

# Quarterly Report

**Name and address of reporting institution:**

University of Utah, Spencer S. Eccles Health Sciences Library

10 North 1900 East, Building 589

Salt Lake City, UT 84112-5890

**Project Title:** Development of an Open Source Research Process Assistance Template that Supports CTSA and Research Initiatives

**Name of person submitting report:**

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**Reporting Period start date:** October 1, 2010

**Reporting Period end date:** December 31, 2010

**Publicity:**

A presentation about MyRA was given at the 2010 Midcontinental Chapter of the Medical Library Association annual meeting on October 8<sup>th</sup>. A copy of the PowerPoint presentation can be provided upon request. An abstract for a presentation at MLA 2011 was submitted but not accepted. A University of Utah CRAM session (Clinical Research and Methods) was given by the Biomedical Informatics Department's Scott Narus, who is co-chair of the MyRA Team, which included a portion on MyRA and introduced the web site to university personnel.

A brief overview of MyRA was given at an informal meeting of librarians at the AAHSL meeting in November. Many AAHSL member librarians attended that are either currently supporting or are interested in supporting CTSA awardees within their institutions. There was a lot of discussion about how libraries can support research within their institutions and MyRA seemed to be the most concrete example of how to achieve such. Ms. Shipman has fielded ad hoc questions from other library directors as a result of this overview.

The outline for a professional publication about the needs assessment process and outcomes conducted for MyRA has been drafted but no additional work has been completed.

**Outreach:**

None to report.

**Other accomplishments:**

A lot of emphasis was placed this quarter on populating the MyRA v 1.0 Web site – see <http://www.ccts.utah.edu/myra/>. We have contacted the University Health Care System to get boilerplate descriptions for many of the University units, centers, schools and colleges to post on MyRA so that grant writers can use these for uniformity and efficiency. Information that corresponds to that collected for the University of Utah was obtained from one of the CTSA Award partners – Intermountain Healthcare – and this information was added to the MyRA web site.

The Office of Sponsored Projects was contacted to see if they could provide examples of good and bad grant proposals for posting on MyRA for grant writers to review. They were not able to contribute such due to privacy issues but recommended that we could contact individual PIs to obtain their permission to post. To date, this has not been done.

The technical employee who had been assigned to work on MyRA development ended his work with the project around the end of October. A replacement for him is being recruited by the Biomedical Informatics Department. [Architectural design documents for MyRA v 2.0 have been completed and will be used to develop this version.](#)

Meanwhile, a subgroup of the new University of Utah Clinical Research Committee has exhibited interest in MyRA. This subgroup consists of six individuals. They will meet in the New Year to review the web site contents to date and to suggest additional resources and links.

To complement the MyRA virtual space, a physical research support center is being planned for placement within the lower level of the Spencer S. Eccles Health Sciences Library. Within this space, the administration for the University's CTSA Award will be housed. [This space will provide a central place where individuals can get assistance with their research information needs regardless of their level of research experience. It is envisioned that a full-time concierge will be located within the space to provide guidance and to connect individuals needing specific expertise to those who can offer such. Examples of such expertise include biostatistical support, database design instruction, clinical trial execution, comprehensive literature reviews, presentation skill development, clinical data base searching techniques, and research dissemination options, etc.](#) Jean Shipman met with CTSA representatives and a space designer and project manager to review designs for the space. The design should be completed by the end of December and send out for construction bid for early 2011.

**Target audience:**

None to report.

**Goals, Outcomes, Objectives:**

The subcommittee of the MyRA committee to storyboard the advanced version (version 2) of the virtual MyRA has been put on hold until a new computer professional is recruited. Needless to say, this loss of personnel has had a major impact on any progress being achieved to the more sophisticated interface and infrastructure design.

**Evaluation:**

None to report.

**Impacts and Observations:**

Jean Shipman has received positive comments from some University researchers after the CRAM session as to how valuable MyRA will be in supporting researchers at the University.

**Planned Activities:**

1. Additional content will be added to MyRA 1.0 and identified for inclusion in MyRA 2.0.
2. A subcommittee of the University's MyRA Committee will work with technical staff to storyboard the design of MyRA 2.0 once a new computer professional is hired.
3. The MyRA needs assessment publication outline will be further refined and shared with all authors.
4. Additional information architecture work on MyRA 2.0 will be completed.
5. A new computer professional will be assigned to the project.
6. The Clinical Research Committee MyRA Subcommittee will meet to review the web site contents.
7. Design of a physical research support center within the Spencer S. Eccles Health Sciences Library will be completed and construction of the center will begin.
8. Request a no-fund extension for the project.

 

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## My Research Assistant (MyRA) — A One-Stop Shop for Research Resources

### Ask MyRA

If you have a question about the research process, feedback about what we should include on this site, or anything else related then feel free to **Ask MyRA!**

#### MISSION

MyRA (My Research Assistant) is a web research portal that provides resources and tools for and about research for the University of Utah as well as it's research partners and affiliates.

#### VISION

MyRA is the central place where researchers go to explore, manage, initiate, and direct their research. It provides information and guidance at every step of the research process. MyRA answers questions, pushes relevant information to the user on a regular basis, invites exploration or directly supports rapid decision-making. It supports collaboration among various participants in the research process (e.g., senior or junior researcher, clinician, student, patient, and interested public). MyRA is the electronic entréz to FURTheR and other developed or collected tools, and is supplemented by a physical space that specifically assists researchers throughout their research processes.

