

BLUE INFO BLEUE

A Newsletter from Blue Trunk Library Project/ Projet Bibliothèques bleues



Funds for Blue Trunk Libraries in the Pacific Islands

The Ayuda Foundation based in Guam secured a grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) to upgrade and build medical libraries in several hospitals in the Pacific Islands.

Part of these funds are allocated for the purchase of six Blue Trunk Libraries for dispensaries in the Region.

"The mission of the Ayuda Foundation is to improve the delivery of health care services to Micronesia and the Western Pacific region. This is a classic example on how we can effectuate distance learning through resource centers such as medical libraries," stated Carlotta Leon Guerrero, Executive Director, Ayuda Foundation. Project Directors for the grant are Carlotta Leon Guerrero and Arlene Cohen, a retired University of Guam Librarian. They will be working with Alice Hadley, the US Naval Hospital Guam Medical Librarian to establish the libraries.

The hospitals and dispensaries targeted to receive medical libraries are in the Federated States of Micronesia on the islands of Kosrae, Chuuk, Pohnpei, in the Republic of Palau, American Samoa, Guam, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and the Republic of the Marshall Islands.

The funding began on January 1, 2009 and will support purchasing a core collection of books and library materials, establishing an online catalog of the collection, computers, library bookshelves, and the training of a librarian in each of the sites. Cohen and Hadley will travel to each of the sites to work with the librarian throughout the next 18 months.

They have already been in touch with WHO Press to organize the preparation and delivery of the 6 Blue Trunk Libraries that will be part of the core library

collection of books. "We plan to order BTLs for the largest dispensaries, and if successfully used, it is hoped that more will be purchased in later years for the smaller dispensaries after the grant is completed" says Arlene Cohen.

Dr. Thane Hancock, the Medical Director at the Yap State Hospital, expressed his enthusiasm and a special thank you to the outstanding work accomplished

by the Ayuda Foundation in rebuilding the Yap State Hospital Durand Medical Library. "Physicians now have access to computers and a resource medical library and can effectively diagnose illnesses and prescribe proper treatments. The new library has become an important resource center for the doctors and health care workers and it eases the burden on the doctors by providing real-time diagnosis and a faster path to recovery for their patients."

"... a classic example on how we can effectuate distance learning through medical libraries."



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124 Blue Trunk Libraries prepared for Afghanistan in 2008

Did you know?
1900 Blue Trunk Library have been distributed around the world so far.

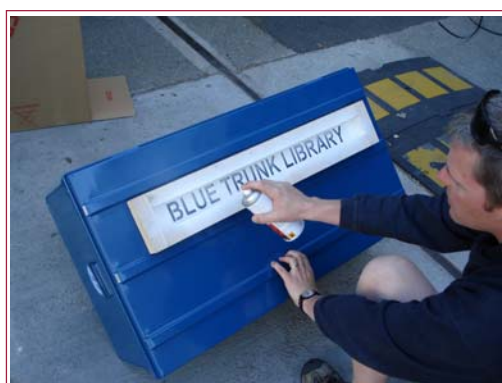
Le saviez-vous?
1900 bibliothèques bleues ont déjà été distribuées de part le monde.



2008 was a very busy year for the Blue Trunk Library staff at WHO Press.

At the beginning of the year, the US Army placed an order for 124 Blue Trunk Libraries. These were to be sent to the US Army Provincial Reconstruction team in Ghazni, in the suburbs of Kabul, Afghanistan, where they will be further dispatched to small dispensaries around the country.

This huge order required months of preparation: revising the contents and securing new publications; ordering books from external publishers; making storage space available for assembling the collections of books; preparing 124 sets of books; labelling and filling the blue trunks with their complete sets of books; and organizing their dispatch and delivery at destination.



"We were quite overwhelmed when we received this order, says Jean-Marc Gregoire in charge of sales of the Blue Trunk Libraries at WHO Press. "But we underestimated the amount of work and logistics it would require. Fortunately, the US Army was not in an urgent need of the products, so we had several months to get ready to deliver. In fact, the original payment got side-tracked in the army administration and the final payment had to be hand-delivered by helicopter to the finance department. I believe this is the very first time, a WHO order has been given so much importance, as to merit an helicopter ride!"

