NATIONAL NETWORK OF LIBRARIES OF MEDICINE

Midcontinental Region

Quarterly Report
May 1, 2001 – July 31, 2001

Contract No. N01-LM-1-3514

Spencer S. Eccles Health Sciences Library
University of Utah
Submitted November 2, 2001
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Following the announcement of the award of the Regional Medical Library (RML) contract to the University of Utah, the first priority has been bringing together the librarians and staff for the RML office and the selection of RML Liaisons at the Resource Libraries. Joan Stoddart assumed the position of Acting Associate Director and Nancy Lombardo assumed the position of Acting Assistant Director of Technology. Kay McCloskey began work on May 1 as the RML Liaison for the University of Utah, responsible for outreach programs in Utah and the Public Health Priority Project. Kay had been the Outreach Librarian for the Eccles Health Sciences Library. This effort continued with the successful recruitment of Claire Hamasu as Associate Director. Claire was the Health Information Services Coordinator at the Pacific Southwest Regional Medical Library at the UCLA Biomedical Library. Claire accepted the position on May 18 and began work on August 1, 2001.

While the recruitment was underway, work on the transition of services from the University of Nebraska to the University of Utah was initiated. Daily communications between the Director and Associate Director at the University of Nebraska proved to be extremely helpful. The Director and Associate Director were very gracious and accommodating in very difficult circumstances. A visit to the University of Nebraska was made on May 14 to review the University of Nebraska’s Network operations and identify further issues that would be involved in the transition process. Additional assistance with the transition was provided by the National Network Office (NNO) through phone calls and a teleconference that explain elements of the contract.

The Director and Acting Associate Director attended the annual RML Directors meeting held prior to the Annual Meeting of the Medical Library Association. The Acting Associate Director attended the Consumer Health Information Coordinators meeting and both the Director and Acting Associate Director attended the NLM/RML DOCLINE meeting.

Network Programs

Document Delivery Services

As part of the initial orientation, a conference call/NetMeeting session was conducted to orient RML staff to DOCLINE services. In addition, a conference call was conducted with Beth Carlin from the Omaha RML to assist in the transition of services. Discussions
continue in developing DOCLINE services in the context of a decentralized model for an RML

Resource Libraries

Following discussions with the NNO, the RML staff developed subcontracts for each of the Resource Libraries participating in the new contract. Copies of the Statement of Work are included in Appendix A.

Communications Program

During the first quarter of the contract, significant effort was invested in the RML communications program. The first activity was to poll the region about whether they preferred the continued use of the MCMLA Listserv for both organizations or whether establishing a separate listserv for Midcontinental RML communications would be preferred. While there have been various anecdotal reports of concern about the RML intruding on the MCMLA Listserv, the results of the poll indicated that regional librarians preferred to continue with a single listserv for information on the activities of the RML and the MCMLA.

Again as part of the transition, the staff at the University of Nebraska forwarded a copy of their newsletter mailing list, which had been maintained on the institution’s mainframe. We converted the data to an Excel file, which we posted for review by members in the region. As expected, about 10% of the addresses were updated.

Early in July, the RML launched a new website for the region (nnlm.gov/mcr). The objective was to communicate the new vision of the distributed RML by describing the priority projects, identifying the participating resource libraries, and mounting a pdf version of the technical proposal. The response to the site has been very favorable. A paper copy of the homepage is included in Appendix B.

Outreach Programs

Utah

The RML Liaison at the University of Utah has continued her work with the University of Utah Area Health Education (AHEC) program. In cooperation with the Acting Assistant Director for Technology, an online website evaluation tool was developed and included in the training program, "Evaluating Health Related Web Sites", presented at the AHEC leadership camp to 40 high school students at the College of Eastern Utah in Price.

Consumer Health Information Services

A key strategy for CHI is building partnerships with the public community. The first step in this strategy has been the development of key areas for query to develop an action
plan by Sally Patrick, the public library consultant. This plan will then be reviewed by each of the RML Liaisons with outreach responsibilities. The result is intended to be a plan that guides both state and region activities. A copy of the key areas for query is included in Appendix C.

Exhibits and Presentations at Meetings

The RML initiated the paperwork to be an exhibitor at the following meetings:

- American Dental Association 10/13-17, 2001 Kansas City
- American Library Association 1/18-23, 2001 New Orleans

Priority Projects

Education

In July, 2001, Teresa L. Hartman was appointed RML Liaison at the University of Nebraska and will have responsibility for coordinating the Education Priority Project for the RML.

