.org, Charleston County Public Library
Denise R. Lyons, dlyons@statelibrary.sc.gov and J. Caroline Smith, jcsmith@statelibrary.sc.gov, South Carolina State Library

Background/Purposes

- explore the role of public libraries in South Carolina and Texas during emergencies
- identify librarians' basic required competencies

Framework

1. Provide a core of public services and technology for information, education, and services.
2. Prepare a core of emergency relief services for the protection of services.
3. Prepare a disaster communication plan with local agencies to facilitate emergency response and recovery.

Methodology

Results

Community Members' Uses of Technology and Social Media

Importance of Using the Library's Technology Resources after the Disaster

Community Members' Preferences in Finding Information About a Disaster

Recommendations

Public libraries and librarians:

- select and disseminate trustworthy digital health resources
- provide health information and technology literacy training to the general public
- promote public librarians' use of disaster information resources prepared by the National Library of Medicine and CDC
- deliver collaborative real-time health information services through the use of social media sites, such as Facebook and Twitter
- integrate competencies identified to enhance LIS curriculum and to develop professional CE



Kentucky Department for
Libraries and Archives



INSTITUTE of
Museum and Library
SERVICES

Kentucky Disaster Recovery Framework (KDRF)

What is the KDRF?

KDRF is meant to serve as a high-level reference guide for leaders and stakeholders to coordinate recovery efforts. It must align with existing statutes, regulation, policies and procedures.

Framework Purpose:

To define how the whole community (i.e. local, state, federal, other partners, and affected community) will collaborate and coordinate more effectively by utilizing existing resources to promote resilience and support the recovery of those affected by a disaster or incident.

Framework Goal:

To serve as an organized guide to facilitate recovery by:

- Aligning key roles and responsibilities across the whole community
- Depicting a process in which the community fully engages
- Leveraging and supporting community leadership in developing well-planned and clearly communicated recovery priorities and activities



KENTUCKY DIVISION OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Kentucky's 6 Recovery Support Functions (RSFs):

RSF 1- Community Assistance

RSF 2- Economic Recovery

RSF 3- Health and Social Services

RSF 4- Housing

RSF 5- Infrastructure Systems

RSF 6- Natural and Cultural Resources

Cabinet	Office/ Department	RSF #	RSF Purpose	Why?/ Reason for Activation During Disaster Recovery Events/ Partnerships/ Capabilities/Resources	Sources/Websites	POCs
---------	-----------------------	----------	----------------	---	------------------	------

Five Core Tasks of Crisis Leadership

1. **Sense Making:** Grasping Crises as They Unfold
2. **Decision Making and Coordinating:** Shaping the Crisis Response
3. **Meaning Making:** Constructing a Crisis Narrative
4. **Ending a Crisis:** Managing Accountability
5. **Learning and Changing:** From Crisis to Reform



Ending Crises, Learning, and Changing

"I think it's important for administrators to realize that their staff is **part of the community** as well and that their staff has been through a **trauma event**." Library Staff 1, Marshall, 2023

"Don't underestimate in the crisis mode...staff **personally** affected." Library Staff 2, Site 3, 2022

"Teaching them little preparedness things like have a list of local numbers and emails, just in general having a plan made beforehand." Library staff 1, Perry, 2023

"...beneficial for us to **start looking at ways to be prepared if this should ever happen again**. And maybe looking at organizations that we could connect with now...**better prepared to provide services and information**." Library Administrator 3, 2015

"Being **specific about what you need**...I think that would be good to do **before the disaster strikes**, knowing what those things are." Library Administrator 2, 2022

"I ended up doing a lot of kind of social work referral things. People ask me, where do I find this? Because I need this basic need met. Where do I need to go to find this? And so that type of training also...there's been a lot of trainings on or even talk about having in-house social workers in libraries to be able to help communities with referrals." Library Staff 1, Hopkins, 2023

- Emotional Intelligence
- Communications
- Equity of Access
- Challenges
- Recommendations

Partnerships



WHAT IS THE HEALING LIBRARY?

The Healing Library is a series of kits designed to make a family's journey of healing following a trauma easier to navigate and personalize.

Designed with the intention of being lent out by libraries the materials for these scalable kits are available for free to download and assemble yourself.

