Seventh and Final Report
August 2003- September 2003
Submitted November 7, 2003

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

March 1, 2002-September 30, 2003*
*No-cost extension granted from original end date of August 31, 2003

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I. Introduction

This period marked the conclusion of the sub-contract. Because opportunities to present and publicize the project were taking place in September, the Principal Investigator (PI) asked for a no-cost extension to the end of September. This would allow paying travel expenses for the tribal college librarians and the PI to attend and present at professional meetings scheduled during that month. It was approved, and participation at the professional meetings took place as explained under Publicity/Marketing.

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

The formal training of the college librarians and staff was completed during the third quarter. However due to the award of an additional small training grant in August, direct training for 13 people on the Fort Berthold Indian Reservations took place. One tribal college library staff member attended, and the college librarian was consulted when arrangements were being made. The attenders were introduced to the Web site and how it can be used to gain access to the NLM products which were the focus of the training. In conjunction with that training, an educational worker from the reservation came to our library on September 3, 2003 for individual training on the NLM products and our Web site.

Objective 2. Web page development:

The web page continues to be updated and changed as new information is received. The site is at: [http://harley.med.und.nodak.edu/tcl/](http://harley.med.und.nodak.edu/tcl/). It currently contains pictures from the training mentioned above and the Health & Wellness Conference at Turtle Mountain Community College mentioned in the last report.

We capture hits on the page, and the total as of September 30, 2003 was 2,744. The break down for the two months of this recording period is:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Hits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>August 2003</td>
<td>327</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 2003</td>
<td>242</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Below is a graph of web page usage since its debut.
We also capture the pages most linked to and the IP range where the hits originate.

Objective 3. Full text database access:
The Health & Wellness Resource Center has been available to the tribal colleges this past year. It was their responsibility to register. Unfortunately, most college web pages never did prominently display this access. Some Tribal College librarians reported that usage was popular and those who were able to fund a subscription for 2003-04 did so. The total usage was: 1,098 searches and 256 sessions.

Objective 4. Computer workstations:
The computers are being used, and signage and monitor strips were developed for use by the workstations. No further developments on this objective.

Baseline Data: All the librarians distributed print surveys measuring users’ knowledge about health Web sites during September and October. The results were reported fourth quarter under Evaluation data. A follow-up survey was distributed in April and May. The results from the second survey were included in the Sixth report submitted August 17, 2003.

Publicity/Marketing: A link to the Tribal College Library page continues to be maintained on the Library of the Health Sciences website at: http://harley.med.und.nodak.edu/

Informational monitor strips were created and distributed to the librarians for placement on their computers. There were also enough for them to distribute to users. They feature the URL’s of the project as well as MedlinePlus and Clinical Trials.gov.

The brochures continue to be distributed at every opportunity, such as at the Wellness Conference, the earlier powwows, a Listening Circle, and two professional library meetings. The college librarians also continue to distribute them also. They will be taken to all future training sessions. The brochure can be viewed at: http://harley.med.und.nodak.edu/tcl/Tribalpdf.pdf

The PI trained 13 health care providers at the Fort Berthold Indian Reservation on August 14-15. The focus was NLM products, but the subcontract and our Web site was also promoted. Our Web site at http://harley.med.und.nodak.edu/tcl/ has pictures taken at the event. One educational worker from Fort Berthold came to our library on September 3, 2003 for individual training, and he was shown our Web site.

A poster on the project was presented at the Annual Conference of the Midwest Chapter of the Medical Library Association in Indianapolis, September 20-23 http://midwestmla.org/2003conference/ . In addition, a paper about the project was presented at the North Dakota Library Association.
Annual Conference, September 25, in Bismarck. Four of the tribal college librarians attended and participated in the presentation of the paper.

Training/Demonstration Sessions:
The PI trained 13 health care providers at the Fort Berthold Indian Reservation on August 14-15. The training funding was provided through a small training grant and resulted from an invitation by the two NLM Interns at Fort Berthold, Deb Thompson and Rich Mayer. The focus was NLM products, but the subcontract and our Web site was also promoted. Our Web site at [http://harley.med.und.nodak.edu/tcl/](http://harley.med.und.nodak.edu/tcl/) has pictures taken at the event.

