



*A publication of the National Network of Libraries of Medicine MidContinental Region*

## NN/LM Contracts Awarded for 2006-2011

On April 27, 2006, Dr. Donald Lindberg, Director of NLM, called the Directors of the RMLs across the country. He was letting them know whether or not they had been awarded the NN/LM contract for 2006-2011. The MidContinental Region staff had been in suspense awaiting his call since submitting the final revised proposal. It's true, no other library had submitted a proposal for the contract, but staff were still anxious about the outcome. In addition, we had submitted a proposal to become the Outreach Resource Evaluation Center (OERC): who would get that contract? The Spencer S. Eccles Health Sciences Library at the University of Utah is proud to continue as your Regional Medical Library for another five years. Although we did not get the OERC contract, we know that you will benefit from the efforts of the University of Washington, who will continue as the center for the NN/LM.

In the other NN/LM regions successful proposals were submitted by:

- University of Massachusetts Medical School, The Lamar Soutter Library (New England Region)
- New York University, Frederick L. Ehrman Medical Library (Middle Atlantic Region)
- University of Maryland, Baltimore, Health Sciences and Human Services Library (Southeastern/Atlantic Region)
- University of Illinois at Chicago, Library of the Health Sciences (Greater Midwest Region)
- Houston Academy of Medicine, Texas Medical Center Library (South Central Region)
- University of Washington, Health Sciences Libraries and Information Center (Pacific Northwest Region)
- University of California, Los Angeles, Louise M. Darling Biomedical Library (Pacific Southwest Region)

## Resource Libraries

The NN/LM MidContinental Region will continue to subcontract with libraries in the five states outside of Utah to carry out the mission of the NN/LM in their state and/or to lead the region in one of its special projects areas such as consumer health outreach, community outreach, advocacy, and education. These libraries will be Resource

Libraries partnering to improve access to health information:

- Bernard Becker Medical Library, Washington University
- Creighton University Health Sciences Library/Resource Center
- McGoogan Library of Medicine, University of Nebraska Medical Center
- Denison Memorial Library, University of Colorado Health Sciences Center
- Dykes Medical Library, University of Kansas Medical Center
- J. Otto Lottes Health Sciences Library, University of Missouri-Columbia
- University of Wyoming Libraries

The new 2006-2011 contract began May 1, 2006 and will end April 30, 2011. The award has a budget of over \$8.5 million to fulfill the mission of the National Network of Libraries of Medicine which is "...to advance the progress of medicine and improve the public health by providing all U.S. health professionals equal access to biomedical information and by improving the public's access to information to enable them to make informed decisions about their health."<sup>1</sup>

*See "Contract" on page 2*

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## Contract Highlights

In the next five years, the library is looking forward to carrying out the programs it proposed to the National Library of Medicine. Here are some of the highlights from the proposal:

- Use of interactive technologies such as the access grid and videoconferencing to offer training to health sciences librarians in the region.
- Improve connectivity within hospital libraries to achieve the standard of 150 K bandwidth and ability to participate in and use multi-media via the Internet.
- Increase the number of libraries that participate in the Regional Buying Consortium of Electronic Resources.
- Work with libraries in the region to develop an emergency preparedness plan.
- Promote Information Rx program that has health care professionals writing information prescriptions that can be filled by libraries and MedlinePlus.
- Increase the number of health sciences libraries providing electronic document delivery.
- With Network members insure that all public health programs have an informatics component.

- Work with the two remaining states not offering Go Local to establish a directory of local health services integrated into MedlinePlus.

Liaisons will provide details on their plans for the next five years during Breezing Along with the RML sessions held on the third Wednesday of each month at 10am MT/11am CT. The MCR web site has instructions for tuning in.  
<http://nlnm.gov/mcr/services/updates/updates.html>

For more than just the highlights, browse through our proposal available on the MCR web site.  
[http://nlnm.gov/mcr/about/pdf/NNLM\\_Region4\\_2006-2011\\_Proposal11.pdf](http://nlnm.gov/mcr/about/pdf/NNLM_Region4_2006-2011_Proposal11.pdf)

As always, we're interested in knowing what you think of our plans. Send us an email with your comments.

