**Florida Chapter of the Association for College and Research Libraries (FACRL)**

Spring 2019 ACRL Chapter Topics Newsletter

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On October 10, 2018, Hurricane Michael made landfall in the Florida Panhandle as a catastrophic Category 5 hurricane. This was the first storm to make landfall as a Category 5 hurricane in the United States since Hurricane Andrew in 1992. The devastation along the panhandle inspired many library organizations throughout Florida to sponsor disaster donation drives for the libraries and staff affected by this storm. FACRL raised $500 for each of the academic libraries affected by Hurricane Michael: Florida State University - Panama City, Gulf Coast State College, and Chipola College. The hope was that these donations would be of aid to the libraries and their staff affected by this storm as they rebuild after last year's devastation. The responses we received reminded us that the road to recovery after a natural disaster is long and our colleagues not only appreciated the financial support but also knew that they were not forgotten during this difficult time.

“I am so grateful to the FACRL for the disaster donation you have provided to help offset some of the costs we face after Hurricane Michael. The scope of the devastation has made the rebuilding process slow, and over six months later there are many of us who are still displaced from our homes. Please know that your gift is so much more than just financial assistance; it has lifted our spirits as well.”

One recipient stated that “when it seems at times as though the rest of the world has forgotten the survivors of this hurricane, it is reassuring to know that FACRL members understand our long road back.” This is a timely reminder that those affected by natural disasters or other devastating events often feel alone and forgotten when the news coverage ends and recovery continues.

For more information, please [contact FACRL](https://facrl.wildapricot.org/contact).

