Public Health Information Access Project: Providing Information Access through a Digital Library

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University of Massachusetts Medical School

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Public Health
Information Access Project

Providing information access through a digital library

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New England Region
University of Massachusetts Medical School

November 3, 2011
PHPartners Steering Committee Meeting
National Library of Medicine
Highlights

- Objectives
- Description
- Challenges
- Lessons Learned
- Discussion and Questions
Objectives

- Reinforce understanding of NLM products and services
- Expand access to trusted licensed information resources
- Provide free article delivery
- Provide access to information management software
- Train participants
- Assess use of resources
Initial Site Visit Findings: New England States

• Limited or no access to full-text journal articles
• Few had in-house libraries
• Some health departments had no Intranet
• Need for evidence-based public health (EBPH) information to write grants, reports, etc.
Description: Current Model

• Site visit to introduce project, answer questions, and recruit team members
• Assess public health department environment; gather information about their access and interests
• Identify key stakeholders at each site
• Identify project contact person at each site
• Initial all site project meeting at UMMS
• Identify libraries to provide article delivery services to each public health department

UMMS = University of Massachusetts Medical School
Current Model Continued

- Project Consultant negotiates with publishers and vendors
- Resources provided via Digital Library Page on customized Intranet site
- NER staff provide PubMed and EBPH training
- LSL staff provide Endnote training
- State contact librarians provide article delivery services and reimbursed
- LSL provides article delivery as the Library of Last Resort

NER = New England Region, National Network of Libraries of Medicine
EBPH= Evidence-based public health
LSL = Lamar Soutter Library, UMass Medical School
Current Partners

Public Health Departments

- Boston Public Health Commission
- Colorado Department of Public Health and the Environment
- Connecticut Department of Public Health
- Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention
- Massachusetts Department of Public Health
- New Hampshire Division of Public Health Services
- Rhode Island Department of Health
- Vermont Department of Health

Library Partners

- University of Massachusetts Lamar Soutter Library (MA)
- Poudre Valley Health System (CO)
- University of Connecticut Lyman Maynard Stowe Library (CT)
- Maine Medical Center (ME)
- Maine State Library (ME)
- Massachusetts State Laboratory Institute Medical Library (MA)
- Lemuel Shattuck Hospital (MA)
- New Hampshire DHHS Library (NH)
- Rhode Island/Lifespan Hospital (RI)
- University of Vermont Dana Medical Library (VT)
E-Resources on Current Platform

Databases
- PubMed
- Cochrane Library
- STAT!Ref
- Global Health

E-Journals
- New England Journal of Medicine
- Public Health Reports
- Annual Review Series (12)
- Oxford University Press (15)
- Springer (21)
- University of Chicago Press (7)

Online Resources
- PHPartners.org
- The Community Guide
- National Agricultural Library
Maine CDC New Digital Library

This project is being sponsored in part by the New England Region National Network, Libraries of Medicine (NER, NN/LM)

E-Journals to be tested...

- New England Journal of Medicine

University of Chicago Press titles

- American Journal of Sociology
- Clinical Infectious Diseases (CID)
- Infection Control and Hospital Epidemiology
- Journal of Infectious Diseases
- Journal of Law and Economics
- Journal of Labor Economics
- Social Service Review

New Licensed Databases and Traditional Resources
The Digital Library provides Health Department staff with free access to electronic public health journals, books, and databases. The Digital Library Project is sponsored in part by the National Network of Libraries of Medicine: New England Region.

- Databases
- E-Journals
- Journal Article Delivery
- Academic Websites
- Association Websites
- Government Websites
- Global Health Websites
- Citation Management
- Contact Us

Databases

- Cochrane Library - a collection of six databases that contain different types of high-quality, independent evidence to inform healthcare decision-making, and a seventh database that provides information about groups in The Cochrane Collaboration.
  - Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews
  - Cochrane Central Register of Controlled Trials
  - Cochrane Methodology Register
  - Database of Abstracts of Reviews of Effects
  - Health Technology Assessment Database
  - NHS Economic Evaluation Database
Information Management

- Provided purchased copies of Endnote software for selected desktops
- Citation management software to save, store, and manage bibliographic references and files
- Ability to import citations from PubMed and other bibliographic databases
- Transfer and organize PDFs
- Insert citations into Microsoft Word documents
Training

• Hands-on training at each health department
• Emphasize content and functionality of resources
• Skill development tied to Core Competencies for Public Health Professionals:
  • Identify sources of public health data and information
  • Use information technology to collect, store, and retrieve data and information
  • Retrieve and review scientific evidence related to public health issues, concerns and interventions
To advance information resource access, there is a need to know:

- What resources are most needed?
- What journals are core to the work?
- How can this information effectively be accessed?
- How much will these resources cost?

- Usage data
- Journal survey
- Pre & post training surveys
- Evaluation Consultant to conduct individual interviews and focus groups at each site
- Project-end survey

Purpose of this evaluation is to assess what has been the perceived value of the resources and services provided.
## Digital Library Database Usage

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Project Challenges

- Pricing of electronic resources
- Vendor license agreements
- Technology issues - installation Digital Library pages
- IT security issues
Lessons Learned

- There are some vendors willing to work within new pricing models
- Need a project consultant for ongoing communication with all parties
- Need library partners
- Need committed liaison in each PHD
- There is interest in project expansion
Project Expansion

- Multi-year project
- Expand beyond the New England (Arkansas & Kentucky); others to be determined
- Explore alternative models for training and article delivery services
- Continue fostering collaborations between NN/LM, NLM, NAL, CDC and other partners to build a sustainable model