

**NATIONAL NETWORK OF LIBRARIES OF
MEDICINE**

MidContinental Region

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Executive Summary

The MidContinental Regional Medical Library (MCRML) has completed its second year and is no longer “new” to the region. We progressed beyond spending a majority of our effort developing the infrastructure for operations and have spent equal time on accomplishing state outreach and project objectives. We have been more successful in delivering services as we grasp the essence of our positions, learn our states and the region, and become known by the people we want to serve.

A number of personnel changes have and will occur. New liaisons were hired in the position of Inner City Services and Minority Outreach Liaison and Wyoming Liaison. The Public Health/Utah Liaison will retire and be replaced at the beginning of next year. We have evaluated our technology program support needs and will eliminate our Technical Director position and recruit a Technology Coordinator, requiring a library degree.

The University of Wyoming Libraries had major changes in their administration. Mary M. Farrell, began as the new Dean of University of Wyoming Libraries and Lori Phillips, became the new Associate Dean. Ms. Phillips will serve as Wyoming’s representative to the Resource Library Directors’ teleconferences.

We continue to develop policies and procedures. Procedures and forms for the regional renewal of NN/LM membership and recruitment of new members was completed this year and we conducted our first membership renewal. The renewal identifies one of our major constituencies and is important in the assessment and evaluation of the RML. Funding subcontracts continues to be a learning experience and the procedures need to be evaluated and revised so that projects can start in a more timely fashion. The RML is currently managing 15 subcontracts.

Communication now formally issues from the RML through our quarterly newsletter, *Plains to Peaks Post*, and the *RML News*, a compilation of news items of importance to health sciences libraries, that is distributed weekly through the MCMLA (Midcontinental Chapter of the Medical Library Association) listserv. The MCR website has had more content added, especially in the areas of consumer health information and minority health information. Other project areas still need to add information to their pages to make our website truly robust.

Important for future evaluation of the RML were two assessment activities. A Network Data Inventory was distributed to Network members and collected baseline data on their use of technology, use and awareness of RML programs and services. Focus groups, both in person and via teleconference, have begun and will be completed early next year.

We have had success coordinating partnerships and creating resources that assist librarians in the region. In addition to the Colorado Consumer Health Information Librarians, two other multi-library groups interested in consumer health information services are in the formative stages—another Colorado group and one in Kansas. In Missouri, Community Connection and the J. Otto Lottes Health Sciences Library have been working with NLM to establish Missouri as the second

state in the nation to make local information available through links on MEDLINEplus. A database and search interface are under development to collect consumer health resources recommended by members of the CAPHIS (Consumer and Patient Health Information Section of the Medical Library Association) listserv. The RML creates and hosts link out buttons on the server for libraries who would not otherwise be able to offer this service to their patrons. Liaisons taught three of the eight CE offered at the MLA chapter meeting and were recognized for contributing to its success.

In the public health project area, the Public Health Online Pilot was completed with two processes tested. One used public health department publications as a basis for determining new terms to recommend to NLM for Medical Subject Headings for indexing and cataloging. The other is an example of how a library can work with a public health department to catalog its publications thereby making them more publicly available. In Nebraska, the RML and McGoogan Library of Medicine successfully persuaded the Nebraska Center for Bioterrorism Education to hire a librarian to oversee its resource center.

The chief effort in outreach to Native Americans has been through the Tribal Connections--Four Corners project. This is a collaboration managed by the University of Arizona Health Sciences Library through a subcontract from the MidContinental Regional Medical Library. It resulted from an April 2002 meeting in Salt Lake City of four Regional Medical Libraries and four Resource Libraries who are interested in improving health information access in the Four Corners area. The project explores partnership in offering health information outreach.

In the area of technology, we continue to broadcast our Regional Advisory Board meetings. The mobile videobroadcast unit was successfully used in Los Angeles to broadcast the Pacific Southwest Regional Medical Library's AIDS Information Summit. A small collection of e-books on technology and management were made available to the region through netLibrary.

Administration

Personnel Changes

A new Inner City Services and Minority Outreach Liaison, Siobhan Champ-Blackwell, started on October 15, 2002 replacing Dennis Haack who resigned during the summer.

Susan Whitson, Wyoming Liaison, submitted her resignation effective May 1, 2003, when her husband took a position in Pennsylvania. Ms. Henning serves as interim Wyoming Liaison and will take the job permanently effective May 12, 2003.

Kathleen McCloskey will be retiring and Molly Youngkin will take over as Public Health/Utah Liaison on June 1, 2003.

The RML has rethought its Technical Director position and will be hiring a librarian with high tech skills to be Technology Coordinator eliminating the emphasis on programming.

RML Directors Meetings

On May 17, 2002, all staff attended the RML Directors meeting in Dallas, TX. Wayne Peay, Director, contributed to the Tribal Connections/Gates Project update. Stephanie Weldon, Consumer Health and Colorado Liaison, was the leader of the consumer health coordinators break out session; Claire Hamasu, Associate Director, co-chaired the break out session for the Directors and Associate Directors.

The Director and Associate Director attended the RML Directors meeting on February 6–7, 2003, at the New York Academy of Medicine. Mr. Peay and Ms. Hamasu provided updates on the Tribal Connections and Multi-lingual Work Group collaborations and helped facilitate the discussions on raising the national maximum for ILLs, alternative publishing models, and the effect of e-journals on services to the unaffiliated.

Year 03 Planning

The RML held a planning meeting in Salt Lake City on November 7-8, 2002 to develop vision statements to guide us through the rest of the contract. Year 03 objectives were written to move us toward these goals. Planning for the forthcoming year was much easier face-to-face than via teleconference and will be continued in future years.