<https://www.thehealinglibraryus.com>

Severe Weather & Climate Engagement

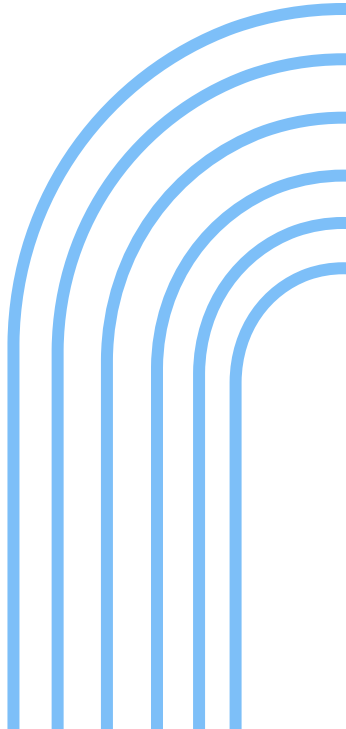
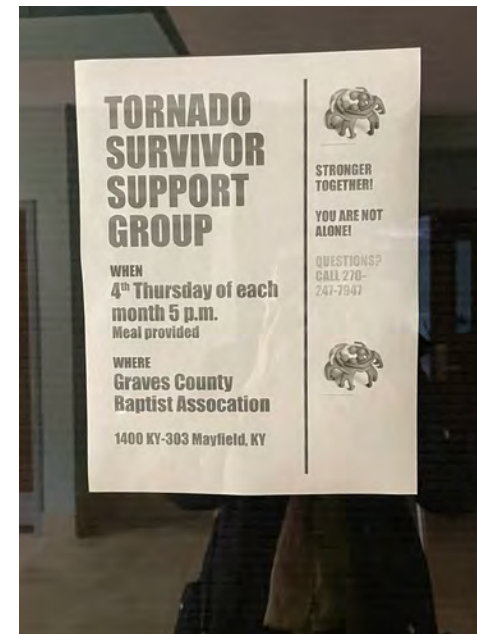
Collaborations

- Library staff have been called to serve in the emergency operations center
- Kentucky Governor's office set up <https://governor.ky.gov/flood-resources> and <https://governor.ky.gov/tornadoresources>
- FEMA, Red Cross
- State Parks, state and local public health departments
- CalFire in California

<https://www.fire.ca.gov/incidents>



FEMA



"A classic example would be, you know, issuing a personal library card. And if you ask a person who has been evacuated from their home, and they're in a parking lot, I need proof of address, and they don't know the status of their home. That's not helping anybody."

— Library Director, Northern California

Great Ideas from California's Libraries

- Forgiveness Clauses – waive fees after a disaster (Sonoma Co.)
- Postcards for Responders – community can write thank you notes to responders (Sonoma Co., Placer Co.)
- Provide virtual programming, i.e. Storytime (Sonoma Co.)
- Develop Natural Disaster Policy, Needs Assessments, etc. (Sonoma Co.)
- LIS Programs – Resilience Hub Infrastructure training, libraries as a community hub (Sonoma Co.)
- Staff participate in Emergency Services Training, Disaster Training (Placer Co., Lake Co.)
- Healing Library Kits (Napa Co.)
- Technology checkouts – laptops, hotspots, etc. (Napa Co., El Dorado Co.)
- Disaster Recovery Collection – building houses, wildfire landscaping, etc. (Lake Co.)



SHARE!

- Professional Development
- Continuing Education
- Formal (LIS/coursework)
- Informal (groups, meetups)

