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Defying Borders: The Library's Role in a Global University

Rana, Gurpreet

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Defying Borders: The Library's Role in a Global University

Gurpreet K. Rana, MLIS, Coordinator, Library Global Initiatives, University Library, University of Michigan

“... in almost every country, research universities are among the most globally connected of all sectors.

Knowledge, the free currency of higher education, flows anywhere and everywhere, like quicksilver on a metal table...”¹

What is the role of the library in education and research at an institution which is increasingly looking beyond its physical boundaries?

In 2009, Library Global Initiatives was formed to:

- Build and sustain international collaboration with campus partners
- Implement library-led global outreach
- Create awareness of resources and services for global study and research
- Leverage library expertise on a large decentralized campus

Global outreach on campus and abroad

- **Networking!**
- **Environmental assessment**
- Assessing global information resource needs
- Curriculum-integrated information literacy
- Research collaborations
- Faculty development

Curriculum Integration & Workshops including:

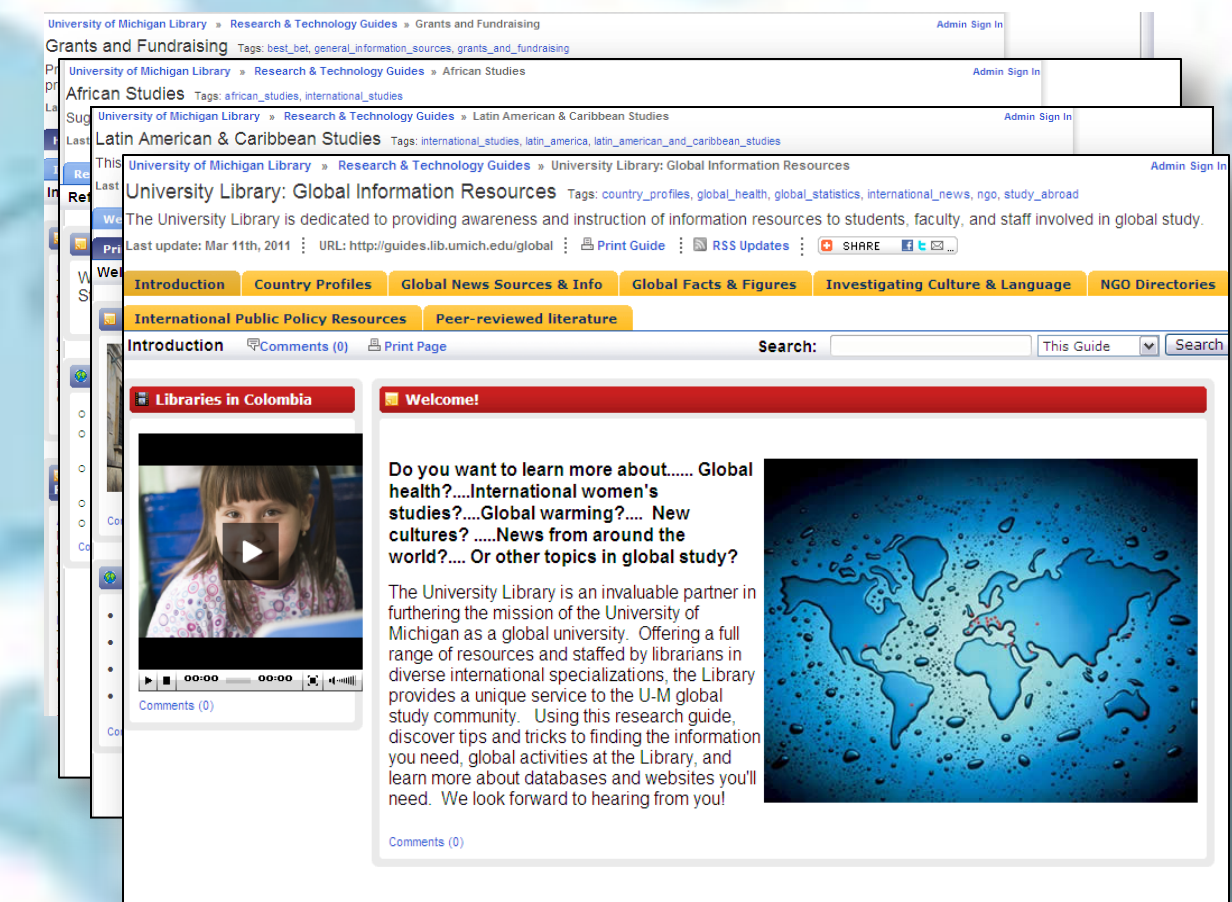
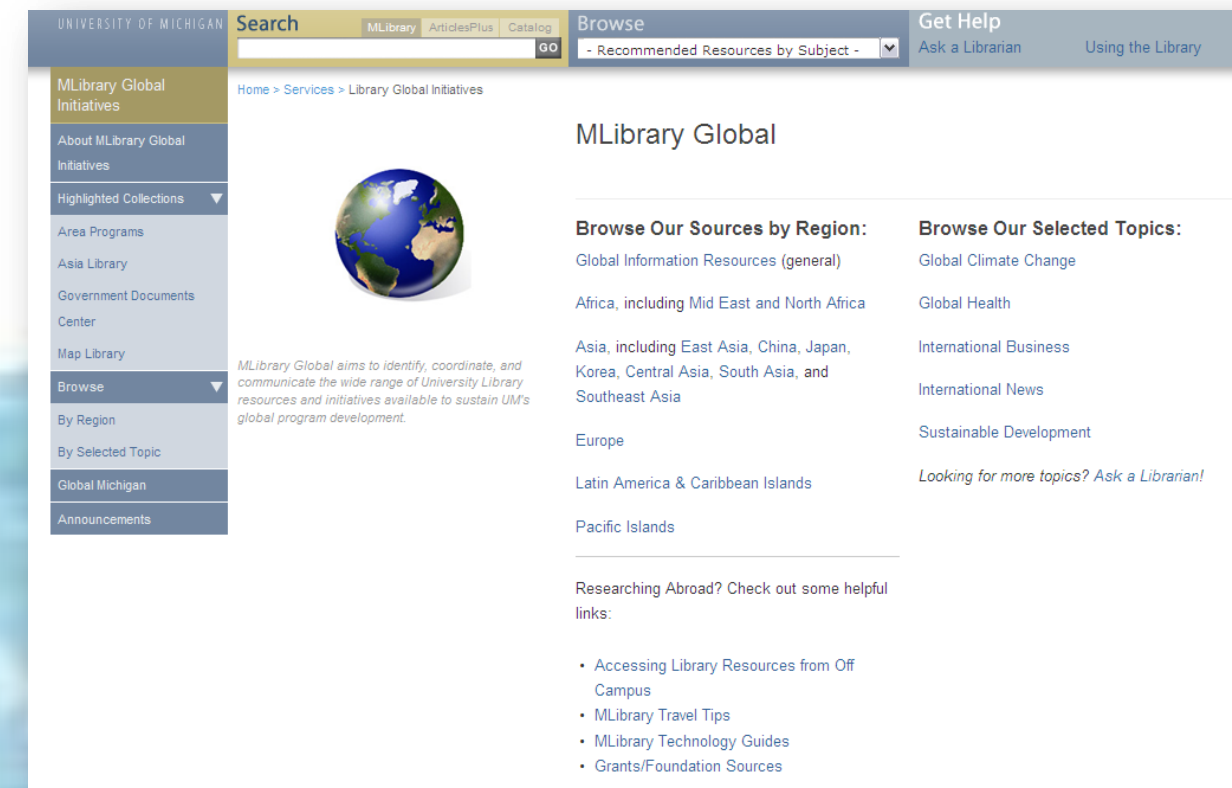
- Increased information literacy instruction in global study courses
- Nursing /Women's Studies: Perspectives in Global Health
- UC 178 course: Global Understanding
- Center for Global Health's "Foundation in Information Skills" workshop series
- International Grantseeking Workshops
- Teaching Open Access Resources

