Quarterly Report  
Internet Database Training  
October 15, 2003

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**Name of reporting institution:**  
Boulder Public Library  
1000 Canyon Blvd.  
Boulder, CO 80302

**First and last name of person submitting report:** Chris A. Engleman  
**Internet email address:** englemanc@boulder.lib.co.us  
**Telephone number:** 303-441-4144

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**Reporting Period end date:** 10/01/2003

**Publicity:**  
We will send hard copies of promotional materials by mail.  
The only publicity materials this quarter were flyers and a listing in the Boulder Public Library monthly calendar publication, advertising a NLM database class I taught at the Library on September 23. These materials were paid for by the Library. Poster and flyers for our outreach project at the People's Clinic were all done during the last quarterly reporting.

**Outreach Sessions:**  
Throughout the last 12-week period, we have had a Spanish-language volunteer staffing a table once a week, for three hours a day, at the People's Clinic in Boulder. This volunteer has the laptop computer and printer, purchased with this grant money, and with that, offers assistance to the Spanish-language population that attends the clinic, in looking up medical information using the Spanish-language version of MedlinePlus.  
In addition, I taught a class on using PubMed and MedlinePlus to the general public. This took place in the training room of the Boulder Public Library, and was given on September 23. There is only room for 7 people to take the class, as there are only 7 (working!) computers in the room. I, therefore, need to limit the class to 7 people. Of the 7 that signed up, 6 attended.

**Other accomplishments:**  
We have been in contact with a place called the Learning Center, which is sort of a "community house" for the Spanish speaking population of Boulder. We are working on getting set up to do the same thing that we have been doing at the People's Clinic, with a computer and printer and Spanish-language volunteer, to assist people with looking up medical information using the Spanish-language version of MedlinePlus. We have recruited a second Spanish speaking volunteer and we are in the process of setting up the
ways and means of making this all work once a week at the Learning Center. This is the
goal for this next reporting quarter.

**Target audience:**
Only one observation to make here as far as teaching the NLM database class at the
Library. Though I realize that the overall numbers are small, there has not been one male
attending the two classes I have taught. This is not particularly surprising, although it
would be nice to figure out how to get men more interested in attending these classes.
Most attendees are not particularly computer-literate, so I usually have to be very basic
with my class. This leaves the few who are computer-literate perhaps a little bored...or at
least it moves maybe a little slow for them. I may need to think about having different”
levels" of classes, depending upon computer skills. I don't know how feasible that is.

**Goals, Outcomes, Objectives:**
I discussed this some in the previous question...as far as the NLM class. Would like more
men to attend the class. I would like to figure out how to maybe have classes for those
who are not computer-literate (much) and other classes for those who are more computer
literate. This may not be very feasible (determining literacy levels?).
As far as the very small numbers of Spanish-speaking patrons asking for our services at
the People's Clinic, I am not surprised, as we have been aware of the cultural barriers to
the success of this. However, it has been encouraging that some of the physicians at the
Clinic have started asking our assistance in finding Spanish-language health information
(MedlinePlus) that they can give to their patients. This has only happened a couple of
times, but it is more than when we began. Though progress is very slow, it does appear
that our regular presence there is supported by the People's Clinic, and I believe that our
services will start to be used more and more with time. This I suppose is what we hope to
find out over the next few months.

**Evaluation:**
I have evaluation forms (only a few handed in) from the class I taught. I can mail
copies of those. We have had just 4 requests from the People's Clinic project over the last 12
weeks. This seems like next-to-nothing, but is actually a bit encouraging, as we had no
requests the first few weeks.

**Impacts and Observations:**
I had one person in my class who had been doing her own research on her own health
questions. She was quite computer and health "literate". She even knew about PubMed.
But she did not know about the MeSH function. After I discussed this in the class, she
used this to do her own search, and she found information that was exactly what she was
looking for. Needless to say, she was thrilled to learn about that. And, of course, I was
happy that she was thrilled.
It has also been useful to have gotten the word (and our brochures) to the physicians at
the People's Clinic about us. I think this will help greatly in breaking the barrier of the
Spanish-speaking population and their using our service. If the physicians will suggest to
their patients that they can come to us to look up their health questions, then I think our
goal of outreach to this population will be much more successful.
Planned Activities:
We will continue to have a weekly presence at the People's Clinic. And we plan to add a second presence at the Learning Center with a second Spanish-Language volunteer, who has just been trained this week. The Library training room is getting booked up with Holiday activities, but I will try and schedule a third NLM database class. I get feedback from patrons wondering if I am going to teach it again, so I think this would be a good thing to do regularly (once a quarter, if not perhaps more often).