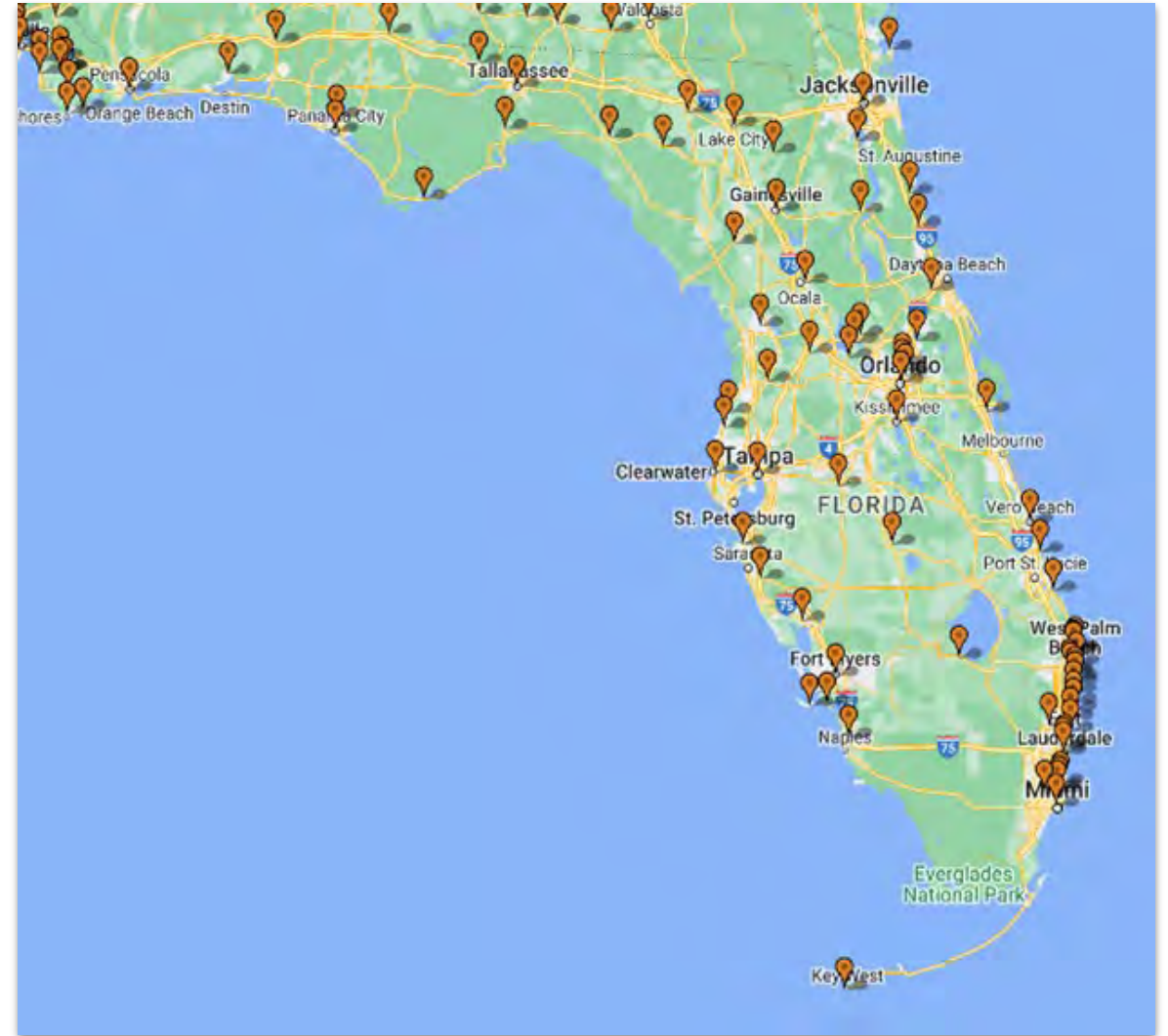


Rural Public Library Disaster Planning

Florida Library Director Survey

Public Library Directors (146 in 67 counties)

- 50 total responses
- 20% from state-designated rural counties
- 13 submitted library system disaster plans



Disaster Mitigation and Preparation

- Desire to spend time talking about disasters with staff;
- Engaging and sending staff to training opportunities;
- Identifying mitigation goals and strategies

