Librarians, with readers, can develop joint programmes:

* exchange photos and information on the library and the users, to display on a board (or virtual visits, if possible)
* reading clubs where the same books are read (books about/from the other country)
* youth expression programmes
* programmes for the promotion of boys’ reading
* programmes for babies and toddlers
* select and display books and information about the sister library country
* write texts, illustrate them and publish them jointly

FOR ENQUIRIES

Contact one of the following persons:

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IFLA SECTION
LIBRARIES FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG ADULTS

The Section focuses on the development of library services for children and young adults all over the world. It raises awareness of the importance of lifelong learning, children’s reading and their right to information.

The Section wants to be an international forum for the exchange of experience, ideas, projects and knowledge. It aims to be a forum for discussion, cooperation and development and will also open channels for information all over the world.

For more information:
SISTER LIBRARIES

It is a programme of IFLA Section Libraries for Children and Young Adults: a framework for children’s libraries to build a partnership, exchange views and experiences, collaborate and develop joint programmes for children’s and young adults’s reading.

The exchange of knowledge, information, resources, experience and good ideas on library work for children and YA with colleagues abroad opens one up to new possibilities and can even help overcome difficulties faced.

The programme also aims to circumvent professional isolation and stagnation, and provides a channel for professional stimulation, motivation and dialogue.

The value of the programme is further enhanced with endorsement from an international body (IFLA) and the cross-border collaborations. With this, libraries can better opportunities for support from authorities and also divert their attention to the importance of children and YA reading.

For full programme information and how you can participate in it, visit

http://www.ifla.org/en/node/1746

WHO CAN PARTICIPATE?

Public libraries, school libraries, organizations working with libraries. Communication is via email/internet (at the library or privately). They need not be IFLA members.

The twinning is embedded in the institutions – it is not just something the librarian does on a personal basis. An individual librarian at each library must be identified as the key contact, to ensure continuity and sustainability of the relationship.

WHAT IS THE COST?

Many activities can be carried out without any expenses (other than access to internet costs).

Other activities may need funding - this will be for the parties involved to source. The major investment is staff time and enthusiasm!

HOW TO FIND A SISTER LIBRARY?

1. Fill up a simple form found at http://www.ifla.org/en/node/1746 and follow the instructions for submission.

2. Find libraries that interest you and speak your language in the List of Participating Libraries, and make connections directly with them via e-mail. More than 100 libraries have been registered all over the world.

WHAT CAN SISTER LIBRARIES DO?

Libraries choose what to do, according to the degree of involvement they want (it may just be dialogue via e-mail once a month!); also, according to what they can offer and according to what they need (the benefits they are seeking).

1. The first thing is getting to know each other: by e-mail, skype, sms, by writing and through pictures of the library and of the staff.

2. Examples for partnership:

Librarians can:

* share ideas on library programs
* share information about practical issues like classification, room design, technical issues etc.
* share difficulties and find solutions together
* exchange information on good books; set up a children and YA books reading committee and exchange book reviews
* help select and buy good books
* share good moments: exchange photos of activities and events
* exchange professional training
* do an exchange of staff for a short period

Check out the Sister Libraries Blog on what other libraries have done in their partnership:

http://sisterlibraries.wordpress.com