Site Visit

Ms. Hamasu was a site visit team member for the NN/LM South Eastern Atlantic Region on February 27, 2003. A premise for having regional programs is that each region is different and this was evident throughout the visit. The experience of being on the team will be helpful for our own site visit that will take place in July.

Network Programs

Document Delivery Services

Docline

When the RML received the DOCLINE statistics for 1999/2000 and 2001/2002, state liaisons were asked to investigate the reasons for the major increase or decrease of ILL's in their states.

Explanations for increases:

- Loansome Doc
- Users are using PubMed and other MEDLINE search engines more, which leads to more ILL requests
- Smaller hospitals seem to be making more requests for information, when their staff needs access to full-text
- Journal budget cuts
- Freeshare
- An increase in the number of libraries participating in DOCLINE
- Local consortia arrangements disbanding

Explanations for decreases:

- Libraries have purchased full-text aggregations such as IDEAL, MD Consult, Ovid, or Science Direct that give them access to journals they never had before
- Now ILL journals are often online
- The time spans you are comparing are almost precisely pre- and post-online journals, at least in the smaller libraries

In this second year, liaisons were able to answer more questions without calling NLM due to training and increased experience. On July 18, 2002, NLM DOCLINE staff offered a very helpful teleconference to review the responsibilities of the RML for administering DOCLINE accounts. Presently there is no formal training for RML staff to be DOCLINE administrators. Ms. Sommer, Library Improvement Liaison, became the regional expert and an important resource for newly hired liaisons who had no DOCLINE experience. RML staff provided training via the phone and answered questions on all aspects of DOCLINE during the year including Freeshare, temporary holds, LOANSOME DOC, routing lists, Linkout, and adding holdings to SERHOLD.

Ms. Sommer facilitated the CE, "DOCLINE: An Expert's Guide to Document Delivery", at the fall MCMLA meeting, enlisting experienced DOCLINE users to teach the class.

The University of Colorado raised its ILL charge for out-of-state libraries with an immediate reaction from other RMLs and NLM. As a result, the topic of raising the national maximum charge for ILLs was added to the RML Directors Meeting agenda in February.

LinkOut

Ms. Davison-Turley developed a web page to host LinkOut buttons for libraries without easy access to a server. This enables them to meet the LinkOut requirement that buttons be publicly

accessible from the web. Network members contact Ms. Davison-Turley to create and/or host LinkOut buttons. Thirteen institutions have taken advantage of this service.

EFTS

With 23 new participants, there are now 33 EFTS libraries in the region. All Resource Libraries are members. Getting a critical number of libraries registered with EFTS continues to be a challenge. Net lenders find themselves to be net borrowers on the system and must regularly add to their accounts or discover that they are overdrawn.

The RML brainstormed ways to encourage members to join EFTS, and will implement the following ideas next year:

- Find out how VA libraries are able to participate. There is a federal rule that prohibits deposit accounts.
- Promote the names of Network members who are willing to mentor prospective libraries.
- Request that Resource Libraries send a letter from their directors encouraging libraries, with whom they do a lot of business, to join EFTS.

ISO/ILL Compliance

At NLM's request the RML queried Resource Libraries about the importance of NLM complying with ISO/ILL standards. Resource Libraries responded that it was important for NLM to comply for a number of reasons and this recommendation was forwarded to NLM.

Resource Libraries

Mary M. Farrell, began as the new Dean of University of Wyoming Libraries. Ms. Farrell is familiar with the NN/LM from her experience at the University of Montana. Lori Phillips became the new Associate Dean for the University of Wyoming Libraries and will serve as their representative at the Resource Library Directors' teleconferences.

Resource Library Directors' Teleconferences

Teleconferences for Resource Library Directors in the region were held quarterly. Directors were asked about problems they had with RML administration during year 01. Problems they encountered but they feel have been resolved were: budget timelines, precise numbers for accounts, and bringing liaisons up to speed on DOCLINE.

During the year directors were kept current on the Virtual Reference Pilot, the Tribal Connections collaboration, the Washington University open archive initiative server, the results of the liaison assessment, and the regional licensing plan. The RML requested input for agenda items for the advisory board and RML Directors meetings. Reduced budgets were a worrisome issue for the library directors and have impacted collections and staff. Directors shared efforts within their own institutions to educate faculty and promote alternatives to traditional scholarly publishing.

Classes regularly taught by liaisons for their institutions:

- Ms. Weldon and Ms. Kelly are instructors for the Mini Med programs sponsored by their medical schools.

- Ms. Davison-Turley teaches "Finding & Evaluating Health Information Resources on the Internet" and PubMed for staff and an introduction to the library resources and services for users.
- Ms. Champ-Blackwell, Ms. Sommer, and Ms. McCloskey gave presentations to their library's staff on what they do for the RML.

Communication

The first issue of the *Plains to Peaks Post* was printed and mailed in June 2002. It is being produced quarterly and is also available from the MCR website.

<<http://nnlm.gov/mcr/news/newsletter/>>

The *RML News* is a compilation of news items sent out every Tuesday. It continues to be the primary communication method for conveying RML and NLM activities and news of importance to health sciences libraries. Liaisons continue to send subsets from the *RML News* to the listservs of the Utah Public Health Association, Kansas librarians, and Colorado librarians.

The MCR website has had more content added, especially in the areas of consumer health information and minority health information. Sections of the NN/LM have also been edited to keep them up to date. See Appendix A for a list of new content and NN/LM .

