When, Not If
During Hurricane Katrina, the floodwall and levee on the 17th Street Canal collapsed without being overtopped. It was one of about 50 breaches in the flood protection system that was supposed to repel "the most severe storm" that could be expected in the area. (Army Corps of Engineers photo) Credit: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Ida's History

Aug. 26-Sept. 1, 2021

- Aug. 26: Tropical Storm Ida Forms
- Aug. 27: Becomes a Hurricane
- Aug. 29: Strengthens into Major Hurricane
- Aug. 29: Landfall as 150 mph Cat. 4
- Sept. 1: Ida's Remnants and a Front Cause Major Flooding
All St. Charles Parish Library branches closed until further notice

The second floor of the West Regional Library in Luling sustained significant damage in Hurricane Ida.
What's Changed Since Katrina?

❖ Social Media
❖ Ubiquity of Smart Phones
❖ Disaster Fatigue
❖ Remote work (Thanks Covid!)
❖ Local news availability
❖ Acknowledgement of Libraries as essential during disaster
What Hasn't Changed Since Katrina?

➔ Loss of electricity and internet
➔ Need to evacuate
➔ Need for information
➔ Massive, multi-community disasters
All of New Orleans without power after Hurricane Ida leaves 'catastrophic transmission damage'
Baltimore Bets on a New Type of First Responder: The Librarian

After a devastating shooting in a public space, officials embarked on a plan to train city employees — and residents — in alleviating grief and trauma. The work starts this summer, at the library.

bc of austerity, libraries are often considered one of the last public spaces, putting them at the frontline of public need...but for some reason the answer is always “make librarians [first responders, social workers, teachers, job counselors]” and not FUND MORE SERVICES
Free online library account for those displaced by Hurricane Ida

**Special to Gannett**
Published 9:21 a.m. ET Aug. 31, 2021

**HURRICANE IDA UPDATES**

**MON SEP 06 2021**

**4:07 PM**

**HURRICANE IDA**

Additional libraries will be open for computer/Wi-Fi access, phone charging, and air conditioning

Tomorrow, three libraries will be open for computer/Wi-Fi access, phone charging, and air conditioning:

- Algiers Regional Library from 10am – 5pm (map)
- Central City Library from 10am – 5pm (map)
- Keller Library & Community Center from 10am – 5pm (map)

If you are displaced by Hurricane Ida, Okaloosa County libraries want to help. Take a break from weather watching with instant online library access. Register for a 14-day free courtesy account offered to storm visitors from Louisiana and Mississippi. Download ebooks, audiobooks, and magazines to distract and relax your mind. Register now at Read Okaloosa.org. Staying longer? Visit an Okaloosa Cooperative member library for more services and continued access. You can contact the Destin Library at 850-837-8572 or library@cityofdestin.com for more information. [CONTRIBUTED PHOTO]
Libraries as

➔ physical and mental refuge
➔ one of the last free spaces to exist
➔ symbols of hope and rebirth
➔ provider of electricity and internet
➔ workspace and classroom
Librarians as information providers

- At shelters
- At rest areas & pop-up spaces
- On the ground (primitive/analog)
- As part of the emergency response team
What are your ideas?