

BLUE INFO BLEUE

A Newsletter from Blue Trunk Library Project/ Projet Bibliothèques bleues



BLUE TRUNK LIBRARY TRAINING IN THE PACIFIC ISLANDS

Six Blue Trunk Libraries were purchased by the Ayuda Foundation through a grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) to upgrade and build medical libraries in several hospitals of the Pacific Islands.

To maximize the potential of the BTL as an information resource, Arlene Cohen, a retired University of Guam librarian and Alice Hadley, the US Naval Hospital Guam Medical librarian requested WHO Press for a training of the medical librarians whose libraries are the recipients of the BTL.

During the Pacific Islands Association of Libraries and Archives (PIALA) Conference held in Weno, Chuuk State, Federated States of Micronesia in November 2010, a training session was organized and held by Julius Dizon, Administrative Officer (Library), WHO Western Pacific Regional Office (WHO/WPRO) for the recipients of the Blue Trunk Libraries, as well as other interested participants of the Conference.

"In the WHO Western Pacific Region, there are 64 BTLs already deployed and 55 of these are in Pacific Island countries. There has been no training yet in our Region on BTL in the past", says Charly Raby, head of the Publications unit in WPRO, "and it would be very timely to conduct a BTL workshop during the conference as this is a rare opportunity to cover more participants coming from the different Pacific Island countries."

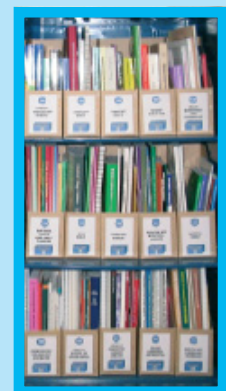
Julius Dizon presented a paper entitled "Blue Trunk Library : Information Resource for District Health Personnel" during the second day of the conference. This was attended by various professionals such as educators, librarians, information officers, archivists, and others. A workshop on the BTL was conducted in the last day of the conference. In attendance were the medical librarians who were

required to do hands-on exercises on how to promote, use, update/enrich the BTL, and how to get the relevant information from the BTL collection in response to the prepared questions that the users may possibly ask relative to their work.

The presentation on the BTL had publicized the project to a wider audience. This elicited interest from some participants as they learned what the project is all about. For those who attended

the workshop, they were better informed of their roles and responsibilities on the management, use, promotion, and evaluation of the BTL.

"... a rare opportunity to cover more participants coming from the different Pacific Island countries."



World Health Organization

World Health Organization
WHO Press and Library and Information Networks for Knowledge
1211 Geneva 27
Switzerland
Tel: +41 22 791 32 63
Fax: +41 22 791 48 57
E-mail:
bluetrunk@who.int

Volume 5, Issue 1, 2010

Blue Info bleue

Did you know?

2079 Blue Trunk Libraries have been distributed around the world so far.

Le saviez-vous?

2079 bibliothèques bleues ont déjà été distribuées de part le monde.

WHO INTERNS SPONSOR A BLUE TRUNK LIBRARY FOR THE CONGO



The trunk was sent 2 months later to a nursing school, located 600 kilometers South-west from the capital city Kinshasa, in the District of Kinkonzi, Democratic Republic of the Congo, and where medical books are difficult to obtain and would be most welcome.

We are now eagerly waiting for photos and a report on the delivery of the Trunk to its final destination, as well as comments on the library and how it will be used among the nursing students.

It is the second time that a group of WHO interns manage to collect funds for a Blue Trunk Library, as they see it as a valuable contribution to health students in developing countries.

“Working at WHO for a few months, we have access to a wealth of information. We are however aware that medical students in developing countries are facing difficult conditions to access information for their training. The Blue Trunk Library project, which is targeted to health districts, seemed a valuable contribution to fellow students in a developing country.” says Saskia Van Dongen, one of the intern member, who actively organized the fund raising.

*“supporting
fellow students
with no access to
medical
information”*

After many discussions and proposals on how to raise the funds from the group of 2010 WHO interns, the money was collected during WHO Intern Day on 28 June. Interns baked and sold cakes, as well as other items to raise the funds. They also placed some change buckets in the WHO cafeteria and restaurant to speed up their fundraising. A generous anonymous donor doubled the money that was collected on this day making it possible, in one day, to raise the funds to purchase a Blue Trunk Library.



World Health
Organization

World Health
Organization
WHO Press and Library
and Information Net-
works for Knowledge
1211 Geneva 27
Switzerland
Tel: +41 22 791 32 63
Fax: +41 22 791 48 57
E-mail:
bluetrunk@who.int

The Mozambique experience

The Blue Trunk Library is also available in Portuguese. The content is different from the French and English trunks and many publications were donated by the Ministry of Health of Brazil.

In Mozambique, 42 Blue trunk libraries in Portuguese have been made available by July 2010, to various districts and training institutions, with the support of the Ministry of Health and the WHO Country Office, and with other partners such as Friends in Global Health, One UN-Joint Programme, SolidarMed and e-Portuguese.