The following articles by RML staff were published:

- Hartman, T. "OPL Management Tip 2 – 'It's All on the Internet and It's All Free' One Librarian's Response." *One Person Library Newsletter*, Vol. 19 No. 9: 10 January 2003.
- Weldon, S. "Diabetes Prevention in American Indian Communities: Turning Hope into Reality". *Tribal Health Connections Newsletter*, Vol. 2 No.1 Winter 2003.
- Weldon, S. "Hospital and Public Libraries from Partnership!" *Council Quotes Newsletter of the Colorado Council of Medical Librarians*, Vol. 26 No. 1: 3-4 February 2003.

The RML now maintains three listservs for regional groups. One for IT staff has seven members representing four resource libraries and the RML. There is a listserv for the Kansas Biomedical Librarians and another for the Colorado Consumer Health Information Librarians.

Ms. Davison-Turley worked with Greg Bodin, Technology Coordinator for the South Central Region, throughout the year reorganizing and redesigning the NN/LM intranet. This effort is now on hold while the NN/LM technology coordinators decide whether to migrate the intranet to a Wiki or maintain it in HTML.

Links to MEDLINEplus

Due to the efforts of the RML, five websites have added links to MEDLINEplus:

Pathways Plus, Connect, Wyoming's comprehensive website state health resources

<<http://wind.uwyo.edu/connect/clearinghouse/CatPage.asp?MainCat=Health+and+Medicine>>

Lincoln Lutheran Jr/Sr High School in Nebraska (secured website)

Omaha Minority Health <<http://www.omahealth.netfirms.com/>>

Nebraska Health and Human Services <<http://www.hhs.state.ne.us/puh/epi/wnv/links.htm>>

The Army (under their links section) <<http://www.hooah4health.com/4life/links.htm>>

Regional Advisory Board

The Regional Advisory Board meeting was held at the University of Kansas Medical Center on October 4, 2003. Guest speakers were:

Cathy Burroughs "Evaluation in the NN/LM"

Molly McGetrick "Tribal Health Connections"

Angela Ruffin "NLM Update"

Diane Johnson "Virtual Reference Pilot Project Update".

The primary activity for the meeting was to have our advisors kick off the planning for year 03 by discussing goals and objectives. Liaisons consulted previously with Board members unable to attend and reported back to the group during the meeting. The meeting was broadcast.

The term of membership has been set at two years. Some members are being asked to stay on for a third year so that there will be continuity within the group. New board members were recruited and the membership for 2003 was finalized.

Evaluation & Assessment/Feedback

Evaluation

Ms. Kelly distributed an internal survey to the liaisons to assess how liaisons were coping with the distributed RML and obtain suggestions to improve RML operations. She compiled responses and submitted a report to the Director and Associate Director that was shared with Resource Library Directors. In response, the RML administration reviewed support staff and adjusted their responsibilities and began revising the orientation for new liaisons.

Assessment

Two assessment activities were accomplished this year. Ms. Kelly developed and distributed Network Data Inventory forms with assistance from the liaisons. This form collected baseline data on members' use of technology, and use and awareness of RML programs and services. It was sent in the membership renewal packet.

Focus groups were pulled together. An invitation was sent through the MCMLA list-serv with follow-up by each state liaison to recruit participants. In-person focus groups were held in Colorado and Missouri. On schedule are focus groups in Kansas and Utah. Teleconference focus groups are being scheduled for Nebraska and Wyoming. Joan Gregory, Interim Deputy Director at Eccles Health Sciences Library; Sally Patrick, Public Library Consultant; and Beryl Glitz, Consultant; are moderators for the focus groups. Librarians at the resource libraries have volunteered to be observers.

Feedback

The RML provided feedback on the ILL survey, the Outreach Activity Report Form (OARF), the participant data portion of the OARF, the Consumer Health and Outreach System, the NOMC mapping application, and the logic models for public health workers and public libraries outreach

evaluation. Suggestions were sent to MEDLINEplus and PubMed development groups on ways to improve these resources.

Three liaisons from the region were invited to serve on NN/LM evaluation task forces. Betsy Kelly and Kathleen McCloskey are contributing to the Public Health Outreach Evaluation Task Force and Teresa Hartman participates as a member of the Public Library Outreach Evaluation Task Force.

Names of potential reviewers for the Access to Electronic Health Information proposals were forwarded to the NNO. Florence Triplett, Administrator Women's Health Center in Omaha and J. Randal Johnson, Ph.D. from the Utah AHEC were selected to serve on the review panel.

The RML responded to a request from the National Network Office with suggestions of librarians in the region who could contribute to the Hospital IT Taskforce. No one from the region was selected.

Health Professionals Access to Information

Ms. Weldon participated as a librarian faculty member for the journalist group at the Evidence Based Medicine Conference in Keystone Colorado in August. This was one of the regional projects funded by the RML and increased the number of librarian participants at the conference.

Workshops

In June 2002, Ms. Weldon, taught outreach workers from the Southern Area Health Education Center located at the University of Southern Colorado in Pueblo. She also created a class for residents on consumer health for the informatics program at the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center.

Missouri Institute for Community Health

Ms. Sommer attended one of the formative meetings of the Missouri Institute for Community Health (MICH) involving over 50 members of the Missouri health community. Ms. Sommer was appointed to the statewide Advisory Board. She and Susan Centner, an AHEC librarian and Regional Advisory Board member, are the only librarian representatives with the group.

