Sixth report
May 2003- July 2003
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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
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I. Introduction
This time period was devoted to publicity including attendance developing computer strips, exhibiting at a Wellness Conference on one of the reservations, gathering follow-up surveys, and maintaining 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 the 9th Annual Turtle Mountain Community Wellness Conference at Turtle Mountain Community College, Belcourt, North Dakota. A total of 106 visitors stopped by our exhibit table and were given information and/or demonstration of the web site.

Objective 2. Web page development:
The web page continues to be updated and changed as new information is received. The site is at: http://harley.med.und.nodak.edu/tcl/

We capture hits on the page, and the total at the end of July was 2,169. The break down for the three months of this recording period is:

May 2003 138
June 2003 130
July 2003 166

Below is a graph of web page usage since its debut.
We also capture the pages most linked to and the IP range where the hits originate.

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 fourth quarter under Evaluation data. A follow-up survey was distributed in April and May.

Publicity/Marketing: A link to the Tribal College Library page continues to be maintained on the Library of the Health Sciences website at: http://harley.med.und.nodak.edu/

Informational strips were created and distributed to the librarians for placement on their computers. There were also enough for them to distribute to users. They feature the URL’s of the project as well as MedlinePlus and Clinical Trials.gov.

The brochures continue to be distributed at every opportunity, such as at the Wellness Conference and the earlier powwows. The college librarians also continue to distribute them 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 Ninth Annual Turtle Mountain Community Wellness Conference, July 16-17, 2003 at the Turtle Mountain Community College, Belcourt, North Dakota. One hundred and six individuals stopped by the exhibit and received information about the
An abstract was submitted and accepted for a poster session at the Annual Conference of the Midwest Chapter of the Medical Library Association in Indianapolis, September 20-23 (http://midwestmla.org/2003conference/). In addition, a paper about the project will be presented at the North Dakota Library Association Annual Conference, September 24-26, in Bismarck. Tribal college librarians are invited to participate in the presentation of this paper.

Training/Demonstration Sessions:
No formal training sessions held this quarter. An exhibit and demonstration was held at the Ninth Annual Turtle Mountain Community Wellness Conference, July 16-17, 2003 at the Turtle Mountain Community College, Belcourt, North Dakota where 106 people stopped at the exhibit.

Evaluation Activities:
The survey was re-distributed in April to the college librarians. Only two librarians returned results for 49 returns versus the 269 surveys from four librarians in the fall. The results were similar in that the largest number of respondents seeks health information from the Internet (33 out of 49). Those who said they did not like to use the Internet, the highest number (14) said they could not ask more detailed questions. Ten replied that there is not much about Indian health issues. Out of the Internet users only 3 use PubMed, 5 use ClinicalTrials.gov, and 17 use Medlineplus. From these results, it is not possible to adequately determine if the project had an impact. However, there seems to be some evidence that awareness of the NLM products increased. In the final survey 35% of respondents used MedlinePlus, whereas in the initial survey only 11% used it. With regard to PubMed, 12% use it, whereas in the initial survey only 8% used it. With regard to Clinical Trials, 10% use it, whereas in the initial survey only 4% used it. The complete results are in Appendix I.

III. Problems encountered and measures taken to resolve them

The problem of getting the web site linked to the tribal college pages, even the library pages, has remained constant throughout the project. The coordinator continues to work with the individual librarians and the college IT staff to improve visibility for the web page.

Visibility for the whole project still needs to be expanded. Contacts are being made with tribal health personnel as well as potentially more consumers. The challenge now will be to find funding to continue visits to the reservations as training opportunities arise.

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. More training with the consumers should have been scheduled.

V. Projected activities for next quarter
Continue to make contacts with tribal college health personnel to arrange for training opportunities. Look for ways to fund training once this project is completed. Continue to improve and expand the website. Contact other larger sites and ask them to link to our site. Contact college IT personnel for better placement of web site on college library web sites.

VI. Reporting forms for training sessions

No formal training sessions this quarter.

VII. Other accomplishments

Discussions with state Indian leaders led to the invitation for the PI and the HEF Library director to attend a planned Listening Circle on August 26th with North Dakota tribal leaders and NLM representatives. Contacts with HIS physicians made at the Wellness Conference will most likely lead to additional training. Training at the Fort Berthold reservation for August was planned. This training is being funded independently from this project, but there are strong relationships with the original project.
Appendix I: Survey on finding health information. Answers are highlighted in yellow. Total of 49 responses.

**How do you find health information?**

Please circle all that apply.

1. I find health information from:
   - Books 23
   - Internet 33
   - Magazines 30
   - Doctors 30
   - Television 23
   - Friends 19
   - Other health care providers 17
   - Other __instructors, husband_________

2. I like using the Internet for health information because:
   - It is easy 24
   - The information is reliable 15
   - No one knows I’m asking 10
   - It is convenient 25
   - Other __ do not use the Internet_____________

3. I do not like using the Internet for health information because:
   - It is too difficult to use 4
   - I can’t ask more detailed questions 14
   - It is not personal enough 6
   - I’m not sure if it’s true 6
   - There is not much about Indian health issues 10
   - Other __no reason to search for health info____________________

4. Internet health information that I use comes from:
   - PubMed 6
   - MEDLINEplus 17
   - Clinicaltrials.gov 5
   - Health & Wellness Resource Center 21
   - Association of American Indian Physicians Resources 5
   - Native Web Health Resources 3
   - Other__Web MD.com, HIS, MSN, Dr.Weil

**Do you have a favorite site to find health information?**

   - Yes 5
   - No 40

   It is Google, DiscoveryHealth.com, MedlinePlus

**I am:**

- Elementary school student 0
- High school student 0
- College student 44
- Not a student 5