The WHO Country Office also funded the setting up of internet infrastructure at some of the centres that received BTLs to boost access to health information. Computer with one year access to internet and training was provided.

Since 2008, three training workshops were held in Maputo, Chokwe and Nampula supported by the WHO Country Office. The training brought together a rich pool of BTL institutional coordinators that included librarians, technicians and health workers.

A mini survey was carried out during the training workshops. Feedback from users shows that the BTL is an asset and useful resource to the institutions. At some institutions, especially training institutions, it complements the existing limited collections and in most hospitals it forms the basis of a library collection and gives health workers access to useful information. Health workers felt that they could update their knowledge and refer to manuals which help give them confidence in doing their work. Most health workers interviewed also wanted to see more health manuals included in the Portuguese collection.



Perseverance provides a Blue Trunk Library to Nigeria

Emilomo Ogbe a medical school graduate from Nigeria worked as an intern in WHO in 2009. Having just finished her primary health care posting in Lagos, she noticed that while there was skilled manpower, the inadequate instruction and reading materials for the health officers and students in training hampered both the education and the quality of care. A Blue Trunk Library was the solution.

With the help of Tomas Allen, librarian at WHO headquarters, they contacted students in different universities, who got interested in the project of sending a BTL to Nigeria. Helena Frischtak, working at UW Madison, Othman Ouenes, working at Stanford, and a few Northwestern students – namely Kiran Screenvas, Caitlin Sherman, Charlotte Poon, Casey Vanswearingen, Chris Miller from St Olaf University and Professors Reginald Fennell and Shewanee Howard from the University of Miami – turned to resources in their own institutions for help. Throughout the spring of 2009, fundraising took all shapes and forms. They organized a fundraiser barbecue. They contacted the local deli, which donated the sodas, chips, and a professional-looking sign with the fundraiser's name, "Burgers for Books." Besides the usual burgers and hotdogs, the AEPi boys rented an inflatable joust and invited all the sororities on campus for a competitive bake sale. Emi remembers seeing pictures of the barbecue and becoming teary eyed. "There was so much commitment to the project from all these people who had never had a chance to visit the health care center to which this money is going," she said.

Finally the money was raised. There was a life lesson to be learnt in this whole experience. When people come together for a cause they are deeply committed to and passionate about, enough perseverance will take them anywhere. For the students, the most inspiring lesson was the idea that by acting locally they were able to make a difference at a global level.

That is a lesson that will stay with Emi, Helena and every other student who participated in this initiative for the rest of their lives.



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.



World Health Organization
WHO Press and Library and Information Networks for Knowledge
1211 Geneva 27
Switzerland
Tel: +41 22 791 32 63
Fax: +41 22 791 48 57
E-mail: bluetrunk@who.int

Atelier de formation en Afrique



Dans le cadre de l'utilisation des Bibliothèques bleues dans les districts de santé, un atelier de formation des agents de santé s'est tenu à Bamako au Mali du 5 au 9 juillet 2010. Cette formation est la toute première parmi celles prévues dans trois pays (Mali, Niger et Zimbabwe) par le projet Bibliothèques bleues dans la région africaine en 2010.

La formation était donnée par Marie-Paule Kaboré, responsable des services de la bibliothèque au Bureau régional de l'OMS pour l'Afrique, assistée par Marie-Claudine Bilombo Bayekola.

L'objectif de l'atelier visait à permettre aux agents sélectionnés d'acquérir des connaissances nécessaires pour assurer

la promotion, la gestion et le développement des bibliothèques bleues afin de faire d'elles de véritables centres de documentation et de diffusion de l'information sanitaire au service des agents de santé et des communautés. Les participants ont démontré un intérêt pour cette formation par une participation active aux travaux de groupe et par la pertinence de leurs questions. Au dernier jour, ils ont adressé des recommandations au Ministère de la Santé et à l'OMS.

A la fin du stage, les formateurs ont effectué une visite d'un centre bénéficiaire d'une bibliothèque bleue, à Kati à 15 kilomètres de Bamako, où elles ont pu constater l'intérêt que suscite la bibliothèque bleue et combien les publications qu'elle contient sont consultées.

Did you know?

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

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

Mobile libraries/Bibliothèques mobiles contacts:

E-mail: bluetrunk@who.int

Web site: http://www.who.int/ghl/mobile_libraries/en

Mail :

Blue Trunk Library
World Health Organization
1211 Geneva 27
Switzerland

Sales

Jean-Marc Grégoire
WHO Press
E-mail: gregoirej@who.int
Tel: +41 22 791 3263
Fax: +41 22 791 4857

Logistics

Aldo Argolo
WHO Press
E-mail: argoloa@who.int
Tel: +41 22 791 2137

Marketing

Catherine Roch
WHO Press
E-mail: rochc@who.int
Tel: +41 22 791 29 43



World Health
Organization
WHO Press and Library
and Information Net-
works for Knowledge
1211 Geneva 27
Switzerland
Tel: +41 22 791 32 63
Fax: +41 22 791 48 57
E-mail:
bluetrunk@who.int