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

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

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“... 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:

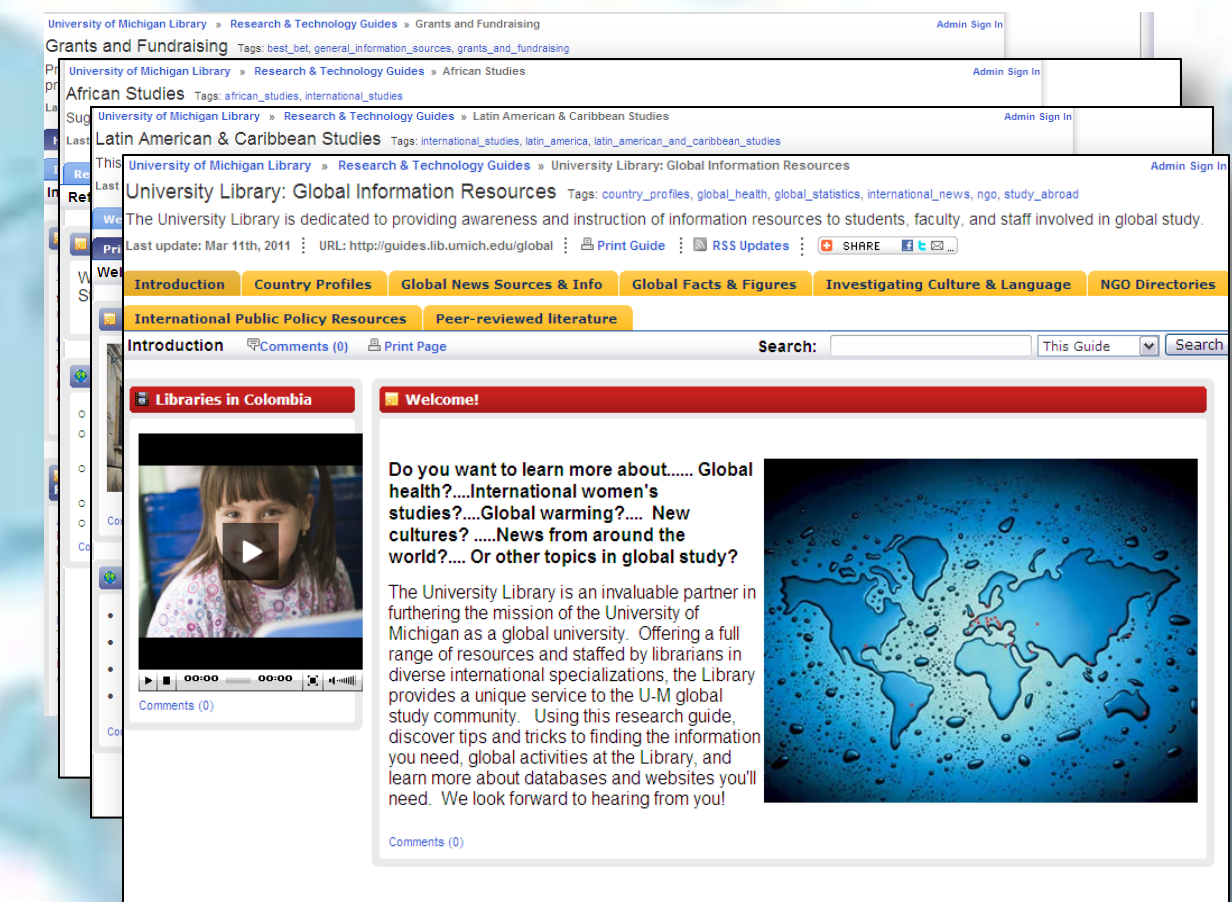
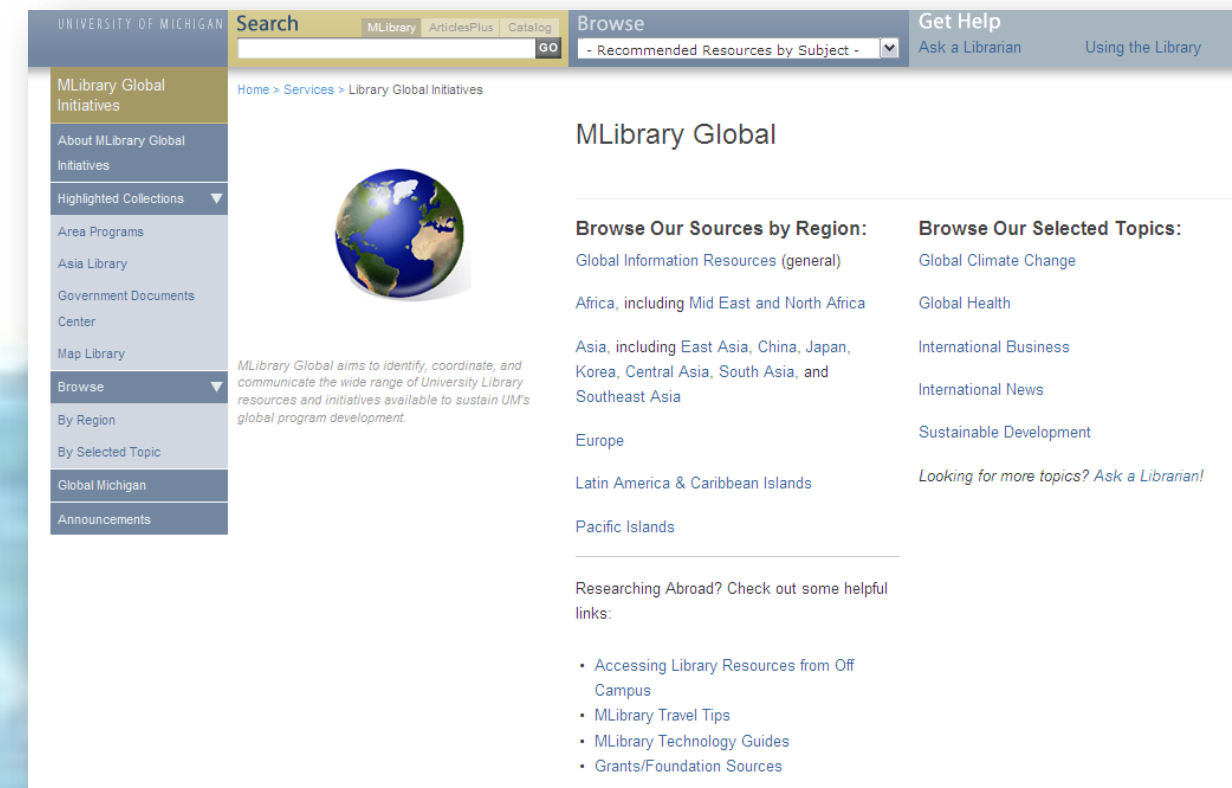
- **Increased information literacy instruction in global study courses**
- Nursing /Women's Studies: Perspectives in Global Health
- UC 178 course: Global Understanding
- Center for Global Health's "Foundation in Information Skills" workshop series
- International Grantseeking Workshops
- Teaching Open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