Aldo Duarte Argolo who is in charge of the logistics in the preparation of the Blue Trunk Libraries estimates "it is the largest single order we had for Blue Trunk Libraries since the project was launched 11 years ago. I had to negotiate extra working space in the storage area to accommo-

date these 124 sets of books. It took quite a lot of planning to make sure they would be ready on time".

Delivery of the 124 trunks is expected in Kabul in May.

**"a huge order
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How to sponsor a Blue Trunk Library

The Blue Trunk Library project was developed by WHO 11 years ago to provide basic health and medical information to district health teams in developing countries. Each "ready-to-use" mini-library consists of 100 books on medicine and is contained in blue metal trunks to ensure easy transportation and protection. This project has been funded at country level by international organizations, aid agencies and NGOs. Approximately 1,900 libraries have already been ordered and dispatched to 79 countries mainly in Africa, and 530 "keepers" in health district centers have been trained. To disseminate additional Blue Trunk Libraries to new and remote areas and to make the latest science reach health districts in developing countries, additional funding is necessary.

In developing countries, health care professionals who wish to keep up to date have inadequate resources and this will impact the delivery of appropriate health services. Yet the demand for health information is high at the district level. The answer is to reach out and set up health libraries in districts.

Recently, WHO interns and medical students visiting WHO took a keen interest in this project and gathered funds to sponsor Blue Trunk Libraries. In America for example, musical instruments were sold to gather funds to sponsor a Blue Trunk Library. Last Summer, WHO interns mobilized friends and family to collect the necessary funds to purchase a library. The sponsored Blue Trunk Libraries were sent to health centers in Mali, Congo and Haiti.

If you value this project and wish to sponsor a Blue Trunk Library, all you need to do is to contact the Blue Trunk Library Team at WHO bluetrunk@who.int who will provide information on current needs.

Our Regional and Country Offices will select and relay the libraries to appropriate health centers in each country and provide specific training. Each Blue Trunk Library cost US\$ 2000,00. Shipping costs are extra.

The Blue Trunk Library is available in Arabic, English, French and Portuguese language editions.



Professor Reginald Fennell with students in International Health at Miami University when visiting WHO last year. Veronica Umeasiegbu (in the wheel-chair) initiated the sponsoring a Blue Trunk Library in her country. The Blue Trunk Library was paid by the Miami University students.

The Blue Trunk Library was sent to Nigeria to be used by a school which trains students in medical rehabilitation.

Blue Info bleue

Did you know?

The Blue Trunk Libraries contain more than 100 books, 75% of which are published by WHO.

Le saviez-vous?

Les Bibliothèques bleues contiennent plus de 100 ouvrages, dont 75% sont publiés par l'OMS.



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PAHO to launch Blue Trunk Library evaluation



Aware of the significant target of the Blue Trunk Library Project from the WHO to disseminate basic information in medicine and public health to the community health teams in developing countries, to compensate the lack of up-to-date information, the **Communicable Diseases Blue Library Project** intends to include a body of specialized texts to support the intervention of providers of primary health care in prevention, control, and care of communicable diseases in the Americas Region, particularly in countries such as Bolivia, Nicaragua, and Honduras. In order to legalize this body of expertise, it is necessary to know its potential usage value and its relevance to the work of local teams of primary care. Those particularly targeted

Did you know?
The focus of the Blue trunk library is primary health care centres and district health centres in developing countries.

operate in remote territories with no connectivity. They could encounter greater difficulties in updating their knowledge and competences in communicable diseases management. The general objective of the proposal is therefore to validate and find out the potential value of the Blue Trunk Library Project within its real public – physicians, nurses, auxiliaries and community supporters – through a qualitative survey in two countries of the Region. For additional information, please contact: Suzanna Stephens, Focal Point for Information and WebPAHO/WHO Health Surveillance & Disease Prevention & Control (HSD)
E-mail: stephens@paho.org

Le saviez-vous?
Les centres de soins de santé primaires ainsi que les centres de santé de district sont la cible des Bibliothèques bleues dans les pays en développement.

Contacts

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