

Public Health Outreach Project Description

Title: Using State and National Public Health Information Resources:
A Web-Based Training Module for Utah

Staff: Kathleen M. McCloskey, Sharon Clark (One will be able to attend the April conference)

Organization: Eccles Health Sciences Library and Utah Department of Health

Date: 2000 – 2001

Objectives:

- To enhance the ability of Utah's public health workforce to make sound, evidence-based decisions by increasing awareness, utilization, and proficiency in the use of on-line public health information resources.
- Increase the awareness and utilization of state and national health information resources by creating Web based tutorials for PubMed and Utah Department of Health on-line public health databases.
- To introduce the concept of research beginning with and supported by information into public health training programs at the Utah Department of Health (UDOH).

Target Audience:

The target audience is comprised of Utah's state and local public health workforce, ranging from those with little or no formal public health training to public health professionals. This workforce numbers 1300 at UDOH and approximately 700 individuals at 12 local health departments across the state.

Needs assessment (methodology and results):

Baseline data were collected via a Web based survey. The survey addressed the respondents' knowledge of PubMed and the state information databases and asked their level of interest in learning more about them. The results confirmed the need for all aspects of the project.

Intervention:

A Web site will be developed that will serve as a stand-alone resource as well as a training tool for classroom training. The content of the web site will initially include links to prominent public health web sites, NLM resources, public health databases, and computer based training modules. Tutorials on how to use PubMed and statewide public health databases will be a major component of the Web site. An advanced approach in locating public health information and data will focus on integrating both bibliographic databases and data sources. A Loansome Doc account will be set up at Eccles Library to cover the costs of articles requested by participants.

Training and other materials developed:

Training materials, in addition to the Web based tutorials, will include power point presentations that review the basic concepts presented in the tutorials. They will also demonstrate how to access the Web site, the value of it, and its content.

Website (developed as part of project and how maintained):

The Web site is currently under development, but will be available in early January, 2001. It will be housed on the Eccles Library server and maintained by Kathleen McCloskey with the assistance of Knowledge Weaver staff.

Evaluation (methodology and results):

At present only the Baseline data have been collected. Pre and post tests will be incorporated into the tutorials and will be given at each of the training sessions held.

Evaluation	Evaluation Tools	Measures
Baseline data	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Convenience survey • Anecdotal information from supervisors 	Prevailing awareness, knowledge, and attitudes of public health information resources.
Student's knowledge of NLM products and how to search PubMed	Pre and post tests of students	Knowledge levels before and after training
Student's knowledge of state and national public health query systems	Pre and post tests	Knowledge levels before and after training
Quality of training and student satisfaction	Pre and post tests of students (in class and in CBT)	Student's knowledge before and after the classroom and CBT training.
Utilization of web site	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Web site hit "counter" • CBT registration forms • Web site e-mail feedback 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of hits to the site • Number of students who complete a CBT
Loansome Doc tracking	Loansome Doc registration form on web page.	Number of Loansome Doc users from State and Local health departments.
Loansome Doc satisfaction	Attach survey with each document delivery	Satisfaction rates of users
Project implementation	Quarterly progress reports	Compliance with grant proposal or justification for modification.

Poster Sessions/Exhibits/Presentations/Publications:

At the NACCHO/ASTHO meeting in July of 2000 Sharon Clark hosted a booth for the UDOH and spoke with visitors about the project. The project will be presented at the Utah Public Health Association annual meeting in May of 2001 and at the annual Utah Environmental Health Association meeting in April

Partnerships:

Eccles Health Sciences Library and the Utah Department of Health contributed time for Kathleen McCloskey and Sharon Clark to work on the project. Previous partnerships between the UDOH and Eccles Library had been on a very informal basis. Another viable partnership is with the University of Utah School of Medicine's new Public Health program. This will give us an opportunity to impact the curriculum of this program by introducing the students to information seeking behaviors.

Marketing:

Both the UDOH and local health offices have well-developed communications systems for publicizing classes and new products. E-mail is routinely used, departments and offices have newsletters, and each rural local health office has a web page. This project will be a component of the larger Public Health Orientation program and will be included in UDOH publicity for that program.

Brochures and posters advertising the availability of the Information Access training module will be printed and distributed to all of the UDOH and LHD offices/departments. In addition most of the public health employees belong to one or another of the local public health associations. The project will be promoted with the Utah Environmental Health Association, the Utah Health Education Association, and the Utah Public Health Association. Training sessions will be offered to each of the associations at their meetings for groups of individuals.

Administrative issues:

Collaboration between Kathleen McCloskey, Sharon Clark and the programmer, Valerie Craige, has worked well so far. Valerie Craige works in the Eccles Library and is quite accessible.

Challenges Faced:

It is already anticipated that this is realistically a 2 year project. The challenge will be to complete the Web site and schedule the training in time to write the final report. It is a real exciting challenge however.

Were Project Objectives Met?

The project is not yet completed, but so far we are on target.

Sustainability:

This project will be continued as an ongoing training effort of the UDOH. Continued funding for Loansome Doc articles for UDOH employees is a very real possibility as they have no librarian or library and an outside grant from one of their divisions has augmented previous years funding level to support enhanced services for Interlibrary Loans for this project.

Anecdotes or Other Observations:

There will undoubtedly be a number of anecdotes and observations recorded for this project. In traveling around the state we will encounter a number of interesting situations and people. We will be making note of them as this will give us insight into the various information seeking behaviors of public health professionals.