Quarterly Report

Submitted on behalf of: englemanc@boulder.lib.co.us on February 22, 2005.

Project Code:

mcrquarterreport

Name of reporting institution:

Grillo Center Boulder Public Library
Grillo Health Information Center
1000 Canyon Blvd.
Boulder, CO 80302

First and last name (e.g., Mary Contrary) of person submitting report:

Chris A. Engleman

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303-441-4144

Reporting Period start date (e.g., mm-dd-yyyy):

4/1/04

Reporting Period end date (e.g., mm-dd-yyyy):

6/31/04

Publicity: List publicity and promotional activities conducted during the reporting period, if there were any. (Send any examples of non-electronic promotional materials to the NN/LM MCR by mail or send an email attachment to reports@rml4.utah.edu or provide URLs.)

For an NLM database class that I taught May 12, we were given free advertising for the class in the Boulder Public Library monthly calendar publication which is distributed throughout the Library and is also mailed to Boulder Library patrons. Flyers advertising
this class (along with other classes) are placed out in Library kiosks as well. Materials have been sent.

Complete an Outreach Reporting Form for demonstrations and training that took place during the reporting period. Complete an Exhibit Report (MS Word) for any exhibits as email attachments to reports@rml4.utah.edu for inclusion as appendices to this report.

I taught a NLM database searching class on May 12. This was given at the Boulder Public Library training room and was attended by eight patrons, which is the room capacity. In other words, it was sold out.

Other accomplishments: List any additional activities, resources, services, and administrative arrangements or collaborations that occurred during this reporting period.

In May, we lost our Spanish-language volunteers that were working once a week at the People's Clinic in Boulder, assisting people there in looking up health information using the Spanish-language version of MedlinePlus. In addition, the Clinic went through yet more administrative changes, so the result of all this is that we have not had a presence there since May. Also, since the terms of this grant were over in April, we did not jump on this situation right away.

Target audience: Are there any insights you have gained about your target population during this reporting period? Have their needs changed since your initial assessment? Is the group different from your original anticipated audience?

We continued in April and May having little success in getting people at the People's Clinic to use our services. This, in part, had to do with the change in how things work at the Clinic. Now, patients make appointments, and therefore do not wait in the waiting room to see someone. This makes it a little more difficult for the patients to take the time, or, to want to take the time, to do anything else, such as look up health information with us. So though the population is the same, the access situation is a little different than it has been in the past.

Goals, Outcomes, Objectives: Discuss problems, successes, surprises, and/or insights of this quarter. Based on these experiences and your progress to date, have you rethought or in any way modified your objectives for the project? Are the needs of the audience those you anticipated, and are the outcomes you expected still feasible?

Again, the big problem is that changes keep taking place at the People's Clinic, both administratively, and in how the Clinic works. Therefore, it has been hard building any continuity and momentum in getting our project to work there. This has been in addition to the usual economic and educational barriers that are present in this situation. No modification was done, as we, since May, due to losing our Spanish-language volunteers, and for the time being, have not had a presence at the People's Clinic.
Evaluation: List any specific evaluation activities that occurred during the reporting period. Activities might include surveys, focus groups, pre- and post-tests, interviews, log of activities, or other steps to monitor progress.

Boulder Public Library evaluation forms were handed out for the class I taught May 12. These were collected by the Instruction Coordinator at the Library.

Impacts and Observations: If there are anecdotes that illustrate the impact that the project is having, provide the narrative here; include any indicators of success. Share observations, lessons learned, and any other feedback you think would be helpful.

I believe that the expectations of success in getting an economically disadvantaged and educationally disadvantaged, and non-native English speaking population to look to accessing health information on their own, should be kept quite low. The barriers are many, and we found that we experienced some disappointment in the lack of much success in this project. Had we gone into it not expecting too much, we would probably have had less disappointment, and just been grateful for ANY use of our services.

Planned Activities: Provide a brief outline of activities (training, exhibits, web development, meetings, evaluation etc.) that are scheduled for the next quarter.

We did not know that there would be a next quarter as the grant was to have ended in April.