Network Memberships

Network Member Renewal and Recruitment

All liaisons are contacting Network members and recruiting Affiliate members. Wyoming epitomizes what we would like to do in all our states. The Wyoming liaison has been able to contact every health sciences library and public library in the state. Susan Whitson emailed 23 Wyoming public library directors encouraging them to become Affiliate members of NN/LM. She contacted 38 Wyoming medical institutions promoting products and services and telephoned all 34 DOCUSER institutions in order to provide clean information for the upcoming RML membership drive and to further marketing efforts.

The RML developed procedures and forms for the regional renewal of NN/LM membership and recruitment of new members. Renewal packets were sent out in December. Liaisons are following up with members who did not return their signed agreements.

Two Network members and 11 Affiliate members joined the Network this year. For list of new members see Appendix B.

Status of Hospital Libraries

Although no hospital libraries in the region have closed this year, there have been reports of downsizing in Kansas. The librarian position at Truman Medical Center-Lakewood in Kansas has not been posted to be filled. There is no confirmation that the library will be closed, but it may be permanently staffed with a clerk. The VA Medical Center Library in Wichita effectively closed on December 23, 2002 with the retirement of their long-time librarian, Alice Schad. The library is currently staffed by a non-library clerical worker and is not participating in DOCLINE. VA management has no intention of staffing the library with another librarian at this time. The medical library at the Health Corporation of America Wesley Medical Center in Wichita KS has been cut from two professional staff to one.

Faxon-Rowe

The liaisons surveyed libraries in their states to determine the impact of the Faxon-Rowe bankruptcy. Fortunately, there were only a handful of health sciences libraries in the region that were using Faxon-Rowe as a vendor. The liaisons pointed them to MLANet for the latest news on ways to continue to receive journals.

Consortia Attendance

A benefit of the distributed RML is that liaisons can regularly attend local consortia meetings, interact with health sciences libraries, update them on news and respond to questions. This year, RML staff regularly attended and presented at the Colorado Consortia of Medical Librarians, ICON (Nebraska), the Health Sciences Library Network of Kansas City, the Kansas Biomedical Librarians, and the Utah Health Sciences Library Consortium. Missouri and Wyoming do not have health sciences library consortia in their states.

National Medical Librarians Month

Four projects were submitted to the National Library of Medicine as examples of the work that medical libraries do. [Health Education Assets Library \(HEAL\)](#), MidContinental Region Virtual Reference Pilot Project, Bringing Grand Rounds Information and Resources Together, and [healthHQ - Phase 2](#) were featured on the National Medical Librarians Month page. <http://www.nlm.nih.gov/lo/profiles02/mcr.html>

Awards (See Appendix C for projects)

Ms. Sommer is serving as an advisor for the Mid-Missouri AHEC project funded by Internet Access to Digital Library funds.

Regional Awards

The process of funding regional awards continued throughout the year. Several applications were discovered late in the review process and were integrated into the schedule. Liaisons continued to work with award applicants to clarify projects and respond to National Network

Office questions about project proposals. By March 2003, agreements for eight regional projects were signed and projects were underway. One application was withdrawn as a result of the extensive review process. In March, Mercy Medical Center notified the RML that they would have to decline their award. Ms. Weldon worked with Myoung Fry, who had submitted the proposal on behalf of a local consortium, to determine if one of the members could manage the project. Fort Lewis College has agreed to take responsibility for the project. A web based report form for subcontractors to submit their quarterly reports was completed at the end of August.

Access to Electronic Health Information RFP

State liaisons promoted the Access to Electronic Health Information RFP and offered consulting service to the region. As a result, eight libraries submitted proposals of which five were approved for funding. Although the National Network Office announced that all projects would have a start date of March 1, 2003, projects in this region have been delayed due to continued negotiations with bidders on project methodology and goals. Subcontract agreements should be sent to bidders early in year 03. If necessary, no-cost extensions will be offered to accommodate the late start.

Outreach Programs

Consumer Health Information Services

Health Sciences/Public Library Consortia

One of the objectives for this year was to establish multi-type library groups around the region focusing on consumer health information services. CHILL (Colorado Consumer Health Information Librarians), the first of these groups, had its meeting on July 15, 2002, at the Aurora Public Library. Twenty-three librarians attended. Two more meetings were held during the year. At the end of the year members were surveyed about future goals and how the group should operate. The results indicated that the group wanted to continue having a structured agenda with the meeting rotating among member libraries. Suggested topics for future meetings were collection development, marketing, and Internet resources. Possible projects for the group were marketing their resources, collaborating on services, and developing web resources.

Ms. Weldon is working to establish multi-library consortia in two more areas, another in Colorado and one in Kansas. Karen Wells of Exempla Lutheran in Colorado is organizing a consortium with public librarians from surrounding communities. Ms. Davison- Turley promoted the formation of Kansas Consumer Health Information Librarians (KCHIL) to the Health Sciences Librarians Network of Kansas City and to the Kansas Library Association; the responses were positive.

Go Local

Ms. Sommer has been working with a group to have a Go Local link in MEDLINEplus for Missouri. The group includes Caryn Scoville, J. Otto Lottes Health Sciences Librarian, and Community Connection staff. Community Connection maintains a website of health services in the state and recently received a grant from the Missouri Foundation of Health to improve this service. <<http://www.communityconnection.org>> A plan was submitted to NLM for Missouri to "Go Local" following the North Carolina model. The MEDLINEplus group accepted the plan

and Missouri will be the second state in the country that will come up on Go Local. Ms. Weldon will coordinate the efforts of the remaining states in the region to offer Go Local using the database that NLM will develop.