Library Directors' Concerns in Preparing for Disasters

Staff ill-prepared for emergency-related roles

Duties lack clear explanation or proper training

Inadequate budget to design, conduct, or evaluate

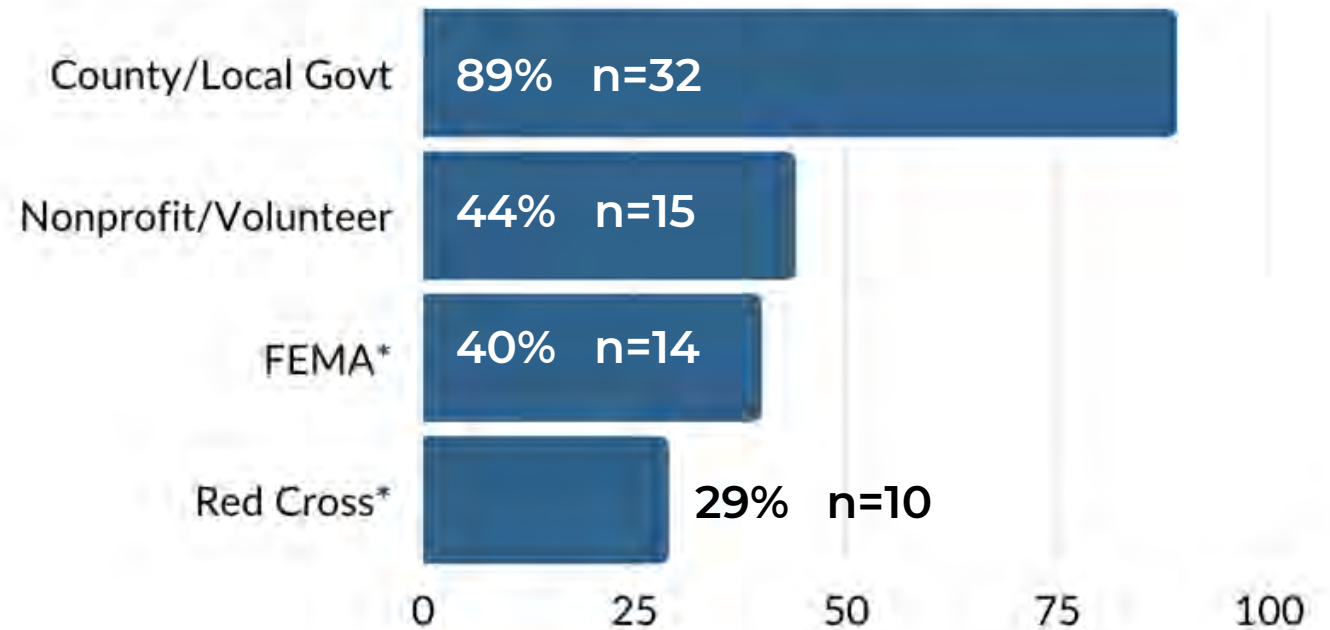
Old & deteriorating buildings

Local & Community Relationships in Response



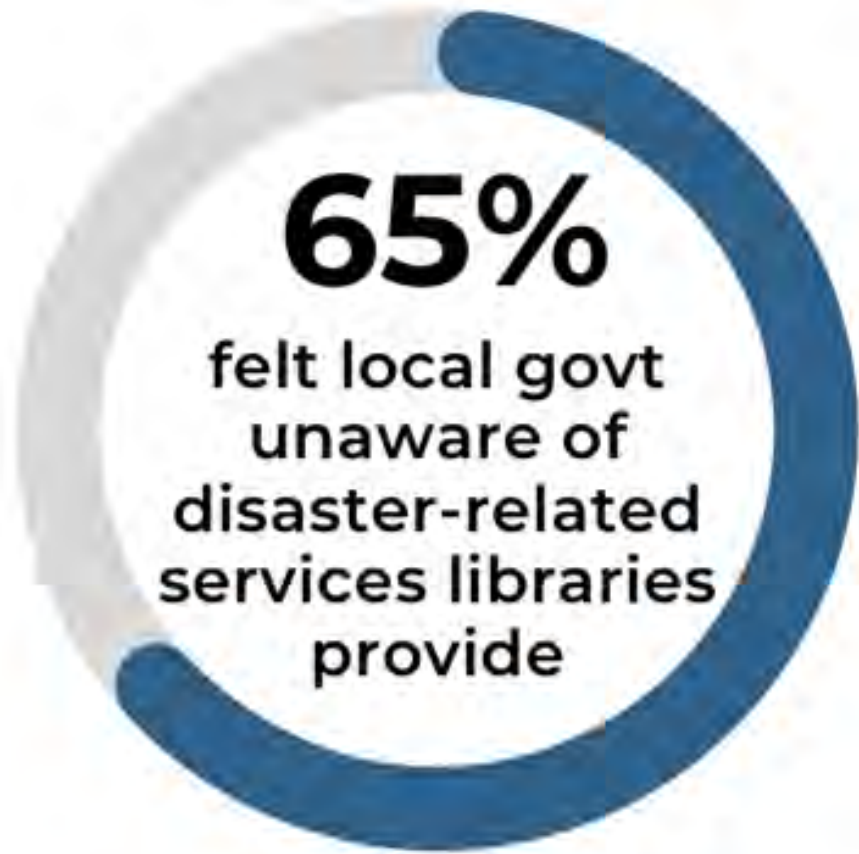
n=18

Florida Libraries Working with Local Government & Community Agencies



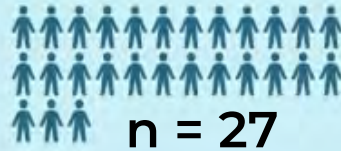
*Agencies often coordinated through local government officials.

