



A ROUND TABLE OF THE AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

## Success Stories Sister Libraries

### **Tucson Pima Public Library, Arizona, U.S.A. / Roscommon County Libraries, Ireland**

Pima County Public Library

101 N. Stone Avenue, Tucson, AZ 85701

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Tucson-Pima Public Library has been involved in a multi-faceted program with Roscommon County Library in County Roscommon, Ireland. The two library systems made the match through a historical connection: "The City of Tucson and County Roscommon established a working relationship as Sister Cities in 1993. The historical connection between our two regions can be traced back to the very early days of Tucson, when Lieutenant-Colonel Hugh O'Connor, a native of Roscommon, founded El Presidio de Tucson in 1775 under Spain. Since this relationship had already existed, we felt it natural to establish a connection with our two library systems." Project goals included: "sharing children's books about the Sonoran Desert; implementing a postcard exchange between the youth of both communities; and enhancing our understanding of Irish culture through the purchase of children's books for our library collections and hosting an Irish cultural event." As a step toward the first goal, Tucson-Pima sent a selection of Sonoran Desert Christmas books in December, 2000, which were "very well received" by Roscommon. Many events have transpired since the founding of the partnership, and new events are currently in the planning stages.

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