During the month of July, more basic network services than outreach events were conducted. Services directly supporting our regional members included messages to the MCMLA-L discussion list as well as answering information requests for medical librarianship careers and copyright issues for members in Missouri. A DOCLINE information request from a Nebraska member was answered and a discussion was initiated concerning the benefits of EFTS with the University of Nebraska.

Additional services for the regional members were explored. Information from NetLibrary regarding an ebook leadership collection that could be based on the NN/LM-MCR web site was gathered. Two meetings also took place. One meeting was with the Handheld Technology in Libraries committee at the University of Nebraska Medical Center, the other meeting was with the Executive officers of the Omaha Area Chapter of Special Libraries Association to discuss the new model of NN/LM-MCR and to identify SLA’s educational opportunities for network members.

The outreach activities in July included one from the previous contract. Rebecca Satterthwaite, MS and Teri Hartman joined forces in teaching and coordinating two sessions of Health Resources on the Internet course at the University of Northern Colorado. Also, there was contact from an advanced practice nursing professional in Missouri for a list of health information sites and libraries that provide document deliver.
Public Health

The University of Utah RML Liaison received $2000 from Utah Dept of Health, Bureau of Primary Care Rural and Ethnic Health to attend the 2001 American Public Health Association Meeting in Atlanta in October. In addition, the RML Liaison applied for and received the $500 Win Sewell Stipend also to be used toward the cost of attending the 2001 American Public Health Association meeting.
APPENDIX A

STATEMENTS OF WORK
National Network of Libraries of Medicine (NN/LM)  
Midcontinental Region – Region 4  

RML Liaison Subcontract  

Statement of Work  

UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING  

I. Goals  

As a Regional Medical Library (RML) Liaison subcontractor, and as a member of the National Network of Libraries of Medicine, the contractor shall develop and coordinate a program, which supports the following national goals:  

. To develop collaborations with National Network of Libraries of Medicine (NN/LM) libraries to improve access to and sharing of biomedical information resources throughout the nation;  

. To promote awareness of and access to biomedical information resources for health professionals and the public;  

. To develop, promote, and improve access to electronic health information resources by network member libraries, health professionals, and organizations providing health information to the public.  

II. Description of Work  

Independently, and not as an agent of the Government or of the University of Utah, the subcontractor shall collaborate with the Regional Medical Library (RML) for the Midcontinental Region of the NN/LM to accomplish of the goals of the NN/LM. The subcontractor shall accomplish this by providing Regional Medical Library Liaison Services, which includes Network Operations, Outreach Services and Special Project activities.  

A. Network Programs & Operations  

In collaboration with the RML staff at the University of Utah, the RML Liaison will assist in the operation and management of RML programs for Region 4. Activities will include:  

1. Contribute to the RML communications program.
2. Participate in assessment and evaluation activities.
3. Contribute to the preparation of quarterly/annual reports.
4. Participate in exhibits and presentations at local, regional and national meetings.

B. Outreach Programs

In collaboration with the RML staff at the University of Utah, the RML Liaison will contribute to the development, implementation and evaluation of targeted outreach programs to bring biomedical information resources with easy reach of U.S. health professionals who still do not have access health information resources and services. The RML Liaison serve as the contact point for RML programs and services, including other library and information networks, health organizations, and organizations providing health information to the public, for the State of Wyoming. Activities will include:

2. Coordinate document delivery services.
3. Provide training to support access to health information.
4. Develop and support library improvement projects.
5. The contractor shall develop, implement and annually update a plan to encourage connectivity for network member libraries and health professionals.
6. Promote NLM grants program.
I. Goals

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- To develop collaborations with National Network of Libraries of Medicine (NN/LM) libraries to improve access to and sharing of biomedical information resources throughout the nation;

- To promote awareness of and access to biomedical information resources for health professionals and the public;

To develop, promote, and improve access to electronic health information resources by network member libraries, health professionals, and organizations providing health information to the public.

II. Description of Work

Independently, and not as an agent of the Government or of the University of Utah, the subcontractor shall collaborate with the Regional Medical Library (RML) for the Midcontinental Region of the NN/LM to accomplish the goals of the NN/LM. The subcontractor shall accomplish this by providing Regional Medical Library Liaison Services, which includes Network Operations, Outreach Services and Special Project activities.

A. Network Programs & Operations

In collaboration with the RML staff at the University of Utah, the RML Liaison will assist in the operation and management of RML programs for Region 4. Activities will include:

1. Contribute to the RML communications program.
2. Participate in assessment and evaluation activities.
3. Contribute to the preparation of quarterly/annual reports.
4. Participate in exhibits and presentations at local, regional and national meetings.