Outreach and Events

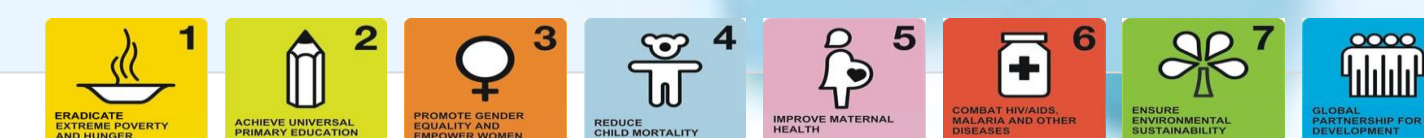
- **Library Global Information Week, 2010 & 2011**



- 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

Future Plans...

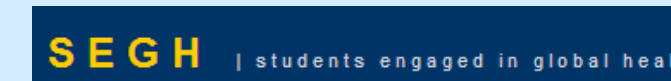
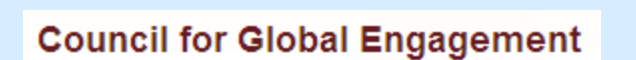
- Future Library-sponsored study abroad activities
- Further MLibrary's global connections
- Develop research and instruction collaborations
- Investigate connections with sister libraries
- Develop theme-based MLibrary global programming e.g. **UN Millennium Development Goals**



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