Databases

Ms. Weldon coordinated revisions to the Consumer Health Database by Michael Carr and Michael Miller (PSRML) in order for the database to accept MidContinental data.

<<http://nmlm.gov/hip/chdir/>> This database is a directory of libraries and their consumer health services. Each library adds and maintains its own data. Although promoted, additions to the directory have been sparse. This directory will be evaluated to determine whether it should be maintained and may be subsumed by the directory available through MEDLINEplus based on DOCUSER data.

Ms. Weldon, in consultation with the Consumer and Patient Health Information Section (CAPHIS) of the Medical Library Association, is developing an interface and a database that will contain resources (i.e., websites, pamphlets, books, experts) that are recommended by members of the CAPHIS listserv. These are extremely useful recommendations that are lost in the listserv's archive because searching for them is difficult.

Public Library Baseline Data

Sally Patrick, Public Library consultant, and Ms. Kelly finalized the content for questions for the public library survey. Public librarians who are part of the consumer health working group tested the survey. Liaisons obtained mailing lists of public libraries from state libraries. This will obtain baseline information on the consumer health services and resources that public libraries in the region offer. The survey will be distributed next year.

Training Modules

Ms. Weldon worked with Heidi Sandstrom of PSRML on the Reference Interview module, part of the consumer health information workshop being developed by the RMLs. Ms. Weldon completed the cultural competency section and sent it to RML consumer health coordinators for their review.

Consumer Health Information Language Project

Ms. Weldon began working on a consumer health information language project with consumer health coordinators from Regions 5, 6, and 7. The project is coordinated by Liz Workman, Clinical Librarian, Hope Fox Eccles Clinical Library and manager of the 24 Languages website. <<http://medstat.med.utah.edu/library/refdesk/24lang.html>> Their first meeting was held at MLA. The group grew to include librarians from other RMLs and librarians working with multi-language materials. The purpose of the group was to identify a common problem faced by librarians working with multi-language materials and come up with a project. By the end of the year it became evident that although members found the monthly teleconferences to be valuable, they could not coalesce enough to start a project. The group will be disbanded.

Public Health

Training

The RML offered workshops to public health professionals in two states and participated in a national training seminar. Ms. Whitson was the featured speaker at the Wyoming Department of Health's Program Managers' monthly meeting on September 10th in Cheyenne. Ms. McCloskey and Ms. Hartman joined Bryan Cook, Professor, Northern Colorado University; and Sandy Bonzo, Librarian at the CDC Injury Center, to teach "CH 505 Health Communications & the Media". This class was held in October 2002, at Mesa State University. Ms. Weldon presented to CDC staff in Fort Collins, CO on January 7th with the members from the CDC from Atlanta.

MCR responded to a call for presenters for "From Research To Presentation", part of the Academy Health Seminars in Health Services Research Methods held on November 5, 2002. Kim Lipsey from Washington University contributed the EndNote portion of the course and Whitney Davison-Turley, Technology and Kansas Liaison, contributed to the PowerPoint portion.

PHOL—Public Health Online Project

Kathleen McCloskey completed the RML's MeSH and cataloging projects. A methodology for identifying new public health terms was developed and tested. Public health related terms that were determined to be viable were sent to NLM as suggested new subject headings. In April, we heard that they were approved adding 11 new public health terms to MeSH. The next step will be to encourage a public health information group to continue the project and assume responsibility for providing data that will assist NLM to add new public health MeSH. A procedure was developed to catalog digital publications of the state health department in order to make them easily available to the public through the Eccles Health Sciences Library online catalog. The final report covering both projects was emailed to members of the Partner's in Public Health Information Access steering committee and will be made available from the MCR website.

Mary Beth Stepan, the RML Advisory Board member from Wyoming, initiated an investigation to determine whether Wyoming was ready to catalog electronic public health publication. Ms. Whitson followed up with the Wyoming State Library and Wyoming Department of Health's Community and Family Health Division to assess their views. The State Library is engaged in studying the question of electronic state documents and decided to watch the development of Utah's model. The Department of Health will wait for the State Library to determine how to handle digital documents.

Partners in Public Health Steering Committee

At the October 3rd Partner's Steering Committee meeting at the National Library of Medicine, Ms. McCloskey, Public Health and Utah Liaison and Neil Rambo, Associate Director of the NN/LM Pacific Northwest Region, were charged with preparing packets of information on NN/LM services to be distributed at the Distance Learning Coordinator's meeting later that month in order to tap into bioterrorism activities.

APHA

Ms. McCloskey attended the American Public Health Association meeting in Philadelphia in November 2002. She met with public health librarians on Sewell Foundation stipends, facilitated the “Quality Management in Public Health” session, and presented a paper on the Youth Without Borders video project with Beverly Roach of the Salt Lake Valley Health Department.

Bioterrorism Information Effort

In November, Ms. McCloskey developed a strategy to assist liaisons to get involved with bioterrorism planners.

Nebraska began forming local and district health departments using the infusion of tobacco settlement money. This year they completed the process. This was a tremendous opportunity to get in on the ground floor and promote the importance of information to the public health workforce. The RML did not pass up the opportunity. Ms. Hartman regularly attended the Nebraska Education Consortium meetings. The group is made up of organizations that can support or participate in bioterrorism preparedness activities in the state. Due to the efforts of Ms. Hartman and librarians from McGoogan library, the Nebraska Center for Bioterrorism Education hired a librarian to oversee its resource center and to conduct user training for public health professionals.