<sup>1</sup> Factsheet: National Network of Libraries of Medicine [Internet] Bethesda (MD): National Library of Medicine (US); [updated 2005 Jul 19; cited 2006 May 3- Available from: <http://www.nlm.nih.gov/pubs/factsheets/nlnm.html>

-C. Hamasu

## The MidContinental Region in Numbers

In the NLM Update at MLA 2006, national statistics for 2001-2006 were reported for the NN/LM. For those of you who like numbers, we thought you would be interested in a regional version. Here is the work conducted over the past 5 years in the MidContinental Region by you and the liaisons in the language of "numerics."

|             |   |
|-------------|---|
| \$5,928,000 | Total amount spent  |
| \$3,232,000 | Total amount awarded in subcontracts  |
| 13,428      | The number of participants who attended outreach training and demonstration sessions          |
| 1,058       | The number of Loansome Doc users  |
| 1,032       | The number of public library staff who attended outreach training and demonstration sessions  |
| 829         | The number of outreach training and demonstration sessions                                    |
| 931         | The number of health care providers who attended outreach training and demonstration sessions |
| 630         | Number of times MedlinePlus was taught  |
| 552         | The number of consumers who attended outreach training and demonstration sessions             |
| 402         | The number of times PubMed was taught   |
| 235         | Number of Affiliate members   |
| 194         | Number of full Network members  |
| 75          | Number of public library members  |
| 71          | The number of libraries that offer LinkOut  |
| 62          | The number of EFTS participants   |
| 37          | Subcontracts awarded  |
| 21          | Number of individuals who have been/are MCR liaisons  |
| 7           | Number of Resource Libraries  |

## Check Out the New nnlm.gov: MCR and NN/LM Web Sites Redesigned

As we reported to you in the May issue of the Plains to Peaks Post, in September 2005 the National Networks of Libraries of Medicine (NN/LM) commissioned a consulting firm, American Institutes for Research (AIR), to help the NN/LM improve the national and regional web sites. The goal of the redesign was to present a consistent look and feel for all of the NN/LM sites.

After conducting extensive usability tests, AIR designed templates with a new look and feel as well as an improved navigation system. The redesign allows users to move seamlessly from the MCR site (<http://nnlm.gov/mcr/>) to other regional sites and the national site (<http://nnlm.gov/>). The new web site launched in June 2006.

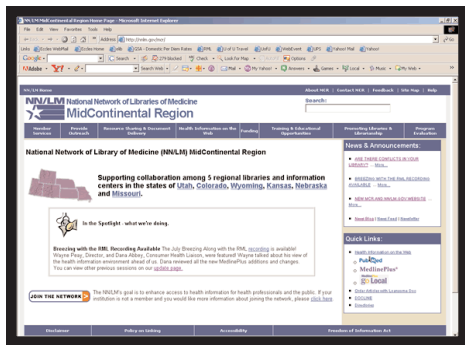
The new design features a consistent header, footer, and top navigational menu for all the sites. Items in the top navigational menu represent the major topical sections of the web site. The MCR web site has the following categories in the top menu:

- Member services (RML updates, reports, listserv, news, regional advisory board, technology services, promotional items, Network membership)
- Provide outreach (handouts, symposia)
- Resource sharing and document delivery (DOCLINE, LinkOut, EFTS, find libraries)
- Health information on the web (consumer health, community and minority health, state resources, information for health professionals)
- Funding (funding opportunities)
- Training and educational opportunities (classes offered, online education, archived presentations, materials for loan)
- Promoting libraries and librarianship (advocacy resources)
- Program evaluation (evaluation resources)

A left hand navigational menu guides users to the top level pages within a section. The left hand navigational menu makes it easy for users to visualize what pages are available within a section. A top sub-menu box breaks down topics on long pages.

We are constantly working to improve the web site and would welcome your comments and suggestions.

