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[HTTP://NNLM.GOV/PSR/NEWSLETTER](http://nnlm.gov/psr/newsletter)

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July 2008 Articles

[NLM Emergency Preparedness and Response Initiatives](#)

Posted on July 11th, 2008 by Alan Carr | Filed under [Emergency Preparedness](#)

In addition to its work on emergency preparedness and response with the NN/LM program, the National Library of Medicine has embarked on the following initiatives:

The Disaster Information Management Research Center (DIMRC)

From the [DIMRC Fact Sheet](#):

“Recognizing the untapped potential of library networks to aid in the nation’s disaster management efforts, NLM...has created the Disaster Information Management Research Center (<http://disasterinfo.nlm.nih.gov>) to help with national emergency preparedness and response efforts. Embedded within NLM’s [Specialized Information Services \(SIS\)](#) division, DIMRC is tasked with the collection, organization and dissemination of health information resources and informatics research related to disasters of natural, accidental, or deliberate origin.”

Emergency Access Initiative (EAI)

Maria Collins of NLM offered the following comments at a recent MLA 2008 Annual Meeting Sunrise Seminar:

“The Emergency Access Initiative is a collaborative partnership being discussed between NLM, NN/LM and participating publishers to provide free access to full-text articles from 300+ biomedical serial titles and select reference books to healthcare professionals and libraries affected by disasters in the United States. Let me emphasize that this is still under discussion and testing; and there is no final agreement, but we are hopeful at NLM. The idea for EAI grew out of discussions between NLM and publishers after Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Both NLM and the publishers were interested in ensuring that biomedical literature remained available to those in affected areas after a disaster. NLM is currently running a proof of concept pilot test with several publishers to work out technical and logistical issues, and determine publicity needs.... We will be working on the pilot over the next several months to reach consensus with publishers so that we can move this project into production.”

Other Key NLM Resources that can help you prepare and respond to emergencies and disasters:

MedlinePlus

- [Disasters](#) – Category found under Health Topics Tab
Ten new health topics were recently released on this page, including Chemical Emergencies, Earthquakes, Floods, Fires, Hurricanes, Radiation Emergencies, Tornadoes, Tsunamis, Volcanoes, and Winter Weather Emergencies. The topic pages are available in both English and Spanish, and some of the topics also link to health information in multiple languages.
- [Disaster Preparation and Recovery topic page](#)
This topic page provides summaries and links to information in English, Spanish, and 14 other languages. The English page also links to Go Local for finding disaster preparation and recovery resources for about 30 geographic areas in the United States.

Environmental Health and Toxicology

- [NLM Enviro-Health Links: Disaster Recovery and Environmental Health](#) provides information about recovering from natural and man-made disasters. It includes guides for state and local officials, links to state emergency management offices, information for emergency responders, guidelines for workers involved in environmental cleanup, and handling hazardous chemicals. Spanish-language disaster management information resources are also included. The site includes pre-formulated PubMed searches on the following topics: Disaster Emergency Medical Services, Disasters and Hazardous Chemicals, Disaster and Waste Management, and Molds and Mildew.
- [Special Populations: Emergency and Disaster Preparedness](#) provides links to selected Web sites featuring emergency preparedness for special populations. This includes people with disabilities, people with visual or hearing impairments, senior citizens, children, and women. Links to information in languages other than English are also provided.
- [PHPartners.org—Partners in Information Access for the Public Health Workforce](#) provides resources and web links to resources dealing with bioterrorism and environmental health. It is supported by NLM and other public health agencies and organizations. It includes a [Resource Guide for Public Health Preparedness](#), a gateway to freely available online resources related to public health preparedness, including expert guidelines, fact sheets, web sites, research reports, articles, and other tools. The resources may be searched by key word or browsed by topic.
- [Tox Town A-Z Disasters & Health](#) provides basic, background information on toxic chemicals and environmental health risks associated with health risks which can follow hurricanes, floods, other natural disasters, as well as man-made disasters. The resource is useful for students, educators, and the concerned public who want to learn more about these topics.

[PubMed](#)

PubMed includes over 30,000 references to literature related to disaster/emergency preparedness and response, including natural disasters, bioterrorism, chemical terrorism, and pandemic flu. Disaster medicine journals indexed in PubMed include *American Journal of Disaster Medicine, Biosecurity and Bioterrorism, Disasters, Disaster Management and Response: DMR, Disaster Medicine and Public Health Preparedness, and Prehospital and Disaster Medicine.*

[Wireless Information System for Emergency Responders \(WISER\)](#)

WISER provides a system to help emergency responders identify hazardous materials and respond to chemical emergencies. It contains information on over 400 chemicals and radiologic agents, as well as a radiation unit converter and *WMD Response Guidebook*. Different versions of WISER available include a PDA version (Palm OS, Pocket PC, and Smartphone), PC version for desktops and laptops, and a Web version, [WebWISER](#).

[Rebuilding After Typhoon Sudal: Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Funds Yap State Hospital Medical Library](#)

Posted on July 8th, 2008 by Julie Kwan | Filed under [Emergency Preparedness](#), [Outreach](#)

Submitted by Alice E. Hadley, Librarian
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Condensed and edited for publication in *Latitudes*

On the tiny island of Yap in the far western Pacific, the [Robert Wood Johnson Foundation](#), working together with Guam's [Ayuda Foundation](#), funded a project to establish the new Yap State Hospital Medical Library to replace the one destroyed in [Typhoon Sudal](#) in 2004. Librarians Arlene Cohen and Alice Hadley of Guam worked with Drs. Mark Durand and Thane Hancock; Medical Library Manager Charlene Laamtal; and Daisy Gilmatam, the Information Technology Technician at the Yap State Hospital to create this new facility.

