

E4GDH Newsletter

August 2019



IFLA Special Interest Group
**Evidence for Global and
Disaster Health**

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Welcome Message

Welcome to the latest edition of the E4GDH newsletter! As we make final preparations for the 85th IFLA World Library and Information Congress to be held in Athens this month, it seems a good time to update you on some of the things we've been doing this year, and on future activities.

Our main work in 2019 has focused around our twin goals of advocacy and skills. Following the success of the first E4GDH webinar on 'Finding the Evidence in Disaster and Global Health' last November, held as part of the Humanitarian Evidence Week organised by our partners Evidence Aid, a second webinar was held in January highlighting the role of librarians as 'first responders'. We have included a report and link to the webinar, and Feili Tu-Keefner also shares her top 10 reflections on the theme of Advocacy and Community Engagement which have arisen from her research.

One of the main items in our action plan is to produce some materials that can be used to raise awareness of the potential role of librarians in global and disaster health. We are therefore very pleased to be hosting a third webinar 'Librarians are Essential - Advocating for a Seat at the Table', led by Blessing Mawire. This work links very closely to the advocacy project, which we will be discussing in Athens in our Open Session.

Work on our Action Plans for the future has been keeping us busy! All IFLA Professional Units plans have been asked to use a new template to identify focus areas and objectives for their Action Plans for 2019-2021. These need to support the IFLA goals, and to be clear about how impact will be measured. We will be sharing these draft plans after WLIC, and seeking feedback and comments. IFLA will be launching its new Strategic Plan in Athens, so look out for the announcements, and follow the live streaming if you aren't going to be there!

We hope that this newsletter, by highlighting and sharing the expertise of our contributors, will encourage you to continue to be interested in our group, make links between your work and the goals of the SIG, and help us build networks with partners and stakeholders, and throughout the rest of the IFLA community.

Thank you all for taking the time to read it, and please get in touch with us if you want to find out more.

Dr Anne Brice
Convenor, E4GDH SIG



E4GDH at 2019 IFLA congress

24 - 30 August, Athens, Greece

Libraries: dialogue for change

We have several activities taking place before and during the 2019 IFLA Congress in Athens, starting with a satellite meeting in Vienna.

- **“Services libraries can offer to support Open Science”**
Our joint [satellite meeting](#) with IFLA Science and Technology Libraries takes place in Vienna, 21 August.
Guest speaker Ina Smith, Manager of the African Open Science Platform, will be sharing the results of a study on the status of Open Data and Open Science on the African continent. Her paper will include challenges and opportunities, to stimulate thinking on the role of libraries in making sure data remains FAIR (findable, accessible, interoperable and re-usable).
- **“Active and interactive learning and development strategies to extend LIS practice”** [Session 104]
A skilled, flexible and agile library and information workforce is needed to meet the challenges of our world. In this joint session with IFLA CPDWL

[Continuing Professional Development and Workplace Learning section] participants will experience a range of strategies and methods to improve knowledge transfer.

- **“Increasing advocacy and dialogue through learning”**

[Session 223]

In this one hour session, participants will hear an update on our advocacy work to date (more details below) and be invited to engage with and shape the next steps.

Won't be at IFLA?

- Check the IFLA [WLIC 2019](#) website for live streaming of the Opening Ceremony and some sessions during the congress.
- Highlights from E4GDH sessions will feature in our next newsletter.
- Outcomes from the congress will be shared - including via our webpages and in future webinars - and these will inform our future work.

Webinar: Librarian First Responders

During a disaster, people need access to accurate information and clear instructions to help them act appropriately. Libraries (especially public libraries) can work alongside health, fire, and police departments as community outreach centers and sources of credible information at difficult times.

Our second webinar took place on 14 March 2019. Feili Tu-Keefner [Associate Professor, School of Library and Information Science, University of South Carolina] discussed her research into the role public librarians have played in times of crisis and how they can aid in disaster preparedness, response, and recovery.

View the recording [72 minutes]

Subtitles are available - click on Settings then Subtitles/CC and select 'English (United States)'

Resources featured in the webinar are also listed, along with Feili's slides.





Q&A with Feili Tu-Keefner

Feili shares her top 10 reflections on the theme of Advocacy and Community Engagement which have arisen from her research.

A common theme is that the time to start advocacy is before the crisis occurs.

Librarian First Responders: Top Ten Tips Regarding Advocacy and Community Engagement

1. Provide education, training, and professional development opportunities to produce a diverse workforce that can be strong community advocates.
2. Prepare and disseminate trustworthy resources in multiple languages to serve the information needs of various types of users & diverse populations.
3. Promote disaster and public health awareness and health information literacy in the communities served.
4. Proactively establish partnerships with multiple organizations and government agencies and maintain solid long-term relationships with them.
5. Create a clear and comprehensive community demographic profile.
6. Develop plans for disaster preparedness, response, and recovery (including salvaging damaged collections) in the organizations & communities served.
7. Facilitate the building of community capacity and resources for emergency response and recovery.
8. Use multiple formal and informal channels, including social media, to facilitate community engagement.
9. Develop policies on crisis communications, including public relations and public speaking, and train library staff.
10. Believe that librarians and information professionals must take a leadership role in community advocacy and engagement and practice it in daily operations.

Webinar: Librarians are Essential - Advocating for a Seat at the Table

In our next E4GDH webinar (Thursday 8 August with 9.00 – 9.50 a.m. EDT), Siobhan Champ-Blackwell and Dr. Lenny Rhine will be discussing practical examples from across the globe of what library and information specialists are doing in the areas of advocacy, and in particular how these examples can be modelled for advocacy of libraries' roles in disaster situations.

Please see our [Events](#) webpage for more information, including the webinar time where you are and how to register.

E4GDH advocacy work

Our next webinar is one strand in our advocacy work for this year, feeding into the development of an advocacy framework and toolkit which will be piloted with one stakeholder group.

As Feili's top ten tips above show, librarians need to be proactive and reach out to form relationships and partnerships. The toolkit will share strategies and approaches including stakeholder mapping; advice on key messages, marketing materials and communication channels.

Featured Resource: Evidence Aid Ebola Collection

The outbreak of the Ebola-virus epidemic is a human catastrophe, taking place in some of the world's poorest countries. Evidence Aid is working with partners to compile evidence-based resources that might help with the response and improve communication and information provision.

Research following the 2014-15 outbreak may be hard to access in the field. Systematic reviews are often published in journals which are not open access and the reports are scattered across the literature, making them difficult to find and assimilate for use.



In response, Evidence Aid's Ebola collection is freely available and currently offers 37 systematic reviews. These reviews are summarized, tagged for easy retrieval, and translated into French and Spanish.



Access the resources [here](#); the collection is constantly being updated.

[Photo credit: [CDC/SCIENCE PHOTO LIBRARY](#)]

Visit our [IFLA E4GDH](#) webpages for more information about the group and our activities.

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