B. Outreach Programs

In collaboration with the RML staff at the University of Utah, the RML Liaison will contribute to the development, implementation and evaluation of targeted outreach programs to bring biomedical information resources with easy reach of U.S. health professionals who still do not have access health information resources and services. The RML Liaison serve as the contact point for RML programs and services, including other library and information networks, health organizations, and organizations providing health information to the public, for the State of Colorado. Activities will include:

2. Coordinate document delivery services.
3. Provide training to support access to health information.
4. Develop and support library improvement projects.
5. The contractor shall develop, implement and annually update a plan to encourage connectivity for network member libraries and health professionals.
6. Promote NLM grants program.

C. Special Project – Consumer Health

In collaboration with the RML staff at the University of Utah, the Subcontractor will employ a RML Liaison who will develop, implement, and evaluate outreach programs to reach members of the public who are not aware of how to access electronic health information or who lack direct access to electronic health information. In carrying out these programs, the contractor shall work with a variety of intermediaries, including network libraries, health care providers, public health professionals, librarians, educators, community organizations, health advocacy groups, churches, and self-help groups, through the use of subcontracts, agreements, and other mechanisms. Activities will include:

1. Identify current projects and programs serving consumers in Region 4 Resource Libraries and Primary Access Libraries.
2. Work with public libraries and the RML public library consultant to develop consumer health information resources and services.
3. Promote resources developed by the National Library of Medicine, including MEDLINEplus, and by network members.
4. Encourage the development of programs that focus on reaching minorities, senior citizens and low-income populations.
5. Participate in the Consumer and Patient Health Information Section of the Medical Library Association and other relevant professional groups.
I. Goals

As a Regional Medical Library (RML) Liaison subcontractor, and as a member of the National Network of Libraries of Medicine, the contractor shall develop and coordinate a program, which supports the following national goals:

To develop collaborations with National Network of Libraries of Medicine (NN/LM) libraries to improve access to and sharing of biomedical information resources throughout the nation;

To promote awareness of and access to biomedical information resources for health professionals and the public;

To develop, promote, and improve access to electronic health information resources by network member libraries, health professionals, and organizations providing health information to the public.

II. Description of Work

Independently, and not as an agent of the Government or of the University of Utah, the subcontractor shall collaborate with the Regional Medical Library (RML) for the Midcontinental Region of the NN/LM to accomplish of the goals of the NN/LM. The subcontractor shall accomplish this by providing Regional Medical Library Liaison Services, which includes Network Operations, Outreach Services and Special Project activities.

A. Network Programs & Operations

In collaboration with the RML staff at the University of Utah, the RML Liaison will assist in the operation and management of RML programs for Region 4. Activities will include:

1. Contribute to the RML communications program.
2. Participate in assessment and evaluation activities.
3. Contribute to the preparation of quarterly/annual reports.
4. Participate in exhibits and presentations at local, regional and national meetings.

B. Outreach Programs

In collaboration with the RML staff at the University of Utah, the RML Liaison will contribute to the development, implementation and evaluation of targeted outreach programs to bring biomedical information resources with easy reach of U.S. health professionals who still do not have access health information resources and services. The RML Liaison serve as the contact point for RML programs and services, including other library and information networks, health organizations, and organizations providing health information to the public, for the State of Kansas. Activities will include:

2. Coordinate document delivery services.
3. Provide training to support access to health information.
4. Develop and support library improvement projects.
5. The contractor shall develop, implement and annually update a plan to encourage connectivity for network member libraries and health professionals.
6. Promote NLM grants program.

C. Special Project – Technology

In collaboration with the RML staff at the University of Utah, the Subcontractor will employ a RML Liaison who will encourage cooperation among Resource Libraries, Primary Access Library and other members of the library community in the effective application and utilization of computing and networking technologies. Activities will include:

1. Identify current programs and projects in Resource Libraries and Primary Access Libraries that involve advanced applications of computing and networking technologies.
2. Promote the use of the advanced technologies to enhance access to biomedical information by health professionals and consumers.
3. Establish and moderate listserv for the discussion of technology issues in Region 4.
4. Coordinate regular meetings of technical staff from Resource Libraries.
5. Contribute to the development and maintenance of the Region 4 website.
National Network of Libraries of Medicine (NN/LM)  
Midcontinental Region – Region 4  

RML Liaison Subcontract  

Statement of Work  

UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA

I. Goals

As a Regional Medical Library (RML) Liaison subcontractor, and as a member of the National Network of Libraries of Medicine, the contractor shall develop and coordinate a program, which supports the following national goals:

. To develop collaborations with National Network of Libraries of Medicine (NN/LM) libraries to improve access to and sharing of biomedical information resources throughout the nation;

. To promote awareness of and access to biomedical information resources for health professionals and the public;

. To develop, promote, and improve access to electronic health information resources by network member libraries, health professionals, and organizations providing health information to the public.