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation grant covered the purchase of 250 books, cataloging for the books, library management software, a PowerPoint projector and screen, three computers, two printers, as well as the construction of bookcases and computer desks. In addition, Richard Sher of Gaylord, a library supply company, donated a two-drawer catalog and various library supplies.



Yap, Land of Stone Money

[Yap](#), called The Land of Stone Money, is one of four states in the [Federated States of Micronesia](#) (FSM). Although the FSM is a foreign country, it has a [Compact of Free Association](#) with the United States. Consequently, the US dollar is the currency and the US Postal Service charges the same price as shipping to Hawaii (although much slower). There were many problems with arranging shipping as very large companies often have rigid shipping requirements when shipping to a foreign country. Their systems often cannot provide the customs paperwork needed

when using the United States Postal Service or do not even allow the use of the system. This special handling added almost 20% to the cost of shipping.



Yap Hospital Training Session

During the first week of April 2008, Hadley and Cohen traveled to Yap to set up the physical library, a card catalog, and an online catalog, and provided training to the library manager on using the library management software and how to run a library. Training was also presented to almost one-third of the hospital staff on using PubMed and accessing quality health information in the physical library as well as the Internet. They plan to return in November 2008 to provide follow up training for the library manager, and additional

staff training on using PubMed and other online resources.

Yap State Hospital has 36 in-patient beds and 12 doctors (including one surgeon and one anesthesiologist), and serves both the island of Yap (population 8,000) and the inhabited outer islands (population 4,000). The new medical library is centrally located near the administrative offices and the medical records room in the out-patient department wing. There is an office computer for the library manager and four public access computers with filtered Internet access. Internet access is slow, but it allows the staff to access online resources including a subscription to almost 70 textbooks in STAT!Ref and hundreds of full-text journals on EBSCO through subscriptions paid for by [Pacific Resources for Education and Learning \(PREL\)](#). The library has a PubMed “My NCBI” account that provides tabbed search results with tabs for English language articles and free full-text making it easier for the staff to find articles they can use.



Alice Hadley trains Charlene Laamtal

While on Yap, Hadley and Cohen also helped the Yap State Public Library manager install and use the same library management software package at the newly renovated public library, also destroyed by Typhoon Sudal in 2004. They also brought together Laamtal and Gilmatam from the Yap State Hospital with Isabel Rungrad, of the Yap State Public Library so they could share information between the two libraries about using the software. Before the end of the visit, both were not just sharing expertise, but books and library supplies as well.

Finally, in preparation for the [Pacific Islands Association of Libraries and Archives \(PIALA\)](#) annual conference to be held in Yap on November 17-22, 2008, Hadley and Cohen met with the newly formed Yap State Library Association to work on the association's by-laws and preparations for the PIALA Conference.

Editor's Note: I wish to thank Arlene Cohen for supplying the photographs for this article.

[The NN/LM National Emergency Preparedness Project Baseline Assessment](#)

Posted on July 8th, 2008 by Heidi Sandstrom | Filed under [Emergency Preparedness](#)

The purpose of the [NN/LM Emergency Preparedness and Response Plan](#) is to help mitigate the impact of disasters on healthcare providers and their patients by helping Network member libraries maintain their information services in the event of a disaster. We can only know to what degree the Plan will have been successfully implemented in the Network by assessing the current level of and barriers to preparedness. Also, by identifying what kind of NN/LM support might be helpful, we can then provide that support to increase a library's preparedness and ability to respond to emergencies.

Some of you were part of a sample of regional DOCLINE health science or resource libraries that responded to the national baseline assessment survey (sample percentages were proportional to the regions). The survey had 352 returns, for an estimated 68% response rate and 5% margin of error. It was administered this spring by the NN/LM Outreach Evaluation Resource Center.

Highlights of the survey findings:

- Of those who responded to the questions about whether components of an emergency preparedness and response plan are in place at their libraries, about 70% (the average percentage of responses to each of six questions) answered "No" or "Don't Know."

- About 75% of the responses to questions about the existence of various roles for the library, library staff, or parent organization related to emergency response were “No” or “Don’t Know” (the average percentage of responses to each of four questions).
- Barriers to developing emergency plans identified by respondents include limited time (61%), limited knowledge (52%), lack of funds (37%) and lack of need (19%).
- About 86% of responses (the average percentage of responses to each of four questions) related to whether Network library staff had been trained in emergency preparedness, response and /or recovery were “No” or “Don’t Know.”
- Respondents indicated that the types of NN/LM support needed by libraries include assistance with continuity of services/operation plans (66%), training for a role in institution/community (65%), emergency preparedness and response training (60%) and assistance with partnerships with other libraries (50%).

The [Outreach Evaluation Resource Center \(OERC\)](#), which managed the distribution of the baseline survey and the analysis of results, will conduct a follow-up assessment in 2-3 years. If you have specific questions about the survey please contact the OERC staff:

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Overall, the baseline assessment clearly demonstrates that Network member libraries can be better prepared to face an emergency or disaster, and the assessment identifies what support would be most helpful to make this happen. We look forward to working with you on this important initiative!