Second report
May 2002- July 2002
Submitted November 7, 2002

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

Funded by the National Library of Medicine
under a contract
HHS NO1-LM-1-3513

with the University of Illinois at Chicago

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I. Introduction

This time period was devoted to primarily planning and building personal connections. Some of the tribal college librarians do not work in the summer, so this prohibited us from beginning training. Also, vacations and professional meetings took people away from their libraries. This meant that our original training schedule had to be re-adjusted. The end result was positive, as it gave us more time to develop training materials and develop the web page. The most substantial work was accomplished on the web page during this time period. See http://harley.med.und.nodak.edu/tcl/

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 continued on a regular basis. We continued to gather ideas and input on the format and best dates for training.

The Clinical Campus Librarians and the project coordinator met via telephone on June 13 to finalize training plans. Our original plans were re-adjusted because some tribal librarians don’t work during the summers, others took vacations, and some attended professional meetings. The three training sessions will still occur but will not begin until August. They will then continue through the fall until completed. Two training sessions 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. If possible there will also be a session to train health professionals in the area when visits are made to the tribal colleges. Dates for the in-person visits will be made in consultation with the tribal college librarians. Preparation of training packet contents began.

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 continued work on the web page located at: http://harley.med.und.nodak.edu/tcl/ Input from everyone was solicited and some suggestions were made with regard to content. The
project coordinator provided most of the sites used.

Objective 3. Full text database access:

Information was sent to the librarians about registering for access to the Health & Wellness Resource Center. Some of the colleges underwent network changes over the summer, so it was difficult for them to get information about their IP ranges from their IT or network staff people. Access became available July 1 to them through our statewide databases, so if they registered properly, they were able to utilize this resource at that time.

Objective 4. Computer workstations:

The computers that they received were unpacked and most were set up during this time period. Set up was delayed at some libraries, because of the network changes and other demands on their college IT or network staff.

Baseline Data: To establish user knowledge of electronic health information resources, we decided that print surveys would be the most reliable. The librarians reported that the computers were placed in various areas of the libraries, and it became obvious that handing out a print survey at the circulation desk would be the most obvious and effective. We decided to extend data collection through October. It will be collected again in April with the objective of determining if the training and availability of resources has impacted users’ knowledge.

Publicity/Marketing: None this quarter.

Training/Demonstration Sessions: None this quarter.

Evaluation Activities: None this quarter.

III. Problems encountered and measures taken to resolve them

Our problems this quarter were in setting training dates that were agreeable to everyone. Tribal college librarian work schedules, summer vacations, and professional meeting attendance had to be considered. We communicated often and took most of the suggestions for changes into account. We also had to take into account scheduling on our interactive video network.

Obtaining IP addresses from the tribal colleges is challenging and ongoing. These are necessary to assure that they are receiving Health & Wellness Resource Center. The networking problems at the colleges have a direct impact on the effectiveness of the project, but are pretty much out of our control. It might be possible to contact the IT staff directly if necessary.

IV. Suggestions for modifications to the project

None emerged during this quarter.
V. Projected activities for next quarter

The training will take place. Signage and informational brochures will be finalized and designed. The baseline survey will be completed.

VI. Reporting forms for training sessions

No sessions were held this quarter.

VII. Other accomplishments

The principal investigator attended the Medical Library Association Meeting in Dallas during May and took the CE Class on Measuring the Difference. I had an opportunity to discuss the project at length with one of our instructors, Catherine Burroughs, Assistant Director for the Outreach Evaluation Resource Center, National Network of Libraries of Medicine, NN/LM Outreach Evaluation Resource Center at the University of Washington Health Sciences Library. She had several good ideas and has kept in touch with me. She also taught a similar class at the Tribal College Librarians Professional Development Institute at Montana State University on June 27. Because I knew that three of our tribal college librarians were attending that institute, I notified them about the class and asked them to be sure to introduce themselves to Catherine. Catherine also introduced me “virtually” to Kathy Kaya, Montana State University, who had done a very similar project through the NN/LM PNR with the tribal colleges in Montana. The focus there was primarily on PubMed. Kathy shared her final report with me, and I found it very instructive.

I also met Gale Dutcher, Head, Office of Outreach and Special Populations Division of Specialized Information Services, National Library of Medicine, at MLA and discussed the project with her. She informed me of her activities, and that she would be coming to a Pow-wow in North Dakota in August at Fort Berthold. So I put her in contact with Quincee Baker, librarian at Fort Berthold Community College.