II. Description of Work

Independently, and not as an agent of the Government or of the University of Utah, the subcontractor shall collaborate with the Regional Medical Library (RML) for the Midcontinental Region of the NN/LM to accomplish of the goals of the NN/LM. The subcontractor shall accomplish this by providing Regional Medical Library Liaison Services, which includes Network Operations, Outreach Services and Special Project activities.

A. Network Programs & Operations

In collaboration with the RML staff at the University of Utah, the RML Liaison will assist in the operation and management of RML programs for Region 4. Activities will include:

1. Contribute to the RML communications program.
2. Participate in assessment and evaluation activities.
3. Contribute to the preparation of quarterly/annual reports.
4. Participate in exhibits and presentations at local, regional and national meetings.

B. Outreach Programs

In collaboration with the RML staff at the University of Utah, the RML Liaison will contribute to the development, implementation and evaluation of targeted outreach programs to bring biomedical information resources with easy reach of U.S. health professionals who still do not have access health information resources and services. The RML Liaison serve as the contact point for RML programs and services, including other library and information networks, health organizations, and organizations providing health information to the public, for the State of Nebraska. Activities will include:

2. Coordinate document delivery services.
3. Provide training to support access to health information.
4. Develop and support library improvement projects.
5. The contractor shall develop, implement and annually update a plan to encourage connectivity for network member libraries and health professionals.
6. Promote NLM grants program.

C. Special Project – Education

In collaboration with the RML staff at the University of Utah, the Subcontractor will employ a RML Liaison who will coordinate training in the effective use of electronic health information resources on the Internet. Emphasis should be on reaching health professionals, public, school and other librarians, and other intermediaries who do not have access to such training or who intend to train others, including consumers. Activities will include:

1. Identify current programs and projects in Resource Libraries and Primary Access Libraries that involve training in the effective use of electronic health information resources on the Internet.
2. Support training in the use of PubMed, MEDLINEplus, and other specialized NLM databases.
4. Encourage utilization of material available on the NN/LM web server and registered with the NN/LM National Training Center and Clearinghouse.
National Network of Libraries of Medicine (NN/LM)
Midcontinental Region – Region 4

RML Liaison Subcontract

Statement of Work

CREIGHTON UNIVERSITY

I. Goals

As a Regional Medical Library (RML) Liaison subcontractor, and as a member of the National Network of Libraries of Medicine, the contractor shall develop and coordinate a program, which supports the following national goals:

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. To promote awareness of and access to biomedical information resources for health professionals and the public;

. To develop, promote, and improve access to electronic health information resources by network member libraries, health professionals, and organizations providing health information to the public.

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A. Network Programs & Operations

In collaboration with the RML staff at the University of Utah, the RML Liaison will assist in the operation and management of RML programs for Region 4. Activities will include:

1. Contribute to the RML communications program.
2. Participate in assessment and evaluation activities.
3. Contribute to the preparation of quarterly/annual reports.
4. Participate in exhibits and presentations at local, regional and national meetings.

B. City and Minority Health

B. Special Project – Inner Practitioner Training Services

In collaboration with the RML staff at the University of Utah, the Subcontractor will employ a RML Liaison who will coordinate efforts to enhance services and resources for health professionals, minority populations and institutions providing health care services in inner city environments in Region 4. Activities will include:

1. Identify current programs and projects in Resource Libraries and Primary Access Libraries that involve the provision of resources and services to the health professionals and institutions in inner city environments.
2. Identify one or two pilot projects each year to improve or enhance the institution's access to biomedical information and developing and implementing a program that responds to the identified needs.
3. Identify institutions whose objective is to train minority health practitioners or those who serve minority populations, to develop specific linkages so that their health professionals and students have full benefit of the resources of the network.
I. Goals

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- To develop, promote, and improve access to electronic health information resources by network member libraries, health professionals, and organizations providing health information to the public.

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1. Contribute to the RML communications program.
2. Participate in assessment and evaluation activities.
3. Contribute to the preparation of quarterly/annual reports.
4. Participate in exhibits and presentations at local, regional and national meetings.

B. Outreach Programs

In collaboration with the RML staff at the University of Utah, the RML Liaison will contribute to the development, implementation and evaluation of targeted outreach programs to bring biomedical information resources with easy reach of U.S. health professionals who still do not have access health information resources and services. The RML Liaison serve as the contact point for RML programs and services, including other library and information networks, health organizations, and organizations providing health information to the public, for the State of Missouri. Activities will include:

2. Coordinate document delivery services.
3. Provide training to support access to health information.
4. Develop and support library improvement projects.
5. The contractor shall develop, implement and annually update a plan to encourage connectivity for network member libraries and health professionals.
6. Promote NLM grants program.

