Survival! The 2005 floods, University of Guyana Turkeyen Campus

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Disasters have no face and come in varied forms, but this presentation is focused on the 2005 floods, which was experienced by the University of Guyana Turkeyen Campus.

Library services at the University Library are critical since it is said that a library is the gateway to the University. However, in 2005, it was faced with a major natural disaster—a flood, which severely affected the university as a space and also its population. Great inconvenience was suffered, for example, staff and patrons had to be accommodated and operated at split locations.

This paper is informed by research literature, drawing on published literature, on present models and draws on the Turkeyen Campus experiences. Questionnaires form part of the method to be used, to gather information on the library operations and practices regarding the management and management challenges, all in all, seeking to find the gaps in the whole process “the before, the during and after the floods”. Added to this, the findings will highlight the changing needs of individual’s everyday work situation at all levels. These include effective educational communication and programmes, which are necessary as well as to relate the effects of the environmental forces on the library. In conclusion, ever present is the presence of the threat taking into consideration our position to the sea walls. The library nevertheless has to continue its quest to be prepared
in the event of another. Highlights will also be of the best practices, the challenges and showcasing the activities that helped to overcome them; identify the lessons learnt that will influence the way the library operates, key drive of change how we use this experience to prepare in the event of another. Added element of photographs depicting real life scenes to bring the presentation alive will also be included.