Third report
August 2002- October 2002
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Tribal College Libraries:
Linking Native Americans to Health Information

NATIONAL NETWORK OF LIBRARIES OF MEDICINE/
GREATER MIDWEST REGION

Access to Electronic Health Information for the Public

SUBCONTRACT
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I. Introduction

This time period was devoted to training the tribal college librarians. Work continued on the web page. See http://harley.med.und.nodak.edu/tcl/ The promotional materials, especially the brochure was completed. See Tribal_Libr21.pdf for the near final draft.

II. Progress toward major objectives of the project

The major objectives of this project are:

1. Train Native American health care consumers and health professionals needing consumer health information to find reliable electronic consumer health information through partnerships with tribal college library staff.
2. Develop a health information web page to prominently promote MEDLINEplus, PubMed, and ClinicalTrials.gov as well as other web resources applicable to Native American health consumers.
3. Provide tribal college libraries with access to a full text health information database.
4. Place two computer workstations with Internet access dedicated to the Native American consumers and health professionals needing consumer health information in all five North Dakota tribal college libraries.

Objective 1. Training

Three training sessions were held. Session 1 was on August 19 on North Dakota’s Interactive Video Network (IVN). Originally we had scheduled all of the tribal colleges and the clinical campus sites. However, due to technical difficulties, the campus sites had to drop out. I introduced the participants and discussed the web page. Mary Markland, one of our clinical campus librarians then did an instructional session on MedlinePlus and Clinical Trials.gov.

Session 2 was also on IVN, and only the tribal college sites participated. All except one had participants. Mary Markland was the instructor, and she focused on the Health & Wellness Resource Center (the database that we had purchased), evaluating web sites, & we both answered questions.

Session 3 was the individualized hands-on training at the tribal college library sites. The focus for all sites was PubMed with an emphasis on leaving time to review other resources and answer questions.

Leeila Bina, southeast clinical campus librarian, worked with Charlene Weis, United Tribes Technical College and Mark Hollman, Sitting Bull College, at Mark’s library on August 27. Leeila had been to Charlene’s library before, so she and Charlene thought it appropriate to hold the training for both of them at Sitting Bull.

Karen Anderson, northeast clinical campus librarian, worked with Quincee Baker at Fort Berthold on September 11.

I worked with Myrna DeMarce, Cankdeska Cikana Community College, on September 12, and with Tom Eggers at Turtle Mountain Community College on October 18.
Objective 2. Web page development:

The web page at: http://harley.med.und.nodak.edu/tcl/ is fully functional. I have asked the librarians to provide a link to it on their web pages. So far only two have been able to do this. This will become another goal for the project of just as much importance as the development of the page.

The web master did develop an online survey about where users find health information. Unfortunately, it was not used much because it is not prominently displayed at the colleges or on the library web pages.

Objective 3. Full text database access:

The Health & Wellness Resource Center is now available to the tribal colleges. It was their responsibility to register. This is also not very prominently displayed on their web pages, so that will also be a goal as the project continues.

Objective 4. Computer workstations:

The computers are installed, and we have developed some signage to use now that training is completed.

Baseline Data: all the librarians distributed print surveys measuring users’ knowledge about health websites during September and October. We will also use the data from our online survey on the web page.

Publicity/Marketing: A notice was placed on the Library of the Health Sciences website at: http://harley.med.und.nodak.edu/?content=news#00012. The brochures were developed and other materials were collected. Local Indian contacts were told about the project, and they have been telling others. Plans are being made to mail out a letter and information to the tribal chair people and college administrators.

Training/Demonstration Sessions:

The three training sessions are described above under Objective 1.

Evaluation Activities: Evaluations of the two IVN sessions were completed as well as of the in-person visits.

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III. Problems encountered and measures taken to resolve them

Technology problems with IVN were the biggest problem. Even though efforts were made to communicate with everyone, there were still difficulties connecting. The coordinator needs to make multiple checks with everyone involved to minimize technical glitches.
There are still problems getting the web site linked to the tribal college pages, even the library pages. The coordinator will work with the individual librarians and possibly even the college IT staff to improve visibility for the web page.

Visibility for the whole project needs to be improved. Contacts will be made with college and tribal officials.

More contacts with consumers need to be planned. This will be targeted for spring and early summer when the weather improves.

Gates computers recently received by the libraries were configured not to accept cookies. This resulted in the blocking of downloading of full text. If the librarians can’t make the adjustments, the college IT staff may need to be contacted.

IV. Suggestions for modifications to the project

More public relations activities with college administrators and tribal officials might increase visibility for the project. Contact with IT staff might improve placement of the web site where it will be more prominent and useful.

V. Projected activities for next quarter

Distribution of the brochures and public relations efforts will be most important. Tribal college librarians will be reminded to refer or consult if difficult questions arise. Continue to improve and expand the website. Results of survey will be compiled.

VI. Reporting forms for training sessions

A total of 17 attended the two IVN sessions. 15 attended the hands-on sessions. The evaluations received were primarily positive, indicating that the classes met expectations, were organized and provided information that will be used later. Comments included that the classes provided a better understanding on how to find electronic information, very interesting, and the sessions could have been “all day.” The only negative comments were the technical difficulties during the IVN training.

VII. Other accomplishments

Contacts were made with other regional health educators with Native American initiatives. This was through referral from the Director of the Indian Health Division at the UND School of Medicine and Health Sciences who currently also serves as the president of the National Indian Women's Health Resource Center. The contacts are in cancer education and information
programs at the Mayo Clinic through Native Web and Spirit of Eagles [http://www.mayo.edu/leadershipinitiative/], University of Minnesota Cancer Center [http://www.cancer.umn.edu], and the Cancer Information Service [http://www.cis.wisc.edu/] from the University of Wisconsin. They have indicated a willingness to provide links to our web page. We will in turn provide links to their sites and assist them in distributing their information in whatever ways that we have available.