



A ROUND TABLE OF THE AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

## **Become a Sister Library → How to find a Sister Library**

Once you have referred to the checklist and established a general plan, use any of the following to find a potential Sister Library:

### ALA Sister Library “Library Seeking Partners” list

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Browse [Libraries Seeking Partners](#) and look for an institution that might be a good match for your own. Contact them directly.

If you don't see an appropriate match, complete this form: [Add Me to the List of Sister Libraries Seeking Partners](#) .

### United States embassies

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*Contact U.S. Embassies.* The State Department sponsors *American Corner* cultural centers and libraries that are located around the world and seek to provide up-to-date information about the United States. The Corners are staffed by local information professionals and are partnered with host institutions, often libraries. If you're interested in a particular region, [contact a U.S. Embassy](#) to see if there are any American Corners there. For example, see <http://www.americancorners.rs/>.

### Informal routes and relationships

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*Find people or organizations in your community* that have relationships with other countries. Consider which immigrant groups are represented in your community. Take a look at [this map](#) identifying some population concentrations in the United States.

*Drop in on libraries in your travels.* Talk with directors and staff. Encourage your staff or trustees to do the same.

*Contact international library students.* They might return to set up a Sister Library relationship.

*Look at your community to find natural relationships to build upon. A festival or other special event might suggest a relationship with a community in another country.*

## Religious institutions

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Many religious institutions have sister congregations. Find out if your religious institution has a sister congregation and establish a relationship between its community library and yours.

## Cultural exchange organizations

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Several organizations have relevant information for establishing a Sister Library relationship. Check their websites for more information:

- [International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions \(IFLA\)](#) - Contact information for library associations in specific countries.
- [Rotary International](#) - Contacts with organizations around the world.
- [Sister Cities International](#) - Many communities have relationships at various levels with their Sister Cities. Libraries can take advantage of existing connections. Sister City members can access many resources that could help in finding a Sister Library for your library.
- [U.S. Peace Corps](#) - Information on volunteer exchange efforts throughout the world.