Connecting with our international colleagues: the development of the web-based International Directory of Veterinary Medical and Related Libraries

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Objective: To create a web-accessible, open access directory of international veterinary and related animal health libraries with current, accurate contact information.

With the advent of several international conferences and the subsequent formation of new veterinary library organizations worldwide, along with the international VETLIB-L listserv, the need for a comprehensive international directory of veterinary libraries and librarians became apparent.

Methodology: Information was collected from previous lists and directories in existence, including the VETLIB-L listserv subscriber list subscriber list; direct contacts with international libraries and organizations; and by searching Google for libraries affiliated with international veterinary schools.

http://www.vmls.mlanet.org/vlindex.htm

A template was developed to make all entries alike. Privacy issues were honored when necessary. Procedures for regular updating and maintenance were developed.

Results: A robust directory of veterinary and related libraries has been complied and is available on the web. To date, nearly 80 countries and more than 300 libraries are listed in the directory. The directory receives an average of 700 visits per month.

Conclusion: Today's Web 2.0 technology and networking tools, such as Google and listservs, have made possible the compilation of a comprehensive International Directory of Veterinary Medical and Related Libraries, one which can easily be kept up-to-date. We are continuing to seek information about additional libraries to include in our directory as a means to bring closer the international network of vet-erinary and animal health libraries in our global environment.

Veterinary Medical Libraries Section / Medical Library Association