Local & Community Relationships in Response



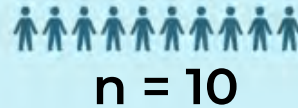
n = 24

61%



Library Staff designated as
essential workers during
disasters

26%



Library Directors attend
regular Emergency
Management meetings

3%



Library Directors assist
with decision-making on
the EOC board

Almost
50%

provide workspace
for external
agencies

n = 17



33%

used for aid
distribution

n = 12

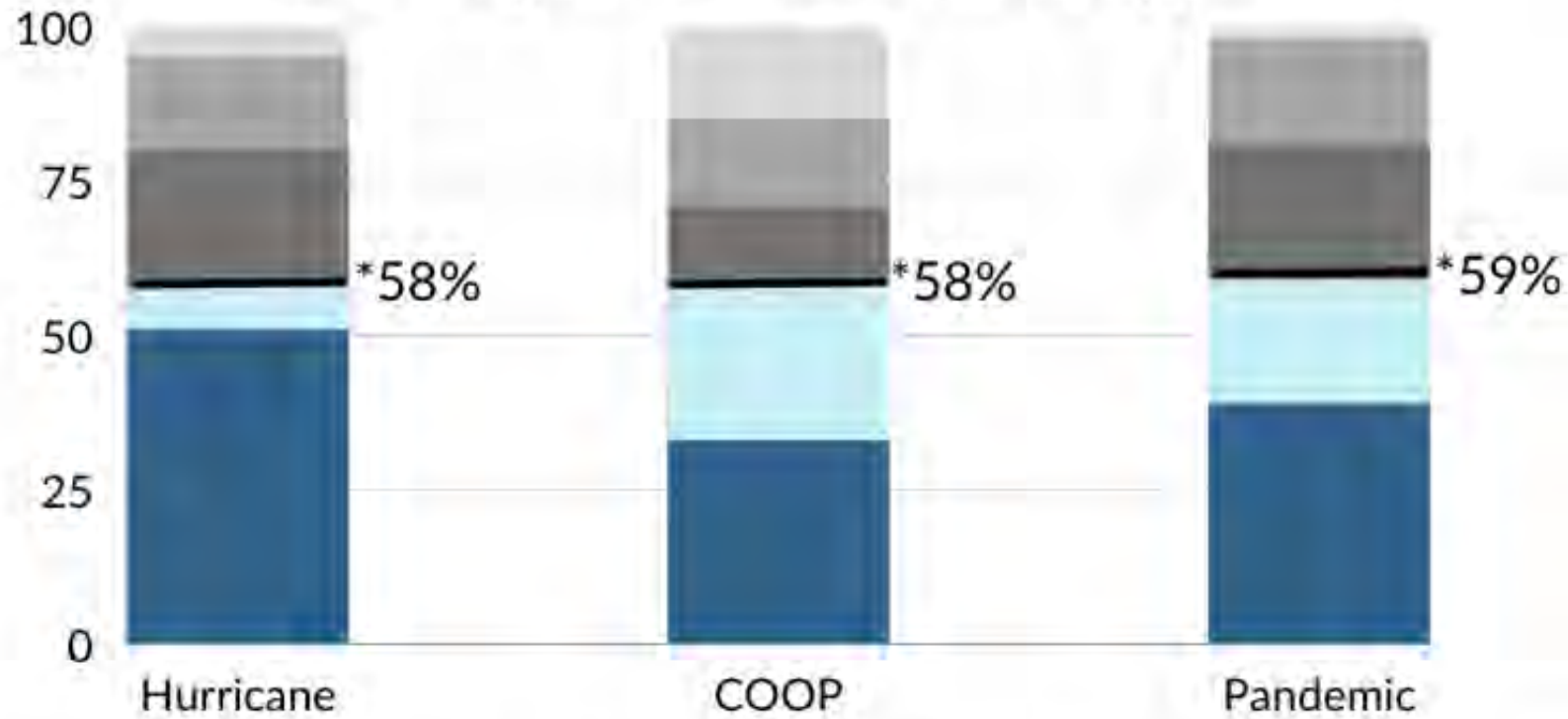
15%

used for shelters

n=5

Status of Disaster Plans in Florida Libraries

- Written by and for the library
- Written for county but includes library
- Written for county but library determines how to support
- Not formally written
- Does not have any plan



*Percentages show combined total of plans written for or including the library.

Disaster Plan Analysis

50% of plans **included**:

- purpose
- plan activation trigger
- chain of command
- response team and duties
- planning team and duties
- communications plan
- function-related SOPs
- hurricane SOPs
- recovery strategies

50% of plans **lacked**:

- hazard analysis, capabilities assessment, mitigation overview
- planning assumptions
- cooperative agreements
- facilities information
- financial records and resource tracking
- training and evaluation procedures
- SOPs for emergencies other than hurricane
- continuity of operations plans (COOPs)
- consideration for vulnerable populations

*13 plans, 10 counties (3 fiscally constrained)

How do we move forward?



Mitigation measures



Disaster plans



Staff training



**Greater collaboration
with emergency
management**

Rural Resiliency Hub Planning

What goes into a Resiliency Hub?



Trusted Location
Identified by community as a trusted place to go for information & resources.



Energy Access

Hubs provide access to water, electricity, and gas for utility needs like bathing and cooking



Meeting Everyday Needs

Hubs go beyond emergency response operations to meet community identified necessities.