-S. Dennis



## Recent Enhancements to Your Favorite NLM Databases

### Natural Standard monographs now available in MedlinePlus

In addition to information on thousands of prescription and over-the-counter medicines, MedlinePlus ([www.medlineplus.gov](http://www.medlineplus.gov)), now includes over 100 herbal and dietary supplement monographs in English and Spanish from *Natural Standard*. *Natural Standard* is an evidence-based, peer-reviewed collection of information on alternative treatments. Each monograph includes a table of uses of the supplement based on scientific evidence. The herb or supplement receives a grade ranging from A (strong scientific evidence for this use) to F (strong scientific evidence against this use) for diseases or conditions it treats. Each monograph provides information on dosing, safety, interactions, and selected references. Many monographs also contain illustrations.

You can find *Natural Standard* monographs by choosing Drugs & Supplements from the MedlinePlus homepage. Search results for *Natural Standard* pages have the label (supplement) following the name of the monograph.

### Household Products Database Updated

NLM's Household Products Database has been updated and now includes 6,000 brand name products. The Household Products Database ([www.householdproducts.nlm.nih.gov/](http://www.householdproducts.nlm.nih.gov/)) is a consumer guide that provides information on the potential health effects of chemicals contained in common household products used inside and around the home. This resource helps consumers learn about ingredients in brand-name products.

### New Version of PubMed Tutorial Now Available

The NLM has also released a new version of the PubMed tutorial available from the PubMed ([www.pubmed.gov](http://www.pubmed.gov)) sidebar. This new version incorporates changes to PubMed through October 2005 including full author searching, first author searching, and updated links to PubMed Help on the Bookshelf.

### WebWISER Makes WISER available on the Internet

WISER, originally designed for download to a Personal Digital Assistant (PDA), is an application designed to assist first responders in hazardous material incidents. It provides a wide range of information on hazardous substances, including chemical identification support, physical characteristics, human health data, and containment and suppression information. Now there is WebWISER (<http://webwiser.nlm.nih.gov/>), which provides the WISER functionality via the Internet, without downloading of software or data to the desktop.

-D. Abbey

## New Utah/Network Member Liaison: John Bramble



Greetings Network Members! I want to take this opportunity to introduce myself as the new Utah/Network Member Liaison for the MidContinental Region and let readers know how excited I am to be a part of the RML team.

I got my start in libraries after answering a help wanted ad in the University of Utah's campus newspaper to work as a part-time circulation assistant. From there I moved into a part-time position in the reference department and became addicted to searching for information and more importantly assisting our patrons find information. With encouragement from the wonderful faculty at the

Spencer S. Eccles Health Sciences Library. I entered library school while taking a full-time adjunct faculty position with the reference department and graduated with my MLIS from Florida State University in 2003.

Upon graduation, I took a job with the Eccles Library as their Outreach Librarian. Along with the other outreach team members, I traveled the state of Utah marketing and training public librarians, health care providers, and library patrons on library resources and resources from the National Library of Medicine. I also worked very closely with the Tribal Connections Four Corners Project team members to identify the health information needs of residents and healthcare providers in the Four Corners Region of Utah, Colorado, New Mexico, and Arizona.

During this same time, I became very interested and active in promoting/training in the use of technologies that assist the educational process, especially personal digital assistants and Internet communication technologies. I worked with the education team at the Eccles Library and taught classes, such as Macromedia's DreamWeaver, Microsoft Office Excel, PubMed, Introduction to MedlinePlus, and Topics in Medicine: Pediatric Rotation.

I look forward to providing DOCLINE support to Network members and working with the other DOCLINE coordinators. My special project area, which is gaining momentum, is the MCR Regional Buying Consortium. The project's objective is to increase the availability of high quality electronic resources for Network members at reduced rates. If you would like to learn more about DOCLINE or the Regional Buying Consortium, or how the RML can better serve you and your programs, please do not hesitate to contact me.

