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Caribbean Disaster  
Information  
Network

Science Library  
University of the West  
Indies, Mona  
Kingston 7  
Jamaica, W.I.

Tel (876) 935-8202  
Fax (876) 970-1758

[cardin@uwimona.edu.jm](mailto:cardin@uwimona.edu.jm)



# CARDIN NEWSLETTER WINTER 2006

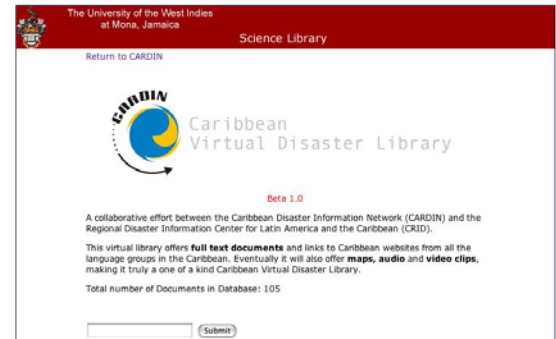
Caribbean Disaster Information Network

January 4, 2006

## CARDIN to Launch New Virtual Disaster Library

The Caribbean Disaster Information Network is pleased to announce the creation of the Caribbean Virtual Disaster Library. This Library represents a truly one-of-a-kind information resource for students, policymakers, professionals, and the general public to quickly retrieve the most pertinent disaster-related information specific to this region.

Due to be launched in early-2006, the Virtual Library will eventually contain hundreds of full text documents, audio, maps and videos that can be quickly and easily viewed by anyone, anywhere and anytime. The Virtual Library was conceived and implemented with the belief that information should not be limited by physical boundaries. A Virtual Library available online acts as a convenient alternative to visiting the Secretariat at the University of the West Indies, Mona. Making the most pertinent data available in one location will also reduce research time for the average web user.



CARDIN is currently in the process of soliciting contributions to the Virtual Library, and welcomes any potential contributor to contact us. We also welcome feedback regarding the experience and how we can make the project easier and also more helpful for our visitors.

The Virtual Disaster Library is collaborative effort between CARDIN and the Regional Disaster Information Centre for Latin America and the Caribbean (CRID), the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR), and CUSO.

## Upcoming Events

**January 26-27, 2006** — Research Day, University of the West Indies. Official launch of the Virtual Disaster Library

**February 9-12, 2006** — International Disaster Management Conference, 2006, "Preparing Freedom's Lifelines"— The Rosen Centre Hotel, Orlando, Florida, USA

**May 28-June 6, 2006** — Association of Caribbean University, Research and Institutional Libraries — Aruba

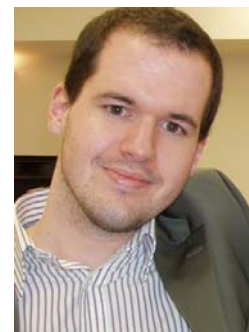
**June 13-16, 2006** — 7th International Congress on Disaster, "For a Safer World." — Havana International Conference Centre, Havana, Cuba

**June 18-21, 2006** — World Conference on Disaster Management — Toronto, Ontario, Canada

**August 20-24, 2006** — World Library and Information Congress, 72nd Annual IFLA General Conference — Seoul, Korea

## New Employee at CARDIN

A new face has arrived at CARDIN. Robert Routh arrived at the Secretariat on September 27th and is serving as the Information Officer at CARDIN until mid-March 2006. Originally from Quebec, Canada, Mr. Routh is here on behalf of CUSO, a Canadian nongovernmental organization (NGO) and a partner of CARDIN. Mr. Routh is one of four CUSO Cooperants currently with Jamaican non-profit organizations. Mr. Routh's task will primarily involve contributing to various web-related tasks, including the creation and launch of the all-new Virtual Disaster Library.



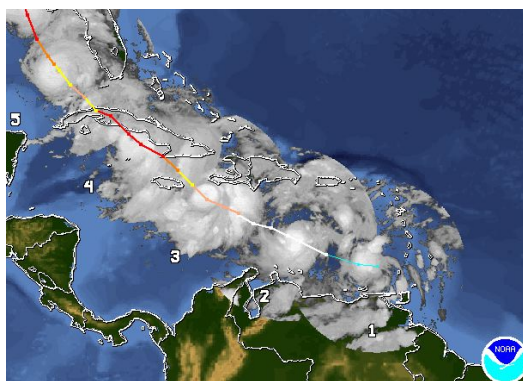
Robert Routh

## Hurricane Season 2005: How the Caribbean Fared

After a particularly difficult Atlantic Hurricane season in 2004, 2005 proved that its predecessor had not been an anomaly. With 26 named storms and 13 hurricanes, 2005 marks the most active hurricane season on record and the first to have exhausted the entire list of names assigned for the season.

Throughout the season, records were shattered. Three storms reached category 5 intensity (Katrina, Rita and Wilma), the first time they have been so many hurricanes of that strength in one season. The Caribbean was fortunate this year to record fewer fatalities due to Hurricanes than in the disastrous 2004 season. While mostly spared the devastating forces of Hurricanes Rita and Katrina that devastated parts of the United States, the Caribbean was particularly affected by Hurricane Dennis and Emily in July as well as Wilma in October. Dennis would eventually claim 71 lives, 61 in the Caribbean. (Haiti and Cuba). On the heels of Dennis, Emily caused one death in Grenada and 5 deaths in Jamaica. Additional fatalities occurred when Hurricane Wilma crossed through the region in October, killing one in Jamaica and 12 in Haiti. The fatalities in the Caribbean contribute only a small number of the approximately 1,500 are estimated to have died during the Hurricane season, down from the over 3,000 deaths in the 2004 season.

The 2006 season is already being forecast to be similar to 2004 and 2005, with above-average Atlantic sea surface temperatures, below-average vertical wind shear across the tropical Atlantic and a strengthened Atlantic Inter-tropical Convergence Zone contributing to the tropical cyclone activity. Considering the 2005 had originally not been predicted to have only moderately more hurricane activity than average, Caribbean disaster agencies are planning for another active year, and hope residents also plan accordingly.



**“With 26 named storms and 13 hurricanes, 2005 marks the most active hurricane season on record...”**

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