Fourth report
November 2002- January 2003
Submitted February 15, 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-August 31, 2003

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I. Introduction

This time period was devoted to getting the brochure printed, mailing promotional materials to the tribal college libraries, collecting the user surveys, and continuing work on the web page.

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

There was no activity with this objective. All the training of the college librarians is completed. Some sessions with consumer groups or health professionals will be planned for spring and early summer.

Objective 2. Web page development:

The web page at: [http://harley.med.und.nodak.edu/tcl/](http://harley.med.und.nodak.edu/tcl/) is fully functional. We are still working on getting links from the tribal college library web pages to our page. So far only two have been able to do this. This is one of our goals and will probably require the PI to contact systems staff at the colleges.

We are capturing hits on the page and so far the total is 1,379. They break down according to month with the following totals:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Uses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>August, 2002</td>
<td>235</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September, 2002</td>
<td>336</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October, 2002</td>
<td>222</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November, 2002</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December, 2002</td>
<td>86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January, 2003</td>
<td>160</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February, 2003</td>
<td>140</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

We also capture the pages most linked to and the IP range where the hits are coming from.
We will analyze those more closely in the coming months.

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 signage was developed for use by the workstations. It was mailed to the librarians for placement.

Baseline Data: All the librarians distributed print surveys measuring users’ knowledge about health websites during September and October. See the results under Evaluation data.

Publicity/Marketing: A notice is maintained on the Library of the Health Sciences website at: http://harley.med.und.nodak.edu/?content=news#00012.

The brochures were finally printed after several problems arose. The first printing did not maintain the true color scheme, and the second printing had the wrong subcontract number. The GMR agreed to do color photocopies with all the information correct. They have been distributed to the college libraries and to various departments at the University of North Dakota. They will be taken to all future training sessions. The brochure can be viewed at: http://harley.med.und.nodak.edu/tcl/Tribalpdf.pdf

Local 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 college administrators and the tribal health administrators. The librarians have been asked to provide names of others who might be interested in training. These contacts will be made soon to indicate availability for training sessions in the spring and summer. The PI will attend the INMED Powwow that will be held in Grand Forks in February. We also plan to exhibit at the Time Out and Wacipi that will be held on the University of North Dakota campus April 2-6. See http://www.undindianassociation.homestead.com/ for more details.

Training/Demonstration Sessions:
None held this quarter.

Evaluation Activities: All the librarians distributed print surveys measuring users’ knowledge about health websites during September and October. Four colleges returned the surveys with a total of 269 respondents. The surveys revealed that 170 responders seek health information from the Internet. The Internet ranked highest of places to find information, even above doctors that was indicated 156 times. Those who said they did not like to use the Internet, 63 said that they were not sure it was true and 43 said that there is not much about Indian health issues. Out of the Internet users only 22 use PubMed, 11 use ClinicalTrials.gov, and 29 use Medlineplus. The complete results are appended as Appendix I.

The intent is to re-distribute the survey in April to see if awareness of reliable Internet health resources has improved.

III. Problems encountered and measures taken to resolve them
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 expanded. 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 moderates.

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

Tribal college librarians will be reminded to refer or consult if difficult questions arise. Continue to improve and expand the website. Attend Powwows to distribute information. Set up training sessions with consumers and tribal health contacts. Re-distribute the survey.

VI. Reporting forms for training sessions

No training sessions this quarter.

VII. Other accomplishments

Plans were made to attend the INMED powwow on the UND campus and display the web page and distribute brochures. Many people from the Indian communities attend this event. Brochures were distributed at a meeting of 19 American Indian physicians on Wednesday, Jan. 29, at the UND School of Medicine and Health Sciences. They met to discuss ways they could work with the school to address health disparities in Indian country.

A small training grant was submitted to the GMR to assist in training people from the Fort Berthold Reservation in conjunction with two NLM Interns who are work on the reservation. The project is on hold until the interns finish equipping their mobile computer laboratories.
Appendix I: Survey on finding health information. Answers are highlighted in yellow. Total of 269 responses.

How do you find health information?

Please circle all that apply.

1. I find health information from:
   
   Books 111
   Internet 170
   Magazines 147
   Doctors 156
   Television 122
   Friends 83
   Other health care providers 48
   Radio 36
   Other ___mother, father, family, IHS, library, newspapers, _________

2. I like using the Internet for health information because:
   
   It is easy 129
   The information is reliable 60
   No one knows I’m asking 40
   It is convenient 139
   Other ___10 do not use the Internet ___________

3. I do not like using the Internet for health information because:
   
   It is too difficult to use 6
   I can’t ask more detailed questions 54
   It is not personal enough 19
   I’m not sure if it’s true 63
   There is not much about Indian health issues 43
   Other ___12 don’t use the internet, 1 no computer____________________

4. Internet health information that I use comes from:
   
   PubMed  http://pubmed.gov 22
   MEDLINEplus  http://medlineplus.gov 29
   Clinicaltrials.gov  http://clinicaltrials.gov 11
   Health & Wellness Resource Center 72
   Association of American Indian Physicians Resources  http://www.aaip.com 20
   Native Web Health Resources  http://www.nativeweb.org/resources/health/ 26
   Other ___Web MD.com, CDC, www.askjeeves.com, IHS, Mayo, Babycenter,

Do you have a favorite site to find health information?
   
   Yes 43
   No 211
   It is WebMD, Dr. Weil, CDC, Yahoo, AHIMA, Mayo, Babycenter, meritcare.com,
   MSN search for health, MeldinePlus

5. I am:
   
   Elementary school student 0
   High school student 5
   College student 205
   Not a student 58