### NLM'S NTCC TRAINING FOR YOU LOCALLY

The National Training Center and Clearinghouse (NTCC) will be offering free hands-on classes through the Spencer S. Eccles Health Sciences Library at the University of Utah in Salt Lake City. These classes will be held in the Eccles Health Sciences Education Building, Room #3100 C:



PubMed® Training  
Tuesday, August 29, 2006  
8:30am to 5:00pm

The NLM Gateway and ClinicalTrials.gov  
Wednesday, August 30, 2006  
8:30am to noon

TOXNET®  
Thursday, August 31, 2006  
9:00am to 4:00pm

*ClinicalTrials.gov*  
A service of the U.S. National Institutes of Health  
Developed by the National Library of Medicine

**TOXNET**  
Toxicology Data Network

All three training sessions are intended for health sciences library staff, health professionals and anyone interested in using these free NLM databases. The NLM Gateway is of particular interest to public and consumer health librarians. The TOXNET class and database focus on environmental health and toxicology. By following this link, <http://nmlm.gov/ntcc/request.html>, you will be offered a quick and easy on-line registration form. The staff of the NTCC hopes to see you there.

## NN/LM Support Vital to FPIN Consortium

Deborah Ward, MA, MSLIS, AHIP  
Director, Health Sciences Libraries  
University of Missouri-Columbia  
warddh@health.missouri.edu

In 2002, the Family Physicians Inquiries Network (FPIN) was a fledgling organization, with about fifteen librarians providing search expertise to support evidence-based practice. FPIN members saw the value of answering actual questions generated in practice, and wanted to continue publication of their newly-developed format, *Clinical Inquiry*. The consortium needed assistance from a larger group of professional librarian searchers, more uniform production processes, training for librarians new to the process, and a librarian community to partner on the articles and engage in other scholarly activities. This meant there was also a need to develop training materials, support regular meetings, and travel to train local groups. At about this time, the call went out from NN/LM MidContinental Region for proposals. The timing could not have been better, and the subsequent funding of the project made a tremendous difference in the development of the FPIN Librarian Community.

Project goals fell into two general categories: develop the librarian community and create a new FPIN article type that would be a tool used by physicians to discuss care decisions with patients, based on evidence. It would be the *Clinical Inquiry* "translated" into lay language.

Over the next two years, participants worked to create the following outcomes:

- A Librarian Team with eleven members from FPIN-related organizations. This group meets by teleconference monthly to discuss tools and activities associated with the Librarian Community.
- Standards for searching that include a ranked list of databases and four search filters to retrieve evidence-based literature.
- A search summary form to serve as the librarian's guide to reporting search results in a way that lists the articles according to evidence level.
- An online training package for FPIN librarians, which was the basis for six on-site training sessions from coast to coast.
- An MLA CE course for librarians interested in advancing evidence-based practice, taught at MLA and at two MLA chapter meetings.
- Participation in speaker panels and poster sessions at MLA and chapter meetings, and the publication of a JMLA article.
- A format for an evidence-based patient handout based on the *Clinical Inquiry* articles, and an implementation plan for publishing them. FPIN now publishes these articles monthly in tear-sheet format in the Evidence Based Practice Newsletter.
- 4 annual meetings of the 80-member community at MLA.

There are now around 300 published clinical inquiries appearing in the *Journal of Family Practice* and *American Family Physician*. Librarians receive co-authorship for their role in the research methodology and their participation in the review process. A text word search for clinical inquiry in PubMed will retrieve them. Perhaps the most rewarding aspect of the work is the partnership with physicians in teaching clinical scholarship within member residency programs.

More information is available in the October 2004 *MLA News*, January 2005 *JMLA*, and at ([www.fpin.org](http://www.fpin.org)). The FPIN Librarian Community would like to thank NN/LM MCR for supporting this project. It has truly made a difference for both the librarians and the physician colleagues in the consortium.

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## Challenge: A Spanish-Language Outreach Project

Chris Engleman  
Director, Grillo Health Information Center  
Boulder Public Library  
[englemanc@boulder.lib.co.us](mailto:englemanc@boulder.lib.co.us)

Boulder, Colorado is generally not thought of as having a diverse and underserved population. But in fact, there is a sizable Latino population in Boulder County making up 11% of the total county population, 25% of whom have an income below poverty level. Attempting to provide access to quality health information to this particular population group became a high priority of the Grillo Health Information Center at the Boulder Public Library.

Initially funded by a subcontract from the NN/LM MidContinental Region, a project began in the spring of 2003 to bring Internet health information access to the Latino population of Boulder. It did not take long for us to become aware of the many challenges and obstacles we were facing to successfully achieve our goals.