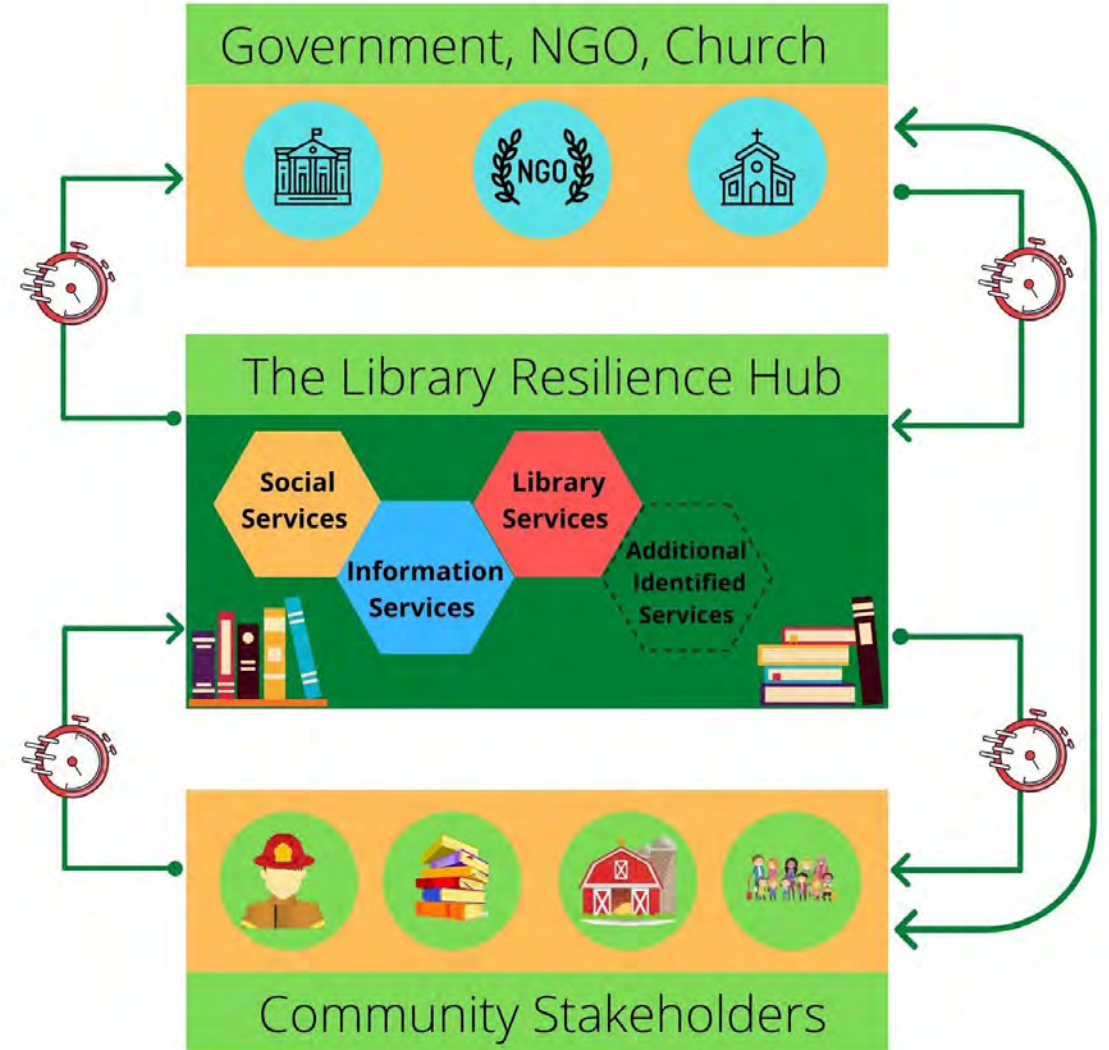


Community Collaboration

Hubs can only be effective if the community is actively engaged in co-development and operation.



Where are we headed?



Community Based Research Design

RQ1. Who are the **key beneficiaries** and what do they need?



RQ2. What is the **process** of designing a resiliency hub?



RQ3. What do library resiliency hubs **provide** and how can they be **sustained**?

Quantitative Data (Tasks 1-3)

- fuse heterogeneous data
- Develop multi-network resiliency metrics and dynamic multivariate prioritized risk maps
- dynamic spatiotemporal hurricane impact assessment

Qualitative Data (Task 4-5)

- assessing mapping design process through community perceptions of vulnerability
- community health and safety assessments for children and adults



Data Integration and Community Validation (Task 6-8)

- listening sessions with residents
- steering committee meetings of local government
- ongoing meetings with librarians

Sample Resiliency Hub Plan: Mossy Pond Example



District 3 (Mossy Pond)

Library guides: Sparse population, Predominantly white, median age 34, high poverty, educational attainment, low disability

District disaster impacts: wind damage, road debris, power outage, uninsured residents, unemployment, depopulation

Gaps: road block reporting, generator access, employment postings, telehealth, Spanish language versions of county and state documents, legal assistance, basic distribution



Sample Resiliency Hub Plan: Kinard Park Example



District 5 (Kinard)

Library guides: More densely populated, Predominantly African American, median age 64, high poverty, low literacy, high disability; service area overlaps with main branch

District disaster impacts: flooding, road debris, power outages, medical emergencies

Gaps: legal assistance, social security form, ability to submit to FEMA, insurance company, etc., lack of tech skills



Rebekkah Smith Aldrich, MLS, LEED AP

Co-Founder & Board President, Sustainable Libraries Initiative
Principal Author, National Climate Action Strategy for Libraries\
Co-Creator, The Library of Local Program



**Sustainable
Libraries
Initiative**

Sustainable Libraries

- ✓ **Strong & Authentic Institutions** that Live their Values Out Loud
- ✓ Catalyst for **Civic Participation & Social Cohesion** in Communities
- ✓ Working on **Climate Mitigation** (reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions (GHG))
- ✓ Active Participants in **Climate Adaptation** (strengthening community resilience)



<https://www.libraryoflocal.org/>

- **Seed Library & Tool Lending**
- **Special Collections:**
 - Food Security (Y1)
 - Climate Solutions (Y2)
 - Disaster Preparedness (Y3)
- **Programming led by local experts**
- **Alignment with NYS Climate Smart Communities**





Sustainable Libraries: Resources and webinars for climate action

WebJunction and the Sustainable Libraries Initiative team up to support libraries in creating a more sustainable future

WebJunction with Sustainable Libraries Initiative / **03 May 2023**

WebJunction and the [Sustainable Libraries Initiative](#) are collaborating to offer a set of resources to support libraries as they address the greatest threat to global health and the grandest challenge of our time: climate change.

Increasingly severe weather, food scarcity caused by droughts and lack of biodiversity, intense heat, record-setting wildfires, and sunny-day flooding are all acute indicators that climate change is here and is already a deadly and costly aspect of modern life. As we seek solutions to slow the effects and manage the immediate impacts of climate change, we find the answers entwined with some of the thorniest issues of our time: economics and inequities in society.

