Fifth report

February 2003- April 2003

Submitted May 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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Harley E. French Library of the Health Sciences
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I. Introduction

This time period was devoted to publicity including attendance at two powwows, writing articles, distributing brochures, developing contacts, and maintaining and promoting 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

Although the formal training of the college librarians and staffs was completed during the third quarter, some informal training was done with consumers in conjunction with two powwows held at the University of North Dakota. A total of 105 visitors stopped by our exhibit table and were given information and/or demonstration of the web site. Planning is beginning for sessions with consumer groups and/or health professionals located on the reservations during the summer.

Objective 2. Web page development:

The most important development with the web page this period was asking for inclusion on the AIHEC (American Indian Higher Education Consortium) Virtual Library web site [http://www.aihecvl.org/](http://www.aihecvl.org/). The administrator agreed, so [http://harley.med.und.nodak.edu/tcl/](http://harley.med.und.nodak.edu/tcl/) is listed under the category “Health and Human Services/ Native American Medicine.” This will give the site broader exposure. There are still only two tribal college library web pages that have a direct link to our page. Work will continue on this with contacts targeted for the systems staff at the colleges.

We are capturing hits on the page and so far the total is 1,792. They break down according to month with the following totals:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month, Year</th>
<th>Hits</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>195</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March, 2003</td>
<td>136</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
We also capture the pages most linked to and the IP range where the hits are coming from. Detailed statistics will be more closely analyzed in the coming months.

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 web pages do not prominently display this access. Usage of this database by the Tribal Colleges has not been monitored to date, but attempts will be made to capture that data, so that they can make decisions on whether or not to subscribe to it on their own.

Objective 4. Computer workstations:
The computers are installed, and signage was 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 websites during September and October. The results were reported last quarter under Evaluation data.

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

The brochures are being distributed at every opportunity, such as at the powwows. The college librarians were mailed copies for distribution 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 attended the UND INMED Powwow that was held in Grand Forks on February 8, 2003. Thirty-five individuals received information about the project. We also exhibited at the UND Time Out and Wacipi on April 5, 2003. Seventy individuals received information at that event. Our web page at http://harley.med.und.nodak.edu/tcl/ has pictures taken at the event.
An article was written by the PI and was published in the Spring 2003 *Native Directions* journal. It is published by the Native Media Center, School of Communications, UND. It is distributed widely on campus and throughout the native communities in North Dakota. This issue is also online at: [http://www.und.edu/dept/nativemedia/S03.pdf](http://www.und.edu/dept/nativemedia/S03.pdf) See page 8 online for the story.

A description of the project also appeared in the latest edition of E-Sources. See: [http://nnlm.gov/gmr/newsletter/7/greatstates.html#Tribal](http://nnlm.gov/gmr/newsletter/7/greatstates.html#Tribal)

Letters will be mailed out tribal health administrators notifying them of the availability of training for the summer. The tribal librarians also are looking for training opportunities.

Training/Demonstration Sessions:
No formal training sessions held this quarter. Demonstrations were held at the powwows for the 105 people who stopped at the exhibit.

Evaluation Activities:
The survey was re-distributed in April to the college librarians. The hope is that we can compare the results reported last quarter and 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 still needs to be expanded. Contacts will be made with tribal health personnel as well as potentially more consumers. This is now targeted for the summer.

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

Make contacts with tribal college health personnel to arrange for training. Attend any appropriate events on the reservations over the summer. Continue to improve and expand the website. Contact other larger sites and ask them to link to our site. Compile the final survey results. Contact college IT personnel for better placement of web site on college library web sites. Create and distribute informational strips to be placed on computers at the colleges. They will have the projects web site as well as MedlinePlus, PubMed, and Clinical Trials.gov on them.

VI. Reporting forms for training sessions

No formal training sessions this quarter.
VII. Other accomplishments

As noted earlier, the placement of the web site on the AIHEC Virtual Library, Health and Human Services/ Native American Medicine was an important accomplishment that was not planned in the original project. It is a good strategy for getting more exposure, and other sites will be contacted also.