### Reaching Out to Provide Access

In a recent Boulder Public Library survey, it was found that only 2% of library users identified themselves as Latino, so we felt it was important that we take our project and services out to the Latino community. We worked with two local community organizations, only one of which will be discussed in this brief article.

People's Clinic provides accessible health care for the medically underserved. 43-48% of clinic users are Latino, many of whom speak little or no English. With great support and assistance from the clinic's administration, we were able to have a Spanish-speaking volunteer equipped with a laptop computer in the waiting room for a two-three hour period one day a week. This volunteer was available to research health-related questions using MedlinePlus en español.

*See "Challenge" on page 6*

## Challenges

Convincing people to use our services proved to be a big challenge, because there were educational, linguistic, social, and cultural barriers to overcome. Since 45% of the Latino population of Boulder has less than a high school degree, many of the Spanish-speaking individuals struggle with knowing what question to ask, much less how to ask it. Because 35% of the local Latino population speak English not well or not at all, there were likely fears of trying to engage in conversation with our volunteer. There were possible social issues of fear of discrimination and of not trusting our volunteer to translate the information correctly. Many using the clinic are illegal immigrants and there is simply a fear of talking to anyone outside necessary channels. We also discovered a cultural barrier. Within the Latino culture there is a strong belief that the physician is the sole authority in health matters, and that you should not ask questions and do your own gathering of information.

During the course of the project we tried several ways to improve our rate of "success." One that helped most was when our volunteer started wearing a People's Clinic badge, giving her a more "official" look. The volunteer also began speaking directly to the patrons in the waiting room to try and establish trust with the people. We simplified the language on our Spanish-language brochures to speak at the educational level of a larger number of the Latino population.

The number of health-related questions we have received from the Spanish-speaking population of Boulder has been far smaller than we had hoped. But in proceeding with the project and discovering the barriers to successfully achieving our goals, we have then been challenged to find solutions to overcome those barriers. Believing as we do in the importance of this project, we hope that we will continually find new solutions to increase our rate of success.

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## Health Kiosks Provide Information

Aaron Hanson  
Resource Center Coordinator  
Utah AIDS Foundation  
[aaron.hansen@utahaids.org](mailto:aaron.hansen@utahaids.org)

The Utah AIDS Foundation (UAF) received funding from the NN/LM MidContinental Region in support of an HIV/AIDS Health Information Kiosk project. Overall, the project has been successful, and the UAF is excited to continue this educational project beyond the recently completed funding cycle.

The Utah AIDS Foundation's Health Kiosk project is part of our HIV/AIDS Resource Center and is the first phase of an ongoing effort to do informational outreach, providing electronic health information to those in our community who may not currently have access to this information or access to the Internet. During its initial stages the project had many challenges as well as great accom-

plishments and it has definitely been a great learning experience for the UAF. During the course of the project, new relationships were formed with agencies in the Intermountain Region and many current relationships have been strengthened. This project has reached clients and individuals in three counties: Kiosks were placed at locations in the Salt Lake Metro area (Salt Lake County), Ogden Metro area (Weber County), and on the campus of Idaho State University in Pocatello (Bannock County).

## Kiosks Provide Information Access

One of the initial objectives of the project was that individuals living with HIV/AIDS will have increased physical access (and increased awareness of resources) to computers connected to the Internet, and specifically to UAF and NLM health information resources. This objective was met by placing Internet health kiosks in four locations where individuals living with HIV/AIDS or at risk for HIV already gather to receive HIV and health-related services. In all, three kiosks and one computer workstation were installed in locations around the Intermountain area.



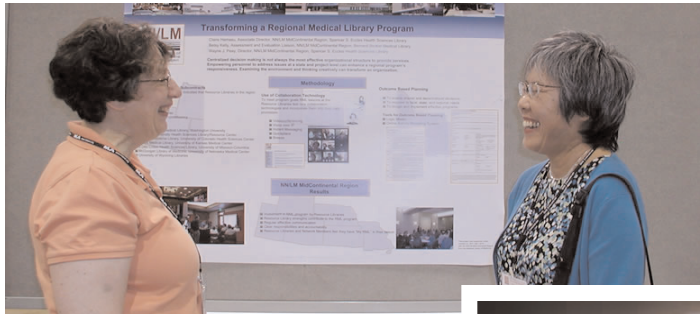
Additionally, the health kiosk project has strengthened the collaboration between the UAF and Eccles Health Sciences Library and the NN/LM. In working through the project and its various barriers and accomplishments, the staff of the NN/LM and Eccles Health Sciences Library have been invaluable in assisting the UAF through this project.

