



Disaster Preparedness: a MOOC Learner's Perspective.

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Abstract

The Caribbean is not immune to natural disasters. In the wake of the hurricane events of 2017, much has been documented on the unprecedented intensity of these natural phenomena, loss of life, destruction of landscape, and the unimaginable consequence of an entire island becoming inhabitable. More than ever, intense weather patterns demand greater disaster-preparedness from Caribbean people. The best defense for the vulnerable Caribbean island is for its people to be prepared to protect life and property, including library collections. It is equally important for all Caribbean persons to be adequately educated to deal with disasters and emergencies before, during and after they occur. There are a number of free courses in the open environment that can start this process of educating, re-education and equipping persons to deal with natural disasters and other undesirable events.

A selection of Open Disaster Information Specialist Course is already presented in the poster exhibits and this paper, in the context of Professional Development and User Education provides a learner's perspective of one such course. *Disaster Preparedness* is an open course provided by the University of Pittsburgh and offers information on basic competencies needed for disaster and emergency preparedness, response, and recovery. This short course provides an excellent opportunity for persons to learn and to support their institutions and communities throughout the disaster/emergency cycle.