



Public Health
England

Protecting and improving the nation's health



The HIFA LIS Project: Exploring the role of libraries in times of crisis

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Agenda

- Background
- Partners
- Evidence briefing highlights
- Thematic discussions 1 & 2
- Project outputs

Partners

- Healthcare Information For All
- Public Health England
- Evidence Aid



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Project timeline

April 17: HIFA LIS project launched

May 17: HIFA LIS project working group first Skype meeting

June 17: Evidence briefing launched at EAHIL, Dublin, Ireland

August 17: Discussion about launch of E4GDH SIG at IFLA, Wroclaw, Poland

March 18: Final report published

Evidence briefing

What is the evidence around knowledge and library service provision and knowledge management to support global health, and disaster and emergency preparedness?

Results and themes

6 databases - 130 results of which 68 highly relevant and organised in to the following themes:

	Access to information
	Knowledge management
	Existing programmes
	Roles of information professionals
	Potential and implied roles
	Social media

Key messages

- **Alternative functions for libraries** - meeting points, charging/connection centres
- **New roles for librarians** - Global Health Informationist/Disaster Information Specialists
- **Social media** - useful for information dissemination, surveillance, and communicating with the general public
- **Access to information** - timely, accurate, quality - essential for disaster teams

Thematic discussion 1



What do we know about the availability and use of reliable information for global health emergencies, disasters and disease outbreaks?

Thematic discussion 1: Observations

There is a huge gap between what is needed and what is available, with each player not having the capacity to deliver to their potential, although librarians can help bridge those gaps.

78 messages from 19 contributors in 9 countries across 4 continents

Thematic discussion 2

Evidence-informed humanitarian action (preparedness and response) - Humanitarian Evidence Week



Thematic discussion 2: Observations

**104 messages from 22 contributors in 11 countries
across four continents**

- There is no clear definition for evidence-informed humanitarian action.
- The humanitarian sector often relies on lessons learned rather than synthesised evidence.
- “We might have general evidence, but not evidence that guides us in non-ideal settings, in different crisis types.”
- Humanitarian practitioners are difficult to engage with through an academic pathway.
- "Librarians could play a much larger part in humanitarian response."

Project outputs

- Project page
<http://www.hifa.org/projects/library-and-information-services>
- Evidence briefing
- List of grey literature information sources
- Reports of thematic discussions:
 - Exploring the role of libraries in times of crisis
 - Evidence-informed humanitarian action (preparedness and response)

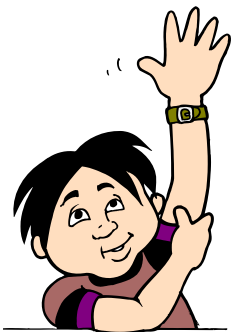
Next steps

The project has now ended, but HIFA will continue the working group.

Satellite meeting (23rd Aug) and open meeting (28th Aug) will be held at this year's IFLA World Library and Information Congress in Kuala Lumpur, following the launch of the Evidence for Global and Disaster Health Special Interest Group.

More information here:

<https://sites.google.com/view/ifla2018e4gdh/programme> and #E4GDH



Any questions?

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