First Quarter report
February 2002-April 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
March 1, 2002-August 31, 2003

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I. Introduction
Notification that the project account was set up by the University of North Dakota’s (UND) Budget and Grants Office was received on April 3, 2002. Even though the award was formally announced by the GMR on January 17, 2002, negotiations between the UND Budget and Grants Office and the University of Illinois office took several weeks to finalize. Preliminary discussions with the partners began before this time (as outlined below), but no expenditures of money could occur until the account was set up.

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
Planning:
E-mail and telephone communication with the tribal college librarians began on January and has occurred regularly about every two weeks, with more frequent when necessary.

Held a two-hour IVN (Interactive Video Network operated by the North Dakota University System) session with all five tribal college librarians on March 21 at 10 am to discuss and plan for upcoming training sessions. Each librarian participated from his or her own campus.

Met with Clinical Campus Librarians at Jamestown, ND, on April 11 from 1 to 3 pm to discuss training plans. Three training sessions were planned for the summer and early fall. Two will be over IVN and one will be in-person training. The in-person training will partner a clinical campus librarian with a tribal college librarian and his/her staff for one session. There will also be a session to train health professionals in the area. Dates will be established in consultation with the tribal college librarians. Packets are being prepared to for distribution at the training. Brochures and educational materials will also be available for users of the libraries.

The laptop computers to be used by the clinical campus librarians in training the tribal college librarians were ordered and received.

Objective 2. Web page development:
A web master who is a UND computer science student who currently maintains the website for the Library of the Health Sciences has been hired. A
basic design has been started and some sites are linked. Only the web master and the principal investigator have reviewed it thus far. Input from everyone will be solicited in early June. The location is: http://harley.med.und.nodak.edu/tcl/ Several drop down menus are in place, and many links are active. We will fill the empty spaces with news and pictures recommended by the tribal college librarians.

Objective 3. Full text database access:
The Health & Wellness Resource Center will be available to the tribal colleges as soon as the librarians finalize registration. We will be invoiced after access at all locations is assured.

Objective 4. Computer workstations:
The computers were ordered and have all been received. Because of a decrease in computer prices, we were able to also order printers for two locations. For the three other locations, we ordered one desktop and one laptop. We changed one of the desktops for a laptop, to allow the tribal librarians the flexibility to go to classrooms and to community groups and make presentations. Some of the libraries recently received additional new desktop computers through a Gates Foundation Grant, so that need was not as great as when we submitted the proposal. They felt that a laptop would be more beneficial in their training efforts and activities. Appropriate signage and brochures will be developed and placed by the workstations.

Baseline Data: We discussed developing a survey of users’ knowledge about health websites. We will explore ways to make it available on the new computer workstations. Print surveys are being considered also. Data will be collected in September and then again in April to determine if the training and availability of resources has impacted users’ knowledge.

Publicity/Marketing: None this quarter, except for a notice on the Library of the Health Sciences website at: http://harley.med.und.nodak.edu/?content=news#00012

Training/Demonstration Sessions: None this quarter.

Evaluation Activities: None this quarter.

III. Information about target populations served, including ZIP codes.

The target populations are the residents of the four federally recognized tribes in North Dakota, which are all served by tribal college libraries at their colleges. They are Spirit Lake Nation, Fort Totten (enrolled members 4,300, college enrollment 124); Standing Rock Nation, Fort Yates (enrolled members 13,000, college enrollment 231); Mandan, Hidatsa and Arikara Nation, New Town (enrolled members 8,700, college enrollment 291); and Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Nation, Belcourt (enrolled members 28,000, college enrollment 662). The fifth tribal college involved is the United Tribes Technical College in Bismarck. It serves the needs of over 40 tribal
nations and is the only residential tribal college in North Dakota. However, the campus has a community environment, and it strives to serve the entire family, including having a daycare and an elementary school (college enrollment 311). The reservations in North Dakota cover land in 15 counties and 13 legislative districts. Their lands cover 1,544,935 acres.

The primary zip codes served by the tribal college libraries include: 58335, 58763, 58538, 58316, and 58504. Some additional ones that include some areas of the reservations are: 58770, 58775, 58636, 58757, 58540, 58329, and 58369.

IV. Problems encountered and measures taken to resolve them

Most of the problems encountered so far were contained in the negotiations between UND and the University of Illinois grants administrative offices. It took persistence and continual contacts to obtain the needed authorizations and fund numbers.

Coordinating times for group training, and even meetings, is very challenging. The tribal college librarians are often the only person in their libraries, and they also often have other responsibilities, so they are extremely busy. We must be careful to plan in advance and use technology as much as possible.

V. Suggestions for modifications to the project

Because some of the libraries had just received, or were in the process of receiving, new desktop computers from the Gates Foundation, they felt that a laptop would be more helpful to them. This will give them more flexibility, especially if they have opportunities to demonstrate the health resources to groups in the community or in student classrooms. Some libraries needed additional printers, so they were purchased. Fortunately, we could make these modifications because the computer prices had decreased from the time the proposal was submitted. We were also able to use a group discount through UND that further reduced the price.

VI. Projected activities for next quarter

The website will be introduced. Training will begin. Signage and informational brochures will be designed. Work on the baseline survey will continue.

VII. Reporting forms for training sessions

No sessions were held this quarter.