Inner City and Minority Outreach

There are several programs where Creighton University works with high school students teaching research methodology in order to recruit and retain minority students in medicine and health related careers. Mr. Haack became an instructor in these programs teaching the basics of accessing PubMed and MEDLINEplus.

The Inner City and Minority Outreach Liaison is becoming a resource for Network members needing information on minority populations. Karen Mier of Methodist College in Nebraska asked for help to prepare to teach “Internet Sites for You and Your Patient” at the conference “Many Faces, Many Needs... Providing Responsible Health Care for a Culturally Diverse Population. Ms. Champ-Blackwell assisted Cindy Perkins of St. Francis Hospital in Topeka, KS to compile information on cultural competency. Ms. Perkins was putting together a website and a small library collection for the health professionals at the hospital to assist them in providing culturally appropriate care to their patients.

As a part of Minority Health Month (April), the Inner City Liaison and the Nebraska Liaison presented a workshop for child care providers in Lexington, NE. Lexington is a rural town in mid-Nebraska with a population of 10,000, 80% of which are Latino. The workshops were arranged with Josie Rodriquez, Health Program Manager for the Office of Minority Health and Nebraska Library Board member. Three of the women attending spoke only Spanish, and the others were bi-lingual. Ms. Rodriquez served as translator. The class was a great opportunity to test the use of a translator in a small group setting.

Native American Outreach--Nebraska

Mr. Haack submitted a list of health and culture resources appropriate for physical therapy students working with Native Americans. This was his contribution to the learning module created for the students to help them prepare for practicums in rural settings.

On August 28, Mr. Haack, Inner City Liaison; Mr. Bothmer, Director of Creighton University Health Sciences Library; and Michelle Morlok, Grants Coordinator for Creighton's School of Pharmacy and Allied Health; visited health and education facilities on the Omaha reservation. The liaison and Mr. Bothmer gathered information on the information needs and capabilities of these agencies. The Nebraska Indian Community College may be a strong candidate for partnership since its library also serves as a public library. On April 16th, Ms. Champ-Blackwell made a follow-up visit and offered a class on PubMed to the health care professionals and outreach staff at the Carl T. Curtis Health Education Center.

Ms. Champ-Blackwell partnered with Creighton University's Office of Multicultural Student Services when she agreed to do a "career track" workshop for the April 2003 Native American retreat. Over 70 high school students from New Mexico, South Dakota, Missouri, Iowa and Nebraska gathered for 3 days of workshops to prepare and encourage students to attend college. Her session offered students a hands-on interactive experience researching the career of their choice. MEDLINEplus was prominently featured.

Native American Outreach--Tribal Connections-Four Corners

With the encouragement of NLM, a proposal was submitted and funded for a project to evaluate the collaboration of the Resource Libraries and RML's who are working together in the Four Corners area. Deliverables for the project, entitled "Tribal Connections- Four Corners", include an asset inventory of the participants, a resource that will allow sharing of effective outreach practices, and the evaluation of outreach project(s) that develop out of the collaboration. The MidContinental Region subcontracted with the University of Arizona Health Sciences Library to manage the project. In a collaborative gesture, the group will present a paper at MLA on the goals of Tribal Connections-Four Corners.

The scope of the Tribal Connections website was expanded from regional to national. Maryanne Blake from the NN/LM Pacific Northwest Region; Patricia Bradley, Tribal Health Connections; Ms. Weldon, Colorado Liaison; and Ms. Champ-Blackwell, Inner City and Minority Outreach Liaison; have formed a working group to manage content on the newly revised website. Ms. Champ-Blackwell is responsible for education and training; Ms. Weldon is responsible for state resources. <<http://www.tribalconnections.org>>

Technology Awareness and Integration

Not all RML staffs are able to navigate the complexity of adding content on to the NN/LM server. Mr. Carr developed a web template for Dreamweaver to enable staff to easily add content to the dev site on the intranet.

Videoconferencing

Liaisons at the University of Nebraska, University of Missouri and University of Colorado have not succeeded in getting their institutions to open the correct ports that will allow

videoconferencing using VRVS software. Weekly teleconferences continue to be a combination of vidoconferencing (video and application sharing) and telephone (audio).

Access Grid

Eccles Library is a member of the Advisory Council for Project TOUCH and has been participating in the sessions sponsored by the University of New Mexico using the Access Grid. The founding participants are the University of New Mexico and the University of Hawaii who are collaborating on a teaching project. Other participants sharing and demonstrating virtual reality and advanced technology projects at their own institutions are the University of Arkansas, University of Michigan, University of Wisconsin, and the National Library of Medicine. Mr. Peay and Ms. Hamasu have been attending the sessions. <<http://hsc.unm.edu/touch>>

Virtual Reference

There are now three libraries sharing virtual reference hours for the region: Denison Memorial Library, J Otto Lottes Library, and Eccles Health Sciences Library. Ms. Sommer and Ms. Weldon have both learned to provide reference assistance through this software. The virtual reference pilot was promoted through MCMLA listserv to encourage Network members in the region to give it a try. Rob Bussinger, Emporia State University MLS student, is working on a Virtual Reference marketing plan for the region as his practicum with the RML. The draft of his plan is expected in early May.

Colorado and Kansas are planning statewide virtual reference services. Ms. Weldon attended the Colorado virtual reference collaboration meeting made up of different libraries planning to work together to provide virtual reference in Colorado. Ms. Davison-Turley attended two planning meetings of the State of Kansas Virtual Reference Task Force, located two hospital libraries interested in participating, and wrote the question referral policy.

