Fifth quarterly report

May 2005 – July 2005

Submitted August 17, 2005

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

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

Training sessions began this quarter and more are scheduled for next quarter. Due to difficulties in scheduling and the necessity for the PI to remain in our library more than anticipated, I will be requesting a three month no-cost extension of the subcontract. This will allow for more flexibility in scheduling and should increase the number of trainings completed.

In addition to the planning and travel for the training sessions, contacts continued with the tribal college librarians, additions were made to the Web site, and the PI had a display and presented a session at a tribal wellness conference.

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.

The PI conducted four demonstration training sessions, one hands-on one training session, and a poster display where one-on-one hands-on and demonstration training occurred. Also the PI attended a tribal college library open house where one-on-one hands-on and demonstration training were offered.

Details:
1. May 11, a demonstration training session was held for an independent physician on the Fort Berthold Reservation, Dr. Monica Mayer and her staff (2 nurses, 1 Physician Assistant, and receptionist) on May 11. PubMed, Linking Native Americans to Health Information web site, American Indian Health web site, MedlinePlus, and other NLM databases – 5 attended. The PI was assisted by a UND clinical campus librarian.

2 & 3. June 29, two demonstration training sessions were held at the Indian Health Service office on Fort Berthold Reservation. The sessions were
   a. PubMed, Linking Native Americans to Health Information web site, American Indian Health web site and specialty NLM databases – 4 people attended (administrative officer, nurse, IT specialist, and staff member)
   b. MedlinePlus – 6 people attended (administrative officer, nurse, clinical lab student, and 3 other staff members). The PI was assisted by a UND clinical campus librarian.

4. July 13, demonstration training session at Turtle Mountain Wellness Conference, on the Turtle Mountain Reservation. MedlinePlus, Linking Native Americans to
Health Information web site, American Indian Health web site and other consumer databases – 16 attended.

June 29, hands-on training for the staff of the Fort Berthold Boys and Girls Club. Evaluation of web sites, MedlinePlus, Children’s health web sites, Linking Native Americans to Health Information web site, American Indian Health web site, ToxTown, and other NLM consumer sites – 16 attended. The PI was assisted by a UND clinical campus librarian.

5. July 13 & 14, poster display at Turtle Mountain Wellness Conference. 50 people stopped for information. The PI was assisted by the tribal college library assistant.

6. July 20th, tribal college library open house at Cankdeska Cikana Community College. 56 people attended.

Objective 2. Reinforce, strengthen, and maintain a working relationship with the tribal college librarians.

E-mail contact was maintained with all of the librarians. They were invited to participate in the formal training sessions held on the reservations where they work, but none were able to attend the demonstration trainings. The librarian from Fort Berthold Community College did send two of her staff members to the hands-on training for the Boys and Girls Club staff. The library assistant from Turtle Mountain helped with the exhibit booth at the Wellness Conference, and the librarian and her assistant were hosts for the open house at Cankdeska Cikana Community College. The purpose of the Open House was to display health materials purchased with money given the college by NLM. The PI brought pens and printed material from NLM for distribution and assisted by demonstrating NLM databases.

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 July in 2005 there have been 9,588. 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: Due to the limited time available at the training sessions, we revised our plan for collecting baseline data. We administered a simple survey to determine where health information is obtained. Complete analysis of the results will occur when all trainings are completed.
Publicity/Marketing: Most publicity and marketing this quarter was direct contact with the health care providers targeted for training sessions. They were called on telephone initially, and then often there was e-mail or print mail follow-up. The attendance at the Turtle Mountain Wellness Conference and the library open house at Cankdeska Cikana Community College had publicity/marketing value.

Training/Demonstration Sessions: There were a total of 7 training and demonstration sessions held. They are detailed above.

Evaluation Activities: Evaluations were distributed at the training sessions. The web site was used times during the quarter.

III. Problems encountered and measures taken to resolve them

There were several problems encountered when attempting to schedule trainings. IHS facilities are extremely busy and extremely reluctant to take time for training sessions. Even after scheduling sessions, they were often cancelled or rescheduled. It is also difficult to find the right person to contact. The administrative officer or the medical director is usually the best option, but the demands on them are many. Often they do not return calls or answer e-mail. Also the physicians rely on Up-To-Date and MicroMedex supplied by the IHS. They do very little “research,” so PubMed does not have much appeal to them. The only counter is to be persistent and to be flexible. If you are not willing to change at a day’s notice, you will miss opportunities to train. Introductory in-person visits proved helpful in some cases. How to address their extremely hectic schedules is most difficult and nearly impossible.

Tribal health contacts are also very stretched for time, and there is a reluctance to commit staff to blocks of training time. In two different instances, tribal politics had an impact. They were reluctant to schedule any training before tribal elections were completed. The rationale being that the focus of a new chair and council might mandate additional activities. They want to leave time available to address issues of a new regime. Again, it is difficult to work around these issues. One must be persistent, flexible, try different contacts, and convey the importance of the training.

IV. Suggestions for modifications to the project

Training expectations were lowered. IHS staff simply will not take the time for hands-on training. Exposure to the databases and demonstration sessions are about the best we will be able to get them to attend.

V. Projected activities for next quarter

More training sessions will be scheduled and occur. The Web site will continue to be updated. Interviews with the tribal college librarians will be completed in conjunction with visits to the reservations.
VI. Reporting forms for training sessions

Forms have not been completed yet.

VII. Other accomplishments

The principal investigator continues to work 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’s article in Journal of Consumer Internet Health, 9(2), 27-42 (2005), entitled “Tribal College Librarians: Linking Native Americans to Health Information” was published.