C. Special Project – Outreach/Library Improvement

In collaboration with the RML staff at the University of Utah, the Subcontractor will employ a RML Liaison who will coordinate Library Improvement programs for Region 4. Activities will include:

1. Identify current programs and projects in Resource Libraries and Primary Access Libraries that assist in library improvement efforts.
2. Identifying hospital libraries that do not have onsite access to MEDLARS databases, do not participate in DOCLINE, and meet the minimum criteria for network membership.
3. Developing programs to improve the level of service the libraries deliver to hospital staff, which shall include:
   a. Loaning equipment necessary to access PubMed, MEDLINEplus, DOCLINE and web services;
   b. Introducing the library manager, key staff, administrators and health professionals to the NLM systems, hardware, software and other resources available in the network to improve their access to information;
   c. Coordinate frequent follow-up contacts with the librarian to assess progress and offer assistance.
I. Goals

As a Regional Medical Library (RML) Liaison subcontractor, and as a member of the National Network of Libraries of Medicine, the contractor shall develop and coordinate a program, which supports the following national goals:

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A. Network Programs & Operations

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1. Contribute to the RML communications program.
2. Participate in assessment and evaluation activities.
3. Contribute to the preparation of quarterly/annual reports.
4. Participate in exhibits and presentations at local, regional and national meetings.

B. Special Project – Assessment and Evaluation

In collaboration with the RML staff at the University of Utah, the Subcontractor will employ a RML Liaison who will coordinate monitoring and evaluating the region's programs in order to assess their effectiveness in meeting NN/LM goals and to identify and resolve problems, which impede the effective delivery of health information services. Activities will include:

1. Identify current programs and projects in Resource Libraries and Primary Access Libraries that address assessment and evaluation.
2. Develop a formal mechanism for evaluating regional programs in Regional Advisory Committee.
3. Develop a mechanism to provide NLM with regular feedback about NLM and NN/LM products and services from individuals and constituent groups.
4. Participate in a site visit and review of the regional program, to be conducted at least once during the contract, by selected representatives from NLM, the RAC, and at least one other RML.
5. Obtain ongoing feedback from users about their information wants, needs and uses, and recommending ways of improving health professional and consumer access to information.
7. Conducting or participating in needs assessments or surveys of users and non-users of NLM and NN/LM products and services and participating in tests of new NLM products and services, when requested by NLM.
APPENDIX B

MIDCONTINENTAL REGION HOMEPAGE
Welcome to the Midcontinental Region, NNLM-MRI!

Join your colleagues from the Tri-Chapter meeting by contributing ideas to the RML.

Each Tuesday at noon, the University of Utah Department of Medical Informatics Seminar is broadcast live on the internet. The program can be viewed with RealPlayer 8 Basic which is available free at http://www.real.com/player/index.html?par=010201/realhome_1

Search MCR web site for: Any

Check our calendar for Midcontinental RML staff activities!

Read the Midcontinental Region proposal.
APPENDIX C

KEY AREAS FOR QUERY
KEY AREAS FOR QUERY

1. What is the public library coverage in each state? Numbers, scope/overlapping coverage, populations served, participation in library consortia, reciprocal borrowing agreements, internet access capabilities for the public.

2. What is the level of access the public has to consumer health information provided by the public libraries (web sites, print collections, databases, consumer health collections and/or training?) How proactive is the staff in providing access to this information for the public?

3. What do the public librarians project in questions asked, are the consumer health information needs of their constituents?

N.B. As public library members are recruited to be affiliate member of the RML network, we will create a survey for patrons to assess their health information needs directly. This will serve to more directly assist public libraries in meeting the needs and also market the access to ever expanding access to such health information for the public.

4. How would librarians who assist the public assess their level of training and skill with respect to accessing health information resources and services?

5. What are the current and potential professional continuing education opportunities and possible financial support offered locally/state region-wide with respect to consumer health information training?

6. What are the current and potential community partnerships public libraries participate in to provide access to health information? (e.g. working with local medical libraries, medical organizations, consumer health organization, schools, senior/community centers, low income advocacy groups, churches, resettlement organizations)

7. How do public libraries market their services to special populations? Are any promotional materials in place to highlight services, collections and programs related to the provision of consumer health information?

8. Would a public library be interested in serving as an affiliate member of the RML network in Region 4? Support for planning, program development, training and marketing of access to health information would be provided from the RML network as a benefit of network membership.