



# The IFLA Sister Libraries programme - evaluating the development of an international

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共同建置姐妹圖書館來推廣兒童及青少年閱讀  
مكتبات شريكة من أجل المطالعة عند الأطفال والنشئة  
Bibliotecas hermanas para la lectura de niños y jóvenes  
Bibliothèques partenaires pour la lecture des enfants et des adolescents  
Sister Libraries for Children's and Young Adult's reading  
Partnerbibliotheken für Kinder und Jugendliche weltweit  
Библиотеки-сестры и детско-юношеское чтение

Dr.Carolynn Rankin, Leeds Metropolitan University, UK  
Session 222— IFLA Section Libraries for Children and  
Young Adults, August 2014, Lyon

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# Objectives for my session

- To briefly outline the development timeline of the Sister Libraries programme.
- To describe the ongoing evaluation research and discuss the concept of 'community of practice.'
- To report on progress and a change of strategy by the C & YA Standing Committee.
- To invite you to reflect on how your community can help to further develop this international programme.



# IFLA Sister Libraries programme – developmental timeline

2009 - idea suggested at IFLA in Milan and launched in November that year

2010 - C & YA Standing Committee members volunteer as godmother mentors and Sister Library registration starts

2011 - progress report at IFLA in Puerto Rico. Sister Library registration continues.

2012 - first evaluation report at IFLA in Helsinki.

2013 journal article published in *New Review of Children's Literature and Librarianship*

2014 - C & YA Standing Committee review progress and adopt new communication strategy

The logo for the IFLA 2014 Lyon event. It features the text 'IFLA' in a large, bold, black sans-serif font at the top. Below it, '2014' is written in a similar font, with a blue graphic element resembling a stylized 'V' or a drop shape behind the numbers. At the bottom, 'LYON' is written in a bold, black sans-serif font. The entire logo is set against a white background with a light blue gradient on the left side.

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# Sister Libraries

*... a programme for children's libraries to build a partnership, exchange views and experiences, collaborate and develop joint programs for children's and YA's reading.*

Embodies the spirit of IFLA  
Links to key IFLA initiatives

**SISTER LIBRARIES**  
International Federation  
of Library Associations  
and Institutions  
www.ifla.org



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# Library twinning

Twinning support is a primary principle of UNESCO, not only because it has a direct impact on the education and literacy of each society, but also because it has great influence on the cultural, social and economic life.



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# What is evaluation research and why do it?

- Often used to judge systems and services - not the approach in this programme.
- Should enhance knowledge and decision making - lead to practical applications.
- Taking a longitudinal view as a 'community of practice' develops.
- Practitioners showing goodwill and professional generosity.



# Methodology - data collection strategies

Qualitative data gathered

- Conversations with six godmothers in 2011 and 2012
- Email questionnaires sent to English speaking Sister Library participants 2012

Evidence gathered from the Sister Library blog

**New approach** - evidence gathered from regular email contact and Facebook

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# Sister Libraries as a ‘Community of Practice’

Communities of practice are groups of people who share a concern or a passion for something they do and learn how to do it better as they interact regularly. (Wenger, 2006)

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# Why focus on community of practice?

## Value and benefits:

- help with challenges
- access to expertise
- confidence
- fun with colleagues
- meaningful work
- personal development
- professional identity

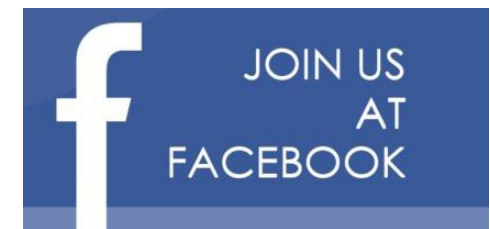


# Progress report – change of strategy

## **New approach:**

- Godmother mentors to stand down
- Communication channels
  - focus on social media using Facebook
  - regular email messages via Co-ordinator
- Opportunity for researcher to have ongoing contact

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# A positive future for Sister Libraries – but the community

- Sustainability - **must help** growing international network
  - more Sister Libraries encouraged to join
  - increased contact and knowledge sharing through use of social media
- Promoting awareness of the programme with other sections of IFLA
- Promoting awareness of the programme in countries around the world – my challenge to all of you in the audience!



Thank you for listening.  
Any questions or comments  
please?

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