



A ROUND TABLE OF THE AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

Success Stories **Sister Libraries**

Austin Public Library, Texas, U.S.A / Saltillo Public Library, Mexico

Austin, TX
UNITED STATES

Saltillo, Mexico and Austin, Texas share a unique history as the "two capitals" of Texas, and reflecting these historical ties, Saltillo has been Austin's sister city since 1968. On April 28, 2001, the Austin celebration of Dia de los ninos/dia de los libros was honored to host a visit by Saltillo children's author and storyteller Magdalena Sofia Cardenas Garcia. Her visit to Austin was sponsored by the Mayor's Office of the city of Saltillo as part of the cultural exchange with the Austin-Saltillo Sister City Committee. As executive director of Museo de Desierto, Coahuila, Ms. Cardenas Garcia launched an innovative museum education program to prepare children as museum docents. She read from her children's books and took part in a book exchange with the Austin Public Library and city leaders. Saltillo and Austin have sister libraries through the International Sister Libraries Program. Saltillo was the capital of Texas when its territory was part of the Mexican state of Coahuila, before Austin became the capital of the Republic of Texas. A variety of exchanges between the two cities have focused on government, culture, education, business, and athletics. The Austin-Saltillo Sister City Committee has also hosted several annual conferences of the International United States/Mexico Sister Cities Association.