

BLUE INFO BLEUE

A Newsletter from Blue Trunk Library Project/ Projet Bibliothèques bleues



Music Instruments raise funds in the USA for Blue Trunk Library

Excerpt from *Westside News, Inc.*

Sara Richardson, a 2004 graduate of Hilton High School in Spencerport, New York, USA has taken up the cause of the Blue Trunks and has begun a collection of

donations to fund the purchase of a trunk for Bancoumana, a small town 70 kilometers from the capital of Mali, Bamako. The material will be housed in a Malaria Research Center. The information in the trunk will be in French as that is one of the official languages of Mali.

"I heard about the project on a trip to the WHO in Switzerland this past summer," Richardson said, adding that the WHO has sent 1,541 Blue Trunk Libraries to 69 countries since the project began.

According to the WHO website, priority for the works chosen for the trunks is given to practical manuals (especially those published by WHO) offering easily accessible solutions to the medical, public health and management problems medical staff may have to face. Differing levels of education among district medical staff have also been taken into account. The same topic may be addressed in different publications from a different point of view: that of the physician, the nurse, the nursing auxiliary or health worker.

The cost of equipping and shipping a trunk is \$2,650. "So far, we have raised more than \$500," Richardson said. "We are raffling off instruments to raise money: a harp, a spaltery (a stringed musical instrument of the harp or the zither family) and a thumb piano."

The drawing for the instruments will be December 17 and Richardson is also accepting donations for the Trunk project. "I have asked friends, family and the nursing departments from local universities for donations and am also asking the community."

"I have been fortunate enough to have access to good health care, but many others (especially those living in the region where this trunk is going) have not been so lucky," she said.

Richardson thanked her family for their support of her taking on this project and to her father for making all of the instruments that are being raffled, to her mother for her "great ideas and organization," her sister for helping solicit donations and to Cathy Smith, health educator at SUNY Cortland, who is

overseeing the project.

Richardson will graduate in August and following her return from Bamako, Mali, West Africa she will undertake a health internship. She is majoring in health sciences with a concentration in international health.

"A health intern in support of BTL"



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 2, Issue 1, 2006

Blue Trunk Libraries deployed in the WHO Western Pacific Region

Did you know?
In the Pacific Islands Countries and Territories, learning centres have adopted the Blue Trunk Library.

Le saviez-vous?
Les bibliothèques bleues ont été adoptées par les centres de formation des Territoires et Pays des Îles du Pacifique.



District health centers in developing Member States of the WHO Western Pacific Region have inadequate access to medical/health libraries and other sources of relevant health information.

This is compounded by the lack of access to the Internet. In view of this predicament, the World Health Organization Western Pacific Regional Office purchased several units of the Blue Trunk Library and deployed these to identified hospitals and training centers at the district health level.

Funds from the Pacific Open Learning Health Net (POLHN) project of WPRO had been used to purchase Blue Trunk Library units which were distributed to each Learning Center in Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States), Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu.

Several BTLs were also installed in various institutions in Papua New Guinea while one or two units of the BTL was/were sent to Cambodia, Laos, and Mongolia. In the Philippines, six (6) BTLs were distributed to various health districts.

To date, there are forty-five (45) BTLs distributed to fourteen (14) Member States of WPRO and these are expected to fill the health information gap at the district health level.

More institutions at the district health level in the developing Member States of WPRO will be identified and funds to purchase BTLs will be made available to pursue the success of the project in the Western Pacific Region. Training on how to fully utilize and manage the BTLs shall also be undertaken in the future.

A report from *Charles Patrick RABY*
Translation, Publications & Library Services
Knowledge Management & Sharing
World Health Organization
Western Pacific Region
Manila, Philippines
(63-2)5289983, http://www.wpro.who.int/wpr_kms/

**“45 BTL
distributed to
14 Member
States”**



Impact of Blue trunk libraries

Reports from Africa

Impact of the Blue Trunk Library in the Democratic Republic of the Congo

In some health districts the Blue Trunk Library is the only source of health and medical information health workers and students have. Demand for the library has grown since the project was launched in 1996, particularly from sub-Saharan countries.

In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Blue Trunk Libraries have already made a difference.

"The Blue Trunk Libraries have been most welcome in sub-Saharan Africa, especially in nursing schools, where demand has been great," said Clément Nzungu Mavinga, from the Centre for Health Promotion in Kangu-Mayumbe. "Our health promotion centre is located in a rural part of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Several Blue Trunk Libraries are being used in our region. They are very useful for training student nurses," Mavinga said.

