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

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

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

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

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

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

- [International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions](https://www.ifla.org) (IFLA) - Contact information for library associations in specific countries.
- [Rotary International](https://www.rotary.org) - Contacts with organizations around the world.
- [Sister Cities International](https://www.sister-cities.org) - 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](https://www.peacecorps.gov) - Information on volunteer exchange efforts throughout the world.