Charge of the NLM Disaster Information Management Coordinating Committee

The NLM Long Range Plan for 2006-2016 calls for an expanded emphasis and new initiatives related to disaster information management, including the establishment of a Disaster Information Management Research Center. [1] An effective response to the Plan's recommendations will require action in all parts of the Library. NLM's collection and its basic bibliographic services already include considerable information on the health aspects of disaster management [2], and all NLM divisions have existing relevant programs.[3]

To that end, an NLM Disaster Information Management Coordinating Committee has been established and will report to the Director of the Library.

The charge to the Committee is as follows:

1. Review existing relevant NLM programs and ensure that all the Library's Divisions are informed about each other's activities.

2. Identify existing budgetary commitments to disaster information management activities and report them to NLM's Executive Officer and Budget Officer.

3. Identify immediate steps that NLM Divisions can take - individually or jointly as appropriate - to ensure uninterrupted access to NLM services when disasters occur, to improve the Library's services related to disaster information management, and to take advantage of existing partnerships to improve disaster information management.

4. Recommend appropriate roles for NLM vis-a-vis the disaster management information activities of other government agencies and private organizations.

5. Recommend new research and development activities in this arena.

[1]   Goal 1, recommendations 1.5 and 1.6 http://www.nlm.nih.gov/pubs/plan/lrp06/report/LRP_Goal1.html
[2]   "Disaster Management" topic description from the NLM Collection Development Manual (http://www.nlm.nih.gov/tsd/acquisitions/cdm/subjects28.html).
[3]   Summary of related NLM programs as of October 2005, prepared in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina http://www.nlm.nih.gov/pubs/plan/lrp06/briefing/disastermgmt.html