The MidContinental Regional Medical Library assisted with the AIDS Information Summit sponsored by the Pacific Southwest Regional Library and the California AIDS Clearinghouse. Ms. Hamasu participated as a panel presenter and a facilitator for one of the break out groups. Derek Cowan, Graphic Designer for Eccles Health Sciences Library, initiated the portable videobroadcasting unit at this meeting and edited the tapes for web streaming. Links to the video archive of the meeting are available at <http://nml.gov/psr/aids_summit.html>.

PDA's

Ms. Davison-Turley organized a PDA Working Group in order to promote the use of PDA's in the region. Meetings are held via teleconference. Two teleconferences have been held with about 25 participants at each. At the first meeting participants determined projects, goals, and agendas for the year. The March meeting featured Dr. David Voran, MD, a physician executive with the Cerner Corporation. Dr. Voran spoke on "how physicians really use PDA's" and predicted some trends for the future. Ms. Davison-Turley and Mr. Carr installed and implemented a PHP Wiki as a resource sharing site for the PDA Working Group.

Ms. Davison-Turley presented a two-hour CE, "PDA's from A to Z: Personal Digital Assistants in the Medical Library", to 60 attendees at the MCMLA annual meeting.

Ms. Hartman taught “PDA Trick or Treat” with Jeanne Burke of Creighton Health Sciences Library to an audience of librarians and health professionals on October 31, 2002.

Education

Washington University volunteered their facilities as an additional site for NTCC classes.

In May 2002, RML staff and Eccles Technical Services staff developed a procedure that makes RML purchased materials part of the Eccles collection and accessible through the online catalog. These materials are available for loan at no cost to MCR Network members. From the MCR website members can also use an ILL request form (that includes a list of resources) to borrow materials such as MLA audiotapes. <<http://nmlm.gov/mcr/ill/>>

A small management and technology collection on netLibrary was opened for borrowing in October. There have been 1,107 hits on the site this year.

Ms. Weldon invited the NN/LM consumer health coordinators to sign on as instructors for the MLA CE course she developed, “Consumer Health Information”.

The RML, with Eccles Health Sciences Library, arranged for the workshop “TOXNET on the Web” with instructor Sheri Hester from the Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education on March 13, 2003. Ms. Hester was in Salt Lake City exhibiting at a toxicology meeting and offered to share her expertise.

Ms. Hartman evaluated ScreenWatch software for use by MCR to create NLM resource demonstrations that could be posted to the web as well as recorded on CD-ROMs. The education work group also tested it. The software seems ideal for MCR’s needs.

Library School Students

A library school student with the University of Illinois, Urbana Champaign program, visited the Creighton University Health Sciences Library. Ms. Champ-Blackwell gave her a tour of the library, explained the MCR RML, and demonstrated the communication tools used by the liaisons. Ms. Sommer met briefly with a University of Missouri Library School practicum student to explain the NN/LM. In June, 2002, she provided orientation to an Upward Bound student exploring library careers and a University of Missouri library school student completing a practicum at the J. Otto Lottes Health Sciences Library.

Exhibits and Presentations at Meetings (See Appendix D for a listing of exhibits)

Over the year, staff talked to about 3,000 visitors and offered about 900 demonstrations of NLM resources in exhibit halls. The region exhibited at 37 local and 7 national meetings. All state library association meetings, 4 state public health association and 4 state nursing association meetings were included in the local meetings.

Appendix A New and Revised Websites

Year 02 objectives for all project areas were added to the website.

Consumer Health <http://nnlm.gov/mcr/consumer_health/>
Colorado Consumer Health page <<http://nnlm.gov/mcr/states/colorado.php>>
Missouri Consumer Health page <http://nnlm.gov/mcr/consumer_health/mo.php>
Consumer Health Information for Seniors
<http://nnlm.gov/mcr/consumer_health/senior.ppt>
Health Careers <http://nnlm.gov/mcr/consumer_health/career.php>
Colorado Brochure <<http://nnlm.gov/mcr/states/brochure.pdf>>
Colorado Consumer Health Information Librarian's Listserv (CHILL)
<<http://nnlm.gov/mcr/states/mtgs.html>>
Consumer Health Working Group
<http://nnlm.gov/mcr/consumer_health/wkggrp.php>
Inner City and Minority Health <http://nnlm.gov/mcr/inner_city>
African American Health Resources <http://nnlm.gov/mcr/inner_city/aahealth.php>
Nebraska Minority Resources <http://nnlm.gov/mcr/consumer_health/ne.php>
LinkOut Button Farm <<http://nnlm.gov/mcr/linkout/linkout.php>>
Powerpoint Presentatons:
Finding Full Text Online <http://nnlm.gov/mcr/consumer_health/full.ppt>
Consumer Health for Seniors <http://nnlm.gov/mcr/consumer_health/senior.ppt>
Health Resources for High School Students
<http://nnlm.gov/mcr/consumer_health/schools.ppt>
Consumer Health Resources <http://nnlm.gov/mcr/consumer_health/minimed.ppt>

NN/LM Pages

Ms. Weldon updated the following NN/LM pages:

Basic Medical Library Management <<http://nnlm.gov/libinfo/mgmt/>>
Ejournal resources <<http://nnlm.gov/libinfo/ejournals/>>
NNLM Health Information page <<http://nnlm.gov/hip/>>
Funding Information <<http://nnlm.gov/projects/funding/>>

Appendix B
New Members in the MidContinental Region

New Network Members:

- Flint Hills Technical College, Emporia, KS
- Crook County Medical Services, Sundance, WY

New Affiliate Members:

Colorado

- Adams County Library System – Brighton Branch
- Arapahoe Library District
- Bemis Public Library
- Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment - Rocky Flats Reading Room
- Douglas County Public Library
- Pueblo Public Library District
- William V. Gervasini Memorial Library, Denver

Missouri

- Missouri Botanical Gardens
- Steris Corporation

Wyoming

- Albany County Public Library, Laramie
- Sheridan County Fulmer Public Library, Sheridan

Appendix C
Projects Awarded in the MidContinental Region

This table shows the projects that were awarded in the region and the population involved, either as the agency managing the project or the target population.

