

ACURIL 2022, Curaçao

June 5-9, 2022

Curaçao Marriott Beach Resort

Willemstad, Curaçao

Disaster Risk Management: Mitigating the Effects of Flooding at the University of Guyana

Simone Bernard, University of Guyana Library

Rosemond Carroll, University of Guyana Library

June 6, 2022

Introduction

• Natural disasters are part of nature and occur throughout the world

• Disasters affect people, services, systems, infrastructure, and most importantly, libraries

• Libraries like any other organization are most likely to experience disaster which are likely to result in their loss of expensive, precious or even elusive materials

Introduction

Throughout recent history, the coastlands of Guyana have constantly been affected by flooding as a result of

heavy rainfall

•sea defense breaches

poor surface water drainage

Introduction

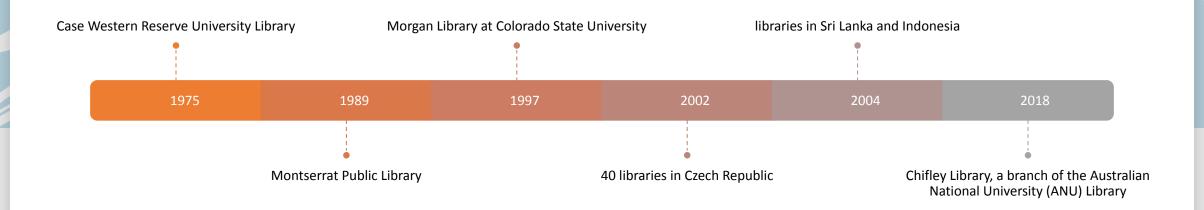
The UGL faces severe flood threats

Literature Review

•Zaveri (2014): all types of disasters can potentially be devastating for libraries, but it is water-related disasters such floods that are the most severe

- •Few (2003): climate change is likely to cause an increase in flood hazard in many areas of the world
- •Robertson (2014): any library situated within close proximity to an expanse of water is at risk of flooding.

Literature Review



Methodology







Researchers are insiders

Study is qualitative

Purposive sampling utilised



Participants are staff members



Data collected through interviews and document analysis





2005 Flood



2017 Flood





Changes as a Result of the 2005 Flood

- •All public services removed from the Ground Floor
- •Major collections removed from the Ground Floor
- Staff workroom removed from the Ground Floor
- The Bag Bay was shifted
- •Annual 'flood watch' exercise

Preparedness

•flood proofing of susceptible areas

preservation management

•regular maintenance of roofs and windows

Proposal

Proposal

Mitigation

- •Urgent and immediate corrective action
- Remote storage
- •Building codes and regulatory land use
- •Robust preservation and digitisation
- Back-up energy supply
- •Floodwater diversion