One educational worker from Fort Berthold came to our library on September 3, 2003 for individual training on NLM products and health information on the Internet. He was also shown our Web site.

Evaluation Activities:
A survey of the tribal college librarians was distributed in September. It was intended to solicit their personal reactions to this project. All either strongly agreed or agreed that they enjoyed participating in the project. Most felt they had the opportunity to give input and felt part of the project. All strongly agreed or agreed that they felt more capable to identify, evaluate, and use health information on the Internet. Most felt they were better able to teach their users, and all either strongly agreed or agreed that the project helped users of their libraries. The complete survey with the results is attached as Appendix 1.

III. Problems encountered and measures taken to resolve them

The problem of getting the Web site linked to the tribal college pages, even the library pages, has remained constant throughout the project. The coordinator will continue to work with the individual librarians and the college IT staff to improve visibility for the Web site.

Visibility for the whole project should have been expanded. Contacts with tribal health personnel and health care providers did not materialize as earlier planned. It is hoped that a phase II can be developed to pursue these prospects.

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. More training with consumers and health care providers should have been scheduled.

VI. Reporting forms for training sessions

Forms for the subcontract were submitted.

VII. Other accomplishments

Hands-on training at the Fort Berthold reservation for 13 health care workers was held August 14-15th. They included nurses, CHR’s (community health representatives), and nutritionists. Two NLM Interns, Deb Thompson and Rich Mayer coordinated the training. The lap top computers purchased by NLM were used in tribal headquarters for the hands-on sessions. This training was funded through a GMR Training Award.
The PI, the HEF Library director, and two tribal college librarians attended a Listening Circle on August 26\textsuperscript{th} with North Dakota tribal leaders and NLM representatives, including Dr. Donald Lindberg, Dr. Elliot Siegel, Dr. Fred Wood, Dr. Rob Logan, and Gale Dutcher. This was intended to raise awareness at NLM of the needs on the reservation and to inform tribal leaders of opportunities for assistance from the NLM and regional contacts. The PI made a brief presentation of the project and encouraged tribal leaders to contact us, or the tribal college librarians, for further information and training.

One educational employee from the Fort Berthold Reservation came to the UND Library of the Health Sciences on September 3, 2003, for in-person training on the NLM databases and our Web site. He came at the request of Rich Mayer, NLM Intern. He intends to include health sites on the Internet into a health curriculum being developed for the elementary schools on the reservation.

The PI was invited to present this project at the Outreach Symposium sponsored by the GMR on October 9, 2003. The slides from that presentation are on the project Web site http://harley.med.und.nodak.edu/tcl/ under News/ Recent Events.
Appendix I: Librarian’s Evaluation of the Project: Linking Native Americans to Health Information

1. I enjoyed participating in this project.
   _3_ strongly agree  _3_ agree  ___neutral  ___disagree  ___strongly disagree

2. I had the opportunity to give input into this project.
   _3_ strongly agree  _2_ agree  _1_ neutral  ___disagree  ___strongly disagree

3. I felt part of this project.
   _3_ strongly agree  _2_ agree  _1_ neutral  ___disagree  ___strongly disagree

4. This project has helped me feel more capable at identifying, evaluating, and using health information on the Internet.
   _3_ strongly agree  _3_ agree  ___neutral  ___disagree  ___strongly disagree

5. This project has enabled me to teach finding health information on the Internet to users of my library.
   _3_ strongly agree  _2_ agree  _1_ neutral  ___disagree  ___strongly disagree

6. This project helped users of my library.
   _3_ strongly agree  _3_ agree  ___neutral  ___disagree  ___strongly disagree

7. I feel comfortable asking other medical librarians for assistance with finding health information.
   _1_ strongly agree  _3_ agree  _2_ neutral  ___disagree  ___strongly disagree

8. The most valuable part of this project was: Learning the aspects of various databases. Finding out about the health web sites available to students and community residents who want health information.

9. The least valuable part of this project was: Didn’t see any. None

10. I would be willing to be interviewed by the principal investigator regarding my participation in this project.  _4_ yes  _2_ no

11. I would be willing to participate in another project similar to this one.  _5_ yes  _1_ no possibly