3-15-2013

The Role of Librarians and Informationists in Disaster Response

Laura Banks
Brian Bunnett
Richard Carr

Follow this and additional works at: http://digitalrepository.unm.edu/hslic-posters-presentations

Recommended Citation
Banks, Laura; Brian Bunnett; and Richard Carr. "The Role of Librarians and Informationists in Disaster Response." (2013).
http://digitalrepository.unm.edu/hslic-posters-presentations/77

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Research and Scholarship at UNM Digital Repository. It has been accepted for inclusion in Posters and Presentations by an authorized administrator of UNM Digital Repository. For more information, please contact disc@unm.edu.
WHY A LIBRARIAN?

The National Library of Medicine (NLM) Disaster Information Management Research Center (DIMRC) website provides a wealth of resources for disaster planning, deployment, and reporting. Librarians can play a valuable role in training responders in use of tools such as WISER, CHEMM and REMM.

FOCUS GROUPS

Investigators met with New Mexico Disaster Medicine Assistance Team (DMAT-1-NM) and university emergency management personnel to discuss their information-seeking activities pre-, during, and post-deployment. Participants stressed the need for readily available, concise and current information.

The NLM disaster information management tools

- Are freely available to anyone via the Internet
- Are concise and current
- Many of the tools can be downloaded for use in locations without Internet access
- Many can be accessed with mobile devices.

Pre-tests indicated some, but not widespread awareness and use of the NLM disaster response website and tools.

NLM GRANT AND ON-LINE RESOURCES

The authors were awarded an NLM grant3 in September of 2011. The grant supports the informationist role for librarians within disaster response teams and agencies, and awareness of the NLM's disaster medicine on-line resources.

SURVEY

Investigators surveyed local and federal disaster responders on their information needs and awareness of NLM tools.

CONCLUSION

Disaster responders are very interested in improving their access to disaster-related information. The NLM tools are very useful in this regard, and librarians are well-positioned for an informationist role within the disaster response system.

1 University of New Mexico Center for Disaster Medicine 2 University of New Mexico Health Sciences Library and Informatics Center 3 NLM-11-130-KDB “Disaster Health Information Outreach & Collaboration Project 2011”