Our ability to pull together as neighbors, to adapt to what is already happening, and to lessen the severity of climate change's impacts on future generations all require us to think differently and to consider our decisions—whether large or small—through the lens of sustainability. Libraries of all types are perfectly positioned to help to support and lead in this work.

In 2019, the ALA Council added “sustainability” as a [core value of the profession](#), adopting the triple bottom line definition of sustainability to ensure balanced decision making that respects environmental stewardship, social equity, and economic feasibility. Now is the moment to step up and find ways to lead by example that inspire those we serve—and those we serve with—to do the same.



**Sustainable
Libraries
Initiative**



Related Topics

- [Access & equity](#)
- [Health & wellness](#)
- [Organizational management](#)
- [Outreach](#)
- [Partnerships & collaboration](#)
- [Programming](#)
- [Sustainability](#)

Read series articles

- [Sustainability 101](#)
- [Getting Started with Climate Action Planning](#)
- [Disaster Preparedness and Community Resilience](#)
- [Climate Justice](#)
- [Programs that Walk](#)



Download PDF ▾

Share ▾

The Storm is Here: Public Libraries' Role in Disaster Preparedness and Community Recovery

2025 | Antonelli, Monika; Aldrich, Rebekkah; Tanner, Rene; Ho, Adrian

Published Web Location

<https://doi.org/10.5070/G3.39629>



Main Content

Metrics

Author & Article Info

— Abstract

A national survey of public library directors and administrators was conducted in 2022 to assess the role of public libraries in community support following weather disasters. The results showed strong agreement (84%) among respondents that libraries have a critical service role in disaster response. Most respondents expressed concern about the impact of weather-related hazards on their communities. During and after disasters, libraries continued to offer regular services, with Wi-Fi access and computer stations being the most commonly provided. While the Stafford Act designates libraries as essential services and allows for relocation funding through the Federal Emergency Management Agency, only 36% of respondents were aware of this legislation. To fully leverage available support, libraries must enhance their preparedness prior to such events. Slightly over half of respondents (51%) indicated their libraries had an emergency preparedness plan. Among those with plans, most had a traditional emergency response plan (82%), while fewer had a continuity of operations plan (13%), and only one library had a community resilience plan. These findings highlight significant opportunities for increased preparation. Wider adoption of continuity of operations plans and greater visibility of these services would enhance libraries' effectiveness as community resources during weather disasters.

The National Climate Action Strategy for Libraries Implementation Guide

ALA American Library Association

Sustainable Libraries Initiative



The Strategy

• Climate Change Mitigation

Libraries align greenhouse gas emission reduction goals with those that international climate scientists and policy makers have indicated are necessary to prevent catastrophic cascading effects. This strategy recommends a goal for all libraries to reduce their institution's greenhouse gas emissions by 43%, from 2015 levels, by 2030 and to achieve net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050¹.

• Climate Change Adaptation & Contributions Community Resilience

Libraries adopt both internal disaster preparedness plans and strategic goals that speak to the most likely climate hazards facing their area to contribute to their community's resilience.

• Climate Justice Work

Libraries harness the transformative power of education for climate justice and develop relationships with local community organizations working on climate justice to embed a deeper awareness of the intersection of human and civil rights with climate stewardship than is presently found².

¹ Paris Agreement United Nations, https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/english_paris_agreement.pdf

² Principles of Climate Justice, Mary Robinson Foundation, <https://www.mrfc.org/indigenous-climate-justice-the-renewable-transformative-power-of-education-for-climate-stewardship/>

ALA American Library Association

Sustainable Libraries Initiative



Sustainable Libraries Initiative

ALA American Library Association

Operationalizing Community Resilience. Creating a Training and Partnership Model for Libraries

Introduction

The Suffolk Cooperative Library System (SCLS) requests \$150,000 to lead a 12-month-long LB21 Planning Grant project in partnership with OCLC's WebJunction program and the Sustainable Libraries Initiative (SLI) to pilot a training program that supports public library staff in smaller and rural communities to plan and implement locally relevant community resilience activities with community partners. This training will help participating libraries integrate the National Climate Action Strategy for Libraries (NCASL) into their daily operations. The pilot program will train staff at 40 public libraries serving populations of 25,000 or fewer in Iowa, New York, California, and Massachusetts. Project results will include a) up to 40 library-led initiatives to mitigate or adapt to weather-related hazards, b) stronger relationships between libraries and local community-based organizations, and c) a scalable training model to help libraries find practical ways to apply community resilience strategies.

Project Justification

Published in June 2024, the NCASL outlines key actions libraries can take to ensure they thrive in the future and contribute to building sustainable, resilient, and regenerative communities. It focuses on practical strategies and simple steps to get started, proven to work in other communities, that aid libraries in strengthening their institutions and their role in a community so they are active co-creators of community resilience. However, for many smaller and rural libraries, implementing the NCASL's strategies can be daunting due to limited resources and capacity constraints.