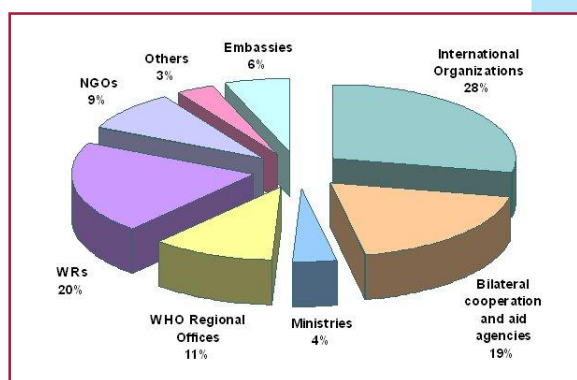
Impact of the Blue Trunk Library in Senegal

Marie Khemesse Ngom, at Senegal's Ministry of Health, commented: "Many reasons explain why the Blue Trunk Library is very much used. The users refresh their knowledge after their initial skills acquired in schools. They use this collection in order to read new techniques, standards, and practices in health and medicine. In Kédougou, the Blue Trunk Library manager said that since this collection has been installed in their health district, every year many health workers are passing their professional exams in hygiene and public health. In Nioro, the health district doctor thanks the Blue Trunk Library because he has specialized in Public Health."

Resource mobilization

A resource mobilization project for the Blue Trunk Libraries was launched in 2006. It targeted donor agencies, health foundations, NGOs and former sponsors of the BTL. The success of this campaign allowed the distribution of 10 BTL to health districts in the Philippines and more than 100 BTL to selected countries in Africa and the Eastern Mediterranean Region.

This resource mobilization campaign will continue in 2007 to provide BTL to additional WHO Regions and to launch a new product in this family of mobile libraries: *The HIV/AIDS Knowledge case* (see page 4).



Types of sponsorship for the Blue Trunk Libraries

Blue
Info
bleue

Did you know?

The Blue Trunk Library Project celebrates this year its 10 years.

Le saviez-vous?

Le projet Bibliothèque bleue fête cette année ses 10 ans.



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

Blue
Info
bleue

Trunk libraries, a growing family: Welcoming the HIV/AIDS Knowledge Case



The **HIV/AIDS Knowledge Case** is modeled after the Blue Trunk Library project, which was launched by the World Health Organization (WHO) in 1996 and is successful in providing health information support to health care services located in remote areas in developing countries. It is a collection of publications on HIV/AIDS related subjects, contained in a durable, lockable metal case.

What is it for?

To provide basic health and medical information related to HIV/AIDS to district health workers and teams, by dispatching HIV/AIDS Knowledge Cases in English or French to remote areas where computer access and access to traditional print information is limited.

Who is it for?

District hospitals, remote health-care centers, appropriate NGO partners, etc. There should be one person in each medical center that is responsible for the HIV/AIDS Knowledge Case.

What is in it?

The HIV/AIDS Knowledge Cases contain publications produced by WHO, UNAIDS and other publishers, on HIV/AIDS related subjects. Priority has been given to practical manuals, keeping in mind that English or French may not be the native language of the recipients. The HIV/AIDS Knowledge Case are available in English and French. To view the content, please go to the WHO web site: http://www.who.int/ghl/mobile_libraries/hivcase/contents/en/index.html
To obtain information and order the HIV/AIDS Knowledge Case, please contact WHO Press at "bookorders@who.int".

Did you know?
30 interns working at WHO this autumn raised sufficient funds among themselves to purchase and donate a Red Trunk Library to the Mirebalais Hospital in Haiti.

Le saviez-vous?
30 internes qui ont travaillé à l'OMS cet automne ont financé l'achat d'une bibliothèque VIH/SIDA pour l'offrir à l'hôpital Mirebalais à Haiti.



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

Contacts

Mobile libraries/Bibliothèques mobiles contacts:

E-mail: bluetrunk@who.int or hivcase@who.int
Web site: http://www.who.int/ghl/mobile_libraries/en

Mail :

Blue Trunk Library
World Health Organization
1211 Geneva 27
Switzerland

Dissemination

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

Contents

Ian Roberts
LNK (Library and Information Networks for Knowledge)
E-mail: robertsi@who.int
Tel.: +41 22 791 2074
Fax: +41 22 791 4150

Logistics

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