Excerpt from Ghanaian student report on his "UM experience"

"I learned better and faster ways of looking up more accurate and current medical information. I believe this is going to greatly influence my learning for the better."

Visiting Scholars: Orientation & Instruction including:

- **Emphasis on open access resources**
- University of Michigan African Presidential Scholars
- Fogarty International Scholars, Ghana
- Visiting faculty from Kumasi Nursing and Midwifery Training School, Ghana
- Individual consultations and orientation



Leveraging Library Expertise & Services

- **Librarian Subject Specialists**
- Creating awareness of resources and library services for global study and research across disciplines
- Marketing services and collections to global programs, including mobile resources and Ask A Librarian chat/email/text

Where in the world?

During Feb 2009 and Feb 2010, UM librarians responded to email reference from 22 countries: Algeria, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, India, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Kuwait, Mexico, Netherlands, Norway, Pakistan, Poland, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, and United Kingdom



Outreach and Events

- **Library Global Information Week, 2010 & 2011**



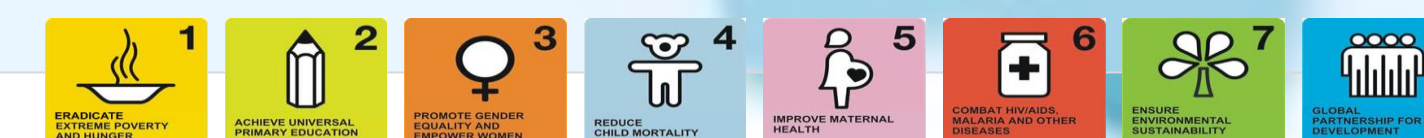
- Library's first Study Abroad field site: **Teaching Technology in Rural Kenya, Summer 2011 (Field librarians: C. Ransom, L. Mbabu)**
- Increased Library presence in global engagement events and lecture series
- Representation on campus-wide Provost's Council on Global Engagement
- Participation in the Provost's Seminar on Educating Globally Competent Students

Outreach: Global Students

- Library collaboration with U-M's International Center to assess information needs of global students
- Customized workshops and library office hours designed for international students
- involvement with international student organizations

Future Plans...

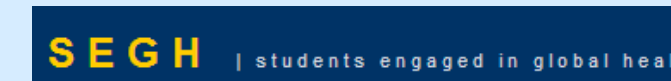
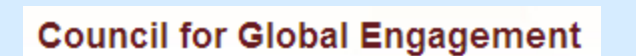
- Future Library-sponsored study abroad activities
- Further MLibrary's global connections
- Develop research and instruction collaborations
- Investigate connections with sister libraries
- Develop theme-based MLibrary global programming e.g. **UN Millennium Development Goals**



2010-2011 connections include:



Medical School



1. Marginson, S. "The rise of the global university: 5 New Tensions." Chronicle of Higher Education. May 30, 2010