The Executive Board of the Association of Rural and Small Libraries (ARSL) has endorsed the NCASL, recognizing not only its applicability, but also the strength of the rural and small library community as a smart fit for this work. ARSL has also indicated their willingness to work with the SLI to help more rural and small libraries connect with this work to help make it less daunting.

While the NCASL offers a strong framework, translating it into actionable local steps remains a significant challenge. The working group that developed the NCASL conducted an online forum and a national survey to have the library community identify barriers to implementing the strategy. Over 800 library stakeholders from across the country responded to the survey. Key findings included:

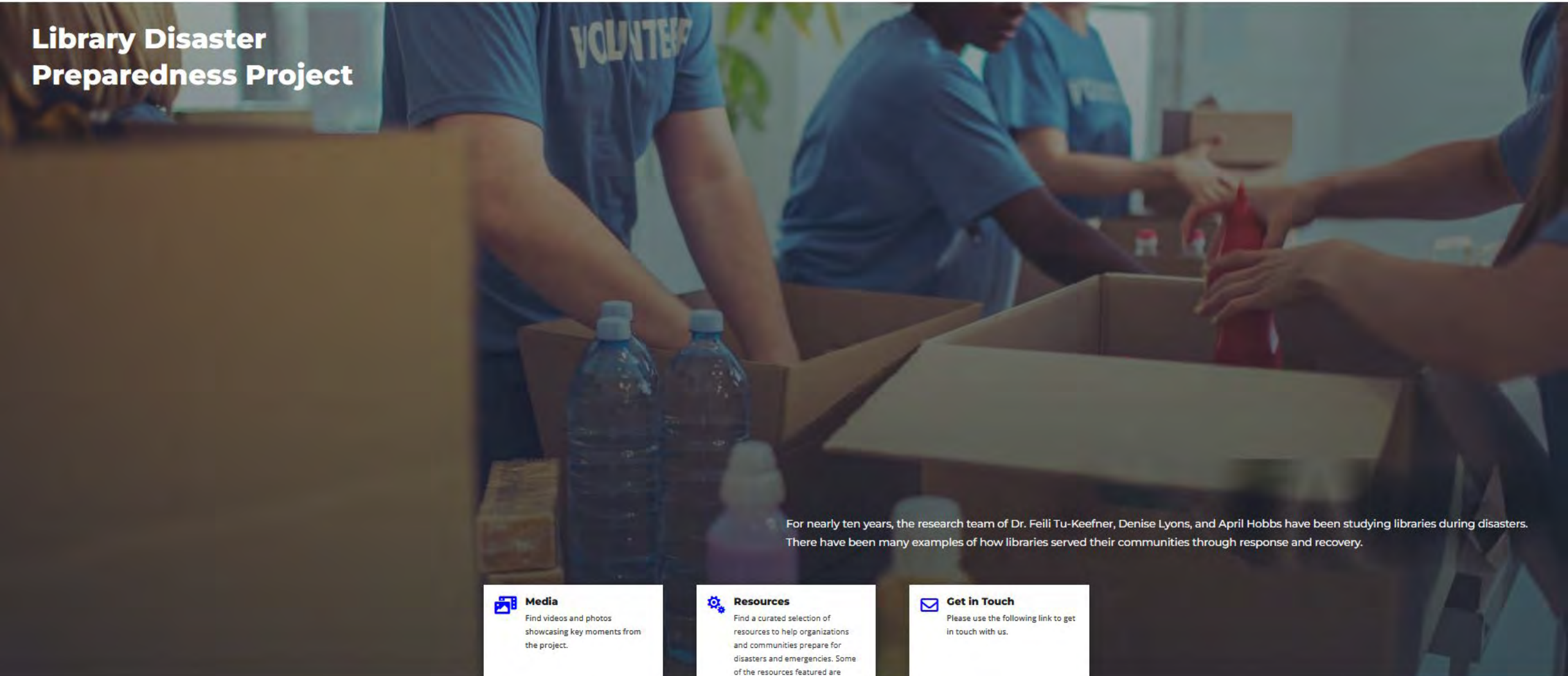


**Sustainable
Libraries
Initiative**





Library Disaster Preparedness Project



For nearly ten years, the research team of Dr. Feili Tu-Keefner, Denise Lyons, and April Hobbs have been studying libraries during disasters. There have been many examples of how libraries served their communities through response and recovery.



Media

Find videos and photos showcasing key moments from the project.



Resources

Find a curated selection of resources to help organizations and communities prepare for disasters and emergencies. Some of the resources featured are



Get in Touch

Please use the following link to get in touch with us.



ALA | **20
25**
Annual
Conference & Exhibition

PHILADELPHIA • JUNE 26–30

AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION | ALAANNUAL.ORG



EVALUATION

Contact Us

Rebekkah Smith Aldrich
Executive Director
Mid-Hudson Library System
rsmith@midhudson.org

Marcia A. Mardis
Professor of Information Science
Florida State University
Director, FSU Information Institute
marcia.mardis@cci.fsu.edu

Denise R. Lyons
Commissioner/State Librarian
Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives
denise.lyons@ky.gov