Fourth report

February 2005 – April 2005

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Linking Native Americans to Health Information: Phase II

NATIONAL NETWORK OF LIBRARIES OF MEDICINE/
GREATER MIDWEST REGION

Health Information Outreach

SUBCONTRACT

April 1, 2004-September 30, 2005

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Harley E. French Library of the Health Sciences

University of North Dakota, School of Medicine and Health Sciences

501 N. Columbia Road

P. O. Box 9002

Grand Forks, ND 58202-9002

Principal Investigator: Judith Rieke, Library of the Health Sciences
jrieke@medicine.nodak.edu
701-777-4129
I. Introduction

Continued concern about traveling during the late winter and early spring prevented training sessions on the reservations. Training sessions were scheduled for May and June. Contacts continued with the tribal college librarians, additions were made to the Web site, a display which was manned by one of the tribal college librarians was held during a local powwow, and the PI presented a poster in conjunction with an American Indian research day here at the university. The PI also attended a research conference at one of the tribal colleges and made new contacts with people in attendance. The PI presented information about the project to reservation VISTA volunteers and to a group of elders who were visiting the university in conjunction with another project. The PI also assisted with an exhibit at the 2005 Dakota Conference on Rural and Public Health and visited with several tribal health representatives attending the conference as well as the staff from the Aberdeen Area Tribal Chairmen’s Health Board & the Northern Plains Tribal Epidemiology Center.

II. Progress toward major objectives of the project

The major objectives of this project are:

1. Train health care providers.
2. Reinforce, strengthen, and maintain a working relationship with the tribal college librarians.
3. Expand the Linking Native Americans to Health Information web site http://harley.med.und.nodak.edu/tcl/

Objective 1. Training of health care providers.

Additions were made to the database for contacts for e-mail and telephone communication based on the new contacts. Some in-person trainings were scheduled for the next quarter.

Informational presentations about the project were made by the PI at a workshop for 15 reservation VISTA volunteers on February 3rd, to Emmet WhiteTemple, Tribal Health director at Standing Rock on February 25th, and to a group of 10 elders who were on the UND campus on February 28th. The PI assisted with an exhibit at the 2005 Dakota Conference on Rural and Public Health on March 8-10. This project was promoted and was half of the display. The PI presented a poster with the assistance of Barb Knight at the 36th Annual Time Out Week & Wacipi on April 7th. Barb spoke about the poster to 25 people. Charlene Weis, tribal college librarian at United Tribes Technical College, manned a display at the 36th annual Indian Association Powwow at University of North Dakota (UND) April 9th, 2005. There were 75 people who stopped and received information. These included students, some health care providers on the reservations, and people attending the powwow. The PI attended and put up a display at the First Annual Turtle Mountain Research Conference April 21-22. There were 75 people in attendance.
Objective 2. Reinforce, strengthen, and maintain a working relationship with the tribal college librarians.

E-mail contact was maintained with the tribal college librarians. The IRB form for conducting the interviews with the tribal college librarians was completed, filed, and approved by the UND Institutional Review Board. Interviews will be scheduled for the remaining time on the project. One tribal college librarian came to UND and manned the display at the powwow on April 9th. The PI visited Turtle Mountain Community College Library on April 21-22nd. She learned that the librarian had resigned during the winter, and that the college is looking for a replacement. The library assistant is very supportive of the project and will serve as a good contact person.

Objective 3. Expand the Linking Native Americans to Health Information web site http://harley.med.und.nodak.edu/tcl/

Updates were again made to the Web site this quarter. The PI continues to do most of the updates through the content management system developed by our web master. It remains a useful tool as exhibited through continued usage. In the inaugural year, 2002, usage was 1,079 hits on various pages. In 2003, it was 2,114, in 2004 there were 11,667 hits, and from January through April in 2005 there have been 7,385. Hopefully the steady increase in usage reflects the effect of increased visibility as well as the stability of the site. The web page is located at: http://harley.med.und.nodak.edu/tcl/

Baseline Data: We will use two methods to obtain baseline data when training begins. There will be a simple survey to determine where health information is obtained and a brief pre-test to determine level of ability if appropriate.

Publicity/Marketing: Informational presentations about the project were made by the PI at a workshop for 15 reservation VISTA volunteers on February 3rd, to Emmet WhiteTemple, Tribal Health director at Standing Rock on February 25th, and to a group of 10 elders who were on the UND campus on February 28th. The PI assisted with an exhibit at the 2005 Dakota Conference on Rural and Public Health on March 8-10. This project was promoted and was half of the display. The PI presented a poster with the assistance of Barb Knight at the 36th Annual Time Out Week & Wacipi on April 7th. Barb spoke about the poster to 25 people. Charlene Weis, tribal college librarian at United Tribes Technical College, manned a display at the 36th annual Indian Association Powwow at University of North Dakota (UND) April 9th, 2005. There were 75 people who stopped and received information. These included students, some health care providers on the reservations, and people attending the powwow. The PI attended and put up a display at the First Annual Turtle Mountain Research Conference April 21-22. There were 75 people in attendance.

Training/Demonstration Sessions: No formal training, but demonstrations were given at the 2005 Dakota Conference on Rural and Public Health, the UND powwow and the Turtle Mountain research conference as referenced under Publicity/Marketing.
Evaluation Activities: None, except usage of the Web site. The site was used 5,693 times during the quarter.

III. Problems encountered and measures taken to resolve them

No problems noted.

IV. Suggestions for modifications to the project

None emerged during this quarter.

V. Projected activities for next quarter

Training sessions will be scheduled and occur. The Web site will continue to be updated. Interviews with the tribal college librarians will be scheduled in conjunction with visits to the reservations. Training scenarios will be formalized and the baseline surveys prepared.

VI. Reporting forms for training sessions

No formal sessions were held. There were exhibits and demonstrations as noted above.

VII. Other accomplishments

The principal investigator is working with Gale Dutcher, Head, Office of Outreach and Special Populations, Division of Specialized Information Services, National Library of Medicine, to organize and coordinate a user group for American Indian Health Web site http://americanindianhealth.nlm.nih.gov. The PI participated in an online focus group regarding the web site on April 18th.