The current URL for the Resource Library Health Kiosks is ([www.uaflibrary.com](http://www.uaflibrary.com)). This is the portal web site for all kiosk units and grants users access to other web resources provided by UAF, MedlinePlus, Utahealthnet, and the Eccles Health Sciences Library. This web site is updated regularly to reflect changing resources, web sites, and information. The UAF Resource Library web site is an excellent resource for accurate, up-to-date information on HIV and related topics.

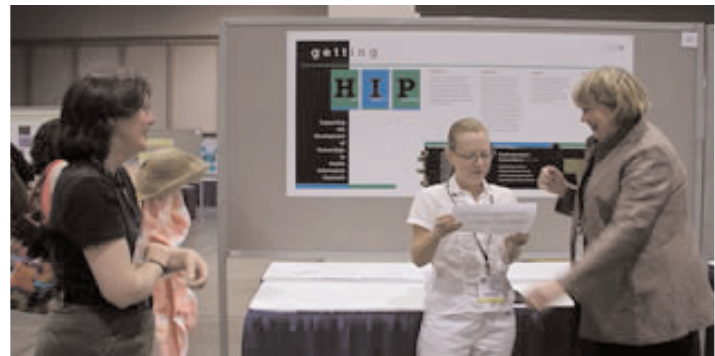
## Lessons Learned

We learned from this experience that solid collaborative partnerships are essential, as well as factoring in ample time for planning, implementation, tracking, and follow-up. This would allow for initial snags to be worked out before the actual project is expected to begin.

I believe that any project that is aimed at disseminating health information to those people in our community that are traditionally out of reach, is going to be of great use to the community at large. I am eager to continue to update, upgrade and fine-tune our web site and kiosks to better meet the needs of our more marginalized clientele as well as learning more about their constantly changing health needs and interests.



# The RML at MLA Phoenix 2006



## NLM Technical Bulletin March-April 2006

[http://www.nlm.nih.gov/pubs/techbull/ma06/ma06\\_issue\\_cover.html](http://www.nlm.nih.gov/pubs/techbull/ma06/ma06_issue_cover.html)

### Technical Notes - e1

Quick Tour on Searching by Journal in PubMed®  
 NLM® ChemIDplus Adds New Searching Features  
 DailyMed Web Site Now Available  
 PubMed® Maintenance for EDATs on Older Citations  
 MedlinePlus® Adds Tutorial on Evaluating Internet Health Information  
 RSS Feeds Available from the NLM Technical Bulletin  
 UMLS® 2006AA Release, February 2006  
 New Books Added to NCBI Bookshelf  
 TOXMAP Adds New Chemical and Health Data  
 National Library of Medicine® Resource Update: Enviro-Health Links/Pesticide Exposure  
 Notice for PubMed® Saved Searches Created with Date Limitations  
 New Default Displays for PubMed®, Journals, MeSH®, and the NLM Catalog  
 PubMed® Limits Page Revised  
 Quick Tours on Searching the NLM Catalog  
 Importing TOXLINE® Special Citations into Reference Manager®  
 2004 Toxics Release Inventory (TRI) Data Released on NLM's® TOXNET®  
 LactMed: A New Database on Drugs and Lactation from NLM®

### PubMed® Limits Page Updated - e2

More options for refining searches

### PubMed Central®: New Journals Participating and New Content Added - e3

New journals participating and content from already participating journals has been added

