

## **How to Connect with Sister Cities**

If you are interested in cooperating with a partner/sister library, Sister Cities is a place to begin if your city is part of the Sister Cities program. In addition to being a valuable cultural asset to your library program, it can also help you gain credibility with your city officials as your library supports some of the city's goals.

Below are some simple steps to get you started on this adventure.

1. Ascertain if your library's governance and director support moving forward with participation in a Sister City/Sister Library partnership.
2. Check if your city is actively in touch with its Sister city. What parts of the town are involved? What are the projects?
3. Research the libraries in your town's Sister City. What types of libraries are in the town? Do they have websites? Do any of those libraries belong to the International Federation of Library Agencies (IFLA)? This could be a way to contact librarians in your town's Sister City.
4. If there is a library you think might be a partner, contact the Sister City representative in your town and ask if they would be interested in expanding the city's partnership to include a library partnership.
5. If your city is supportive, ask your Sister City's representative to write a letter suggesting the expansion of the partnership to include your library. Include information about your library and offer a partnership and possible activities.
6. If your Sister City program is not interested in expanding the Sister City Partnership, consider contacting the library in the Sister City on your own.
7. If this is not possible, look for a partner library through ALA IRRT Sister Libraries.