

Crisis Management, COVID-19, and Libraries: Implications for LIS Education

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ABSTRACT

LIS educators contribute a unique perspective in preparing an information workforce ready to meet the challenges associated with crises. This panel addresses issues related to emergency planning, effective communication, and crisis management along with the important connections to and implications for LIS Education. The panel begins with a presentation on public libraries' coalition building and joint responses to crises. In this portion of the panel, Dr. Noah Lenstra discusses how public librarians are navigating this facet of their work during the COVID-19 pandemic, setting the stage for broader discussion on how partnerships and programming fit within library emergency planning, and how LIS education can help prepare future librarians for these tasks. Dr. Rachel Williams will address the results of a survey on public library responses to COVID-19. Her presentation examines how public libraries responded in the moment to an emerging pandemic and how the developing knowledge around crisis management and personal and organizational resilience are important skills for emerging public library professionals. Sharing her experiences as a public library Board of Trustees member, Dr. Laura Saunders' talk expands on the conversation related to public libraries. Her presentation introduces issues related to academic libraries' responses to crises and opportunities for course development in these areas. Drs. Lisa Hussey and Deborah Charbonneau wrap up the panel presentations through an examination of the current state of disaster management courses. Their discussion also outlines suggestions for incorporating emergency planning and crisis management into the LIS curriculum. To facilitate engagement on crisis management in LIS education, audience participants will be invited to share their experiences navigating the COVID-19 pandemic, as educators and advisors, and as colleagues of and collaborators with professionals.

ALISE RESEARCH TAXONOMY TOPICS

public libraries; academic libraries; curriculum; community and civic organizations; education

AUTHOR KEYWORDS

LIS education; library responses to crises; community partnerships; disaster management training