### New Search and Display Options Available in the Journals Database - e4

New search options and XML display available in Journals

### GEO Accession Numbers in MEDLINE® - e5

GEO Accession Numbers now being added to MEDLINE®

### NLM Classification 2006 Edition Now Available - e6

Additions and changes to the schedule

### Skill Kit: Customize the Display of Your NLM Gateway Search Results - e7

Exploring the NLM Gateway display

### DOCLINE® 2.7: The Next Generation of Routing - e8

DOCLINE 2.7 released

## May-June 2006

[http://www.nlm.nih.gov/pubs/techbull/mj06/mj06\\_issue\\_cover.html](http://www.nlm.nih.gov/pubs/techbull/mj06/mj06_issue_cover.html)

### Technical Notes - e1

New Version of the NLM Gateway Includes Two New Resources  
 Updated Training Manuals Available  
 New Instructional Resource on MeSH®  
 PubMed® Tutorial Updated  
 WISER Version 2.2 Available for Download  
 Papers of Cardiologist Edward D. Freis Added to Profiles in Science®  
 RSS Feeds for PubMed's® New/Noteworthy  
 RSS News Feed and Quick Tour Now Available from the NLM Division of Specialized Information Services  
 NCBI Toolbar No Longer Supported  
 Try New Features in PubMed®  
 NLM® Adds Interactive Body Maps to MedlinePlus®

### Order of Authors in MEDLINE®/PubMed® Citations - e2

New PubMed displays of author names

### NIH Grant Numbers in PubMed® Citations - e3

How to search PubMed for NIH grant numbers

### Wellcome Trust Grant Number Added to MEDLINE®/PubMed® Citations - e4

How to search PubMed for Wellcome Trust grant numbers

### PubMed Central®: New Journals Participating and New Content Added - e5

New journals participating and content from already participating journals has been added

### Information Rx Tool Kit Redesign - e6

A free program to assist physicians in referring their patients to MedlinePlus

### Skill Kit: Overview of Resources from the Toxicology and Environmental Health Information Program (TEHIP) - e7

Discover the various resources available

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National Network of Libraries of Medicine MidContinental Region

Spencer S. Eccles Health Sciences Library  
10 North 1900 East, Building 589  
Salt Lake City, Utah 84112-5890

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**NN/LM MidContinental Region Staff**

|   |              |                               |
|---|--------------|-------------------------------|
| For your state liaison                                | 800-338-7657 |                               |
| Wayne Peay<br>Director                                | 801-587-3412 | wayne@lib.med.utah.edu        |
| Claire Hamasu<br>Associate Director                   | 801-587-3412 | chamasu@rml4.utah.edu         |
| Sharon Dennis<br>Technology Coordinator               | 801-587-3518 | sdennis@lib.med.utah.edu      |
| Suzanne Sawyer<br>Project Coordinator                 | 801-587-3487 | ssawyer@rml4.utah.edu         |
| Position Vacant<br>Technology Liaison                 |              |                               |
| Position Vacant<br>Kansas Liaison                     |              |                               |
| Siobhan Champ-Blackwell<br>Community Outreach Liaison | 402-280-4156 | siobhan@creighton.edu         |
| Marty Magee<br>Nebraska/Education Liaison             | 402-559-7076 | mmagee@unmc.edu               |
| Betsy Kelly<br>Assessment and Evaluation Liaison      | 314-362-2783 | kellyb@msnotes.wustl.edu      |
| John Bramble<br>Utah/Network Membership Liaison       | 801-587-5743 | jbramble@lib.med.utah.us      |
| Barbara Jones<br>Missouri/Library Advocacy Liaison    | 573-884-5042 | jonesbarb@health.missouri.edu |
| Dana Abbey<br>Colorado/Consumer Health Liaison        | 301-315-4875 | dana.abbey@uchsc.edu          |
| Mary Henning<br>Wyoming Liaison                       | 307-766-6537 | henning@uwyo.edu              |

The *Plains to Peaks Post* is published quarterly by the National Network of Libraries of Medicine MidContinental Region, at the Spencer S. Eccles Health Sciences Library at the University of Utah.  
10 North 1900 East, Building 589  
Salt Lake City, Utah 84112-5890

Editor: Suzanne Sawyer,  
Project Coordinator  
Phone: (801) 587-3412  
Fax: (402) 581-3632  
Email: [ssawyer@rml4.utah.edu](mailto:ssawyer@rml4.utah.edu)  
URL: <http://nnlm.gov/mcr/>

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