



A ROUND TABLE OF THE AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

Success Stories **Sister Libraries**

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The University of Florida Health Science Center Library (UF) and University of Zambia Medical Library (UNZA) sister library program is based on concern for health care issues that impact on public health throughout the world. This project has emphasized access to biomedical information for health care workers in a developing country. While originally concentrating on print material, the program has evolved into utilizing the Internet and other new information technology components. This sister library match began in April 1992. During the first six months, the project emphasized MEDLINE searches and document delivery of journal reprints. The two libraries then concentrated on supplying requested documents and building a journal reprint collection based on key subjects suggested by the UNZA staff. During the ensuing years, the two Libraries worked on expanding the delivery of library materials. In January 1997, the Libraries began developing an Internet based collaborative project. This situation has led to mutual growth - the wealth of assistance in many forms given to the UNZA library has made it one of the most important medical libraries in Africa and the first to have its own Internet home page.

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