

A Solution in Sight: Collaboration to Improve Access to the World's Ophthalmic Information

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The Problem



- **285 million people** are blind or visually impaired, world-wide
- 80% of blindness is **preventable or curable**
- **90%** of the world's visually impaired live in **developing countries**
- **Cataracts** are the leading cause of blindness
- **Refractive error** is the leading cause of visual impairment
- **Women** in all areas and at all ages are at higher risk for visual impairment, due to longer life expectancy and to less access to services. Even in developed countries, women and minorities have more visual impairments. **Two-thirds of the blind** in the world are women.
- **Blind children:** 0.3/1000 children in affluent countries; 1.5/1000 in very poor countries; 40% of the causes are preventable or treatable. Gender inequities are also common for children.
- Cost/DALY saved by **cataract surgery:** US\$ 20-40, as low as US\$10 in high-volume settings
- Cost/DALY saved by **distribution of vitamin A** to children 2x/year is US\$9

VISION 2020: The Right to Sight Working Together to Eliminate Avoidable Blindness



- **15 million fewer** people are blind today than in 1999
- **All 193 member states** of the UN have committed to investing in eye care
- **Eye care services, training of service providers, research, mentoring and administration** are all programmatic needs at VISION 2020 cooperating institutions
- **Information resources and staff skilled at providing and teaching access to and use of these information resources** needed at all of the institutions
- **Resource centers and their librarians** are key players in this effort
- **Barriers to finding and using eye care information resources** in developing countries:
 - Cost of resources, connectivity, training
 - Lack of awareness of available resources
 - Librarians fail to utilize their knowledge & skills
 - Retention of librarians



Partners

Association of Vision Science Librarians (AVSL)



- 150 members in 26 countries around the globe
- Ophthalmology, optometry, hospital-based, companies, professional societies
- Established programs :
 - Share information and resources
 - Mentor new members
 - Advocate for increased access to information
- Provides expertise in vision-related information resources

Seva Foundation



- Seva: "Selfless Service" in Sanskrit
- Dedicated to the alleviation of suffering in the world
- Special focus on the prevention of blindness, helping 3 million people since 1978
 - Direct eye care services
 - Sustainable eye care programs
 - Center for Innovation in Eye Care
- Expertise and infrastructure for managing grant

VISION 2020: The Right to Sight Global Sight Initiative



- Eight mentor eye hospitals sharing intervention strategies and systematic improvement processes with more than 50 client eye hospitals
- Goal: by 2015, 100 hospitals and 1 million more surgeries annually
- Activities include:
 - Advocacy
 - Regional capacity building
 - Formal training programs
 - Advising & mentoring
 - Local research
 - Libraries & IT



Elsevier Foundation Innovative Libraries Grants

- Supports efforts of libraries to enhance the quality of life in developing countries by advancing knowledge in science, the social sciences, technology and medicine
- One, two and three year grants
- Partnerships between libraries in developing and developed countries

A Solution in Sight: The Grant 2012-2014

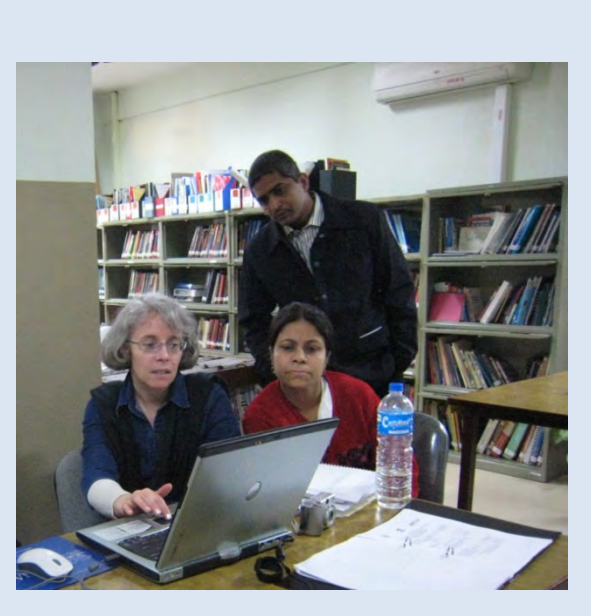
Purpose:

- Expand the well-functioning vision library network
- Act at local, regional and global levels
- Advance VISION 2020 goals by adequacy and effectiveness of staff, resources and services at Resource Centers (RCs)



Activities focus on South-South, South-North and North-South cooperation:

- Teleconferences
- Email
- Regional and all-group workshops
- Mentorships



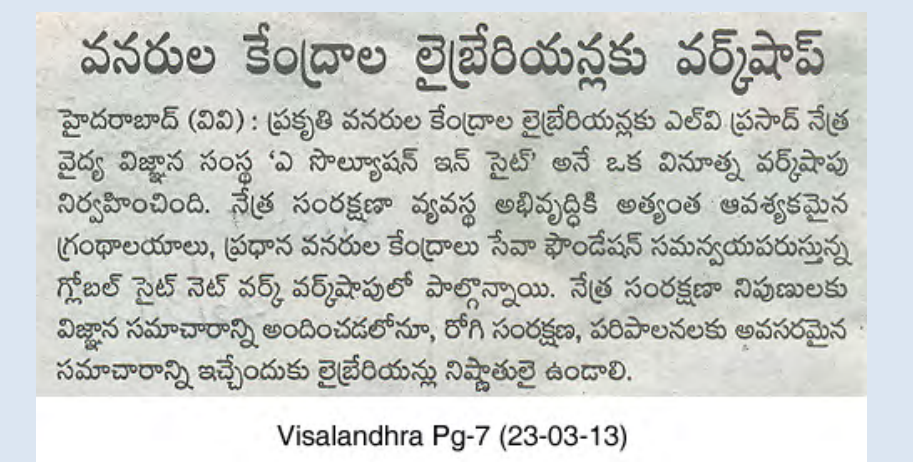
Participating Centers:

- India:**
- Aravind Eye Care System
 - LV Prasad Eye Institute
 - Sadguru Netra Chikitsalaya
 - Vivekananda Mission Asram Netra Niramay Niketan
- Guatemala:**
- Visualiza Eye Care System
- Nepal:**
- Lumbini Eye Institute
- Tanzania:**
- Kilimanjaro Centre for Community Ophthalmology
- Egypt:**
- Al Noor Magrabi Foundation



First 21 Months Actions:

- **Assessments and work plans** developed by each RC
- **Teleconference** with each RC's librarian and administrators
- **First regional workshop** held at Aravind, November 2012
- **All-center workshop** held at LV Prasad, March 2013
- **Promotion** at American Library Assn, Medical Library Assn, American Public Health Assn, 2012 Science of Eliminating Health Disparities conferences
- Active **mentoring** established between each RC librarian and AVSL members



Goals for 2013-2014:

- Provide tailored **training** for each RC librarian
- Improve **collections, cataloging and search capacity** at each RC



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