	Health Professional	Public Health	Public Library	Special Population	Community Based Organization
Express Outreach Awards					
Outreach to Missouri Rural Health Centers	X	X			X
K-State Veterinary Medical Library Outreach Project, KS	X	X	X		
Grillo Health Information Center, CO	X		X	X	X
Finding Spanish Language Materials on the Internet, UT	X	X	X	X	X
Impact Awards					
Enhancing access to biomedical information via Ariel, KS	X	X	X		
Librarians at the Rocky Mountain EBHC Workshop, CO	X				
Consumer Health Education Outreach with an Emphasis on Native American Outreach, CO	X		X	X	
Consumer Health Education and Promotion Project, MO	X	X	X	X	X
Access to Electronic Health Information Awards					
Access to Electronic Health Information for Denver, CO		X	X	X	X
Online Sound Recording of Health Information in Many Languages, UT	X	X	X	X	X
MEDLINE in the Mountains, CO			X	X	
Unlocking the Power of E-Health Information for Public Health Workers in Kansas	X	X			
Enhancement of the FPIN Librarian Community, MO	X				

Appendix D
Local and National Exhibits 2002/2003

Local & Regional Exhibits	Date	Place	Visitors	Demos
Kansas Library Association	4/9-11/02	Salina, KS	48	4
Utah Library Association	5/2-3/02	Sandy, UT	35	6
Colorado Rural Health Association	5/8-10/02	Breckenridge, CO		
Association for Utah Community Health (AUCH)	6/6-7/02	Snowbird, UT	18	8
Wyoming Veterinary Medical Association Summer Meeting	6/17-19/02	Laramie, WY	82	25
Montrose Rural Health Meeting	6/20-21/02	Montrose, CO		
Nurses Educator Conference	7/25-26/02	Breckenridge, CO		
Patterns of Culture:Transcultural Nursing Conference	8/22-23/02	Omaha, NE		
Health People 2010 Health Disparities Meeting	8/28-29/02	Denver, CO		
Missouri Library Association Conference	9/2-4/02	Kansas City, MO	89	42
Wyoming Library Association Annual Conference	9/18-20/02	Casper, WY	49	
Wyoming Nurses Association Annual Conference	9/19-21/02	Jackson, WY		
Utah Nurses Association	9/20-21/02	Park City, UT	32	13
Colorado Public Health Conference	9/23-24/02	Pueblo, CO	50	110
Wyoming Public Health Annual Education Conference	9/24-27/02	Gillette, WY	41	
Kansas Public Health Association Meeting	9/25-26/02	Wichita, KS	95	24
Wyoming Hospital Association	10/2-3/02	Casper, WY	34	
Nebraska Nurses Association	10/3/02	Nebraska		
Midcontinental Chapter of the Medical Library Association	10/6-8/02	Topeka, KS		
Licensed Practical Nurses Association of Nebraska	10/10/02	Nebraska		
Colorado Association of Libraries	10/17-19/02	Keystone, CO		
Wyoming MEGA Conference On Disability	10/23-25/02	Casper, WY		
Nebraska State Library Association	10/24-25/02	Lincoln, NE		
Multi Cultural Health Disparities, Tivoli Center	10/25/02	Denver, CO		
Missouri Public Health Association Conference	10/29-30/02	Lake of the Ozarks, MO	68	30
Day of the Dead Festival	11/1/02	Denver, CO	60	
Creighton Medical Center's Patient Safety Fair	12/10/02	Creighton, NE		
Diabetes & American Indian Exhibit	12/11-13/02	Denver, CO		
Utah Nutrition Council	12/19/02	Lehi, UT	35	
Colorado Chapter of Internal Medicine Conference	1/30-2/1/03	Colorado Springs, CO	70	55
Nursing Leadership Summit	3/25/03	Kearney, NE		
Black Family Health & Wellness Association Health Fair	4/2/03	Omaha, NE	60	0
Nebraska Public Health Directors Meeting	4/3/03	Grand Island, NE		
Kansas Library Association Tri-Conference	4/9-11/03	Salina, KS	48	4
Utah Dietetic Association	4/14-15/03	Lehi, UT	45	8
Colleague Connections	4/22/03	Denver, CO		
19th Annual Sharing Our Best Conference	4/23-24/03	Gage, NE		
TOTAL			959	329

National Exhibits 2002/2003

National Exhibits	Date	Place	Visitors	Demos
Alliance of Information Referral Systems (AIRS)	6/2-6/02	SLC, UT	88	45
American College of Sports Medicine	7/2/02	St. Louis, MO	1,017	99
Deaconess Parish Nurses 16th Westberg Symposium	9/25-27/02	St. Louis, MO	186	56
American Association of Managed Care Nurses	10/10-12/02	Las Vegas, NV	97	30
National Association for Home Health Care	10/27-30/02	SLC, UT	153	65
American College of Legal Medicine	2/28-3/2/03	Phoenix, AZ	66	66
American Academy of Allergy Asthma & Immunology	3/8-10/03	Denver, CO	267	211
TOTAL			1874	572