Linking the Public Health Workforce with Trusted Library Resources

Transforming Information Access and Competencies

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Scope & Objectives

- Introduce trusted library resources related to public health content from a “digital library platform in 7 Public Health Departments.”
- Provide hands-on training emphasizing content and functionality of resources to effect behavior change.
- Promote local librarian partnerships using Loansome Doc.
- Negotiate with vendors to adequately test resources and revise licenses.
- Employ continuous data driven evaluation; and
- Document process change within participating organizations.
Public Health Foundation’s Core Public Health Competencies (June 11, 2009)

- **Analytic/Assessment Skills**
  - References sources of public health data and information.
  - Uses information technology to collect, store, and retrieve data.
  - Utilizes data to address scientific, political, ethical, and social public health issues.

- **Policy Development/Program Planning Skills**
  - Analyzes information relevant to specific public health policy issues

- **Public Health Sciences Skills**
  - Relates public health science skills to the Core Public Health Functions.
  - Conducts a comprehensive review of the scientific evidence related to a public health issue, concern, or intervention.
  - Retrieves scientific evidence from a variety of text and electronic sources.

- **Knowledge**
  - Improve access to trusted resources directly to the desktop.
  - Describe relationships and functionality of e-resources to core public health functions/interests.
  - Introduce specific types of resources, e.g., coding and classification tools.

- **Skills**
  - Introduce interoperable features that support public health work, e.g., guidelines, calculators, connectivity to public spaces.
  - Use of Citation Management Program to save, store & reuse information.
  - Train on use of topical alerts as an education tool.
Integrate Improved Access with Behavioral Change

- Identify people resources
- Reframe “article delivery service.”
- Design and test a “digital library platform.”
- Select resources based on comparables and format.
- Train on resources.
- Build trust and confidence with the “public health workforce.”
- Describe project in relationship to work priorities.
- Promote ownership of “information Strategy” to improve knowledge and skills.
Integrate research in preparing work plans.

Ongoing research to support improved public health practice.

Support Outbreak interventions and community assessments.

Update personal knowledge.
Detecting a possible outbreak
Defining and finding cases
Generating hypotheses (educated guesses) about likely sources
Testing the hypotheses
Finding the point of contamination and source of the food
Controlling an outbreak
Deciding an outbreak is over

http://www.cdc.gov/outbreaknet/investigations/
Linking the Public Health Workforce with Trusted Library Resources

Methods
Create a Logic Model (tied to evaluation)
Select Resources
Install and Test Digital Library Template
Train on Resources
Refine “Article Delivery Service”
Capture Statistics
Communication
To advance information resource access in Public Health Departments, there is a need to know:

- What resources are required for spectrum of activities?
- Which e-journals are core to the work?
- How can information be more effectively accessed?
- How much will these resources cost?

Logic Model
- Resources, activities, outputs, outcomes

Evaluation Plan
- Environmental Scan (ongoing process)
- Journal SurveyMonkey
- Pre/Post Training Surveys
- Metrics (use of resources)
- Just in time “information checks”
- Project End Survey
Rationale for Selecting Resources

- Contain evidence-based public health content.
- Connect to other resources – functionality.
- Some access to full-text (the e-article/e-report+).
- Identify vendors willing to:
  - reduce costs;
  - maximize access;
  - provide usage statistics; and support training.
- Top 25 Public Health Journals from (JCR).
- CDC Journals as a Benchmark.
- Titles requested more than 5 times across all PHDs.
- Titles appearing across Journal SurveyMonkey data.

Databases

E-Journals
Resources Selected For Testing

- PubMed
- Cochrane Library
- STAT!Ref
- Global Health
  - EndNote X/4
  - MedCalc
  - E-mail Alerts
- Annual Review Series (10)
- New England Journal of Medicine (NEJM)
- University of Chicago Press Titles (JSTOR) (7)
- Oxford University Press Journal Titles (15)
- Public Health Reports (1)
- Springer Titles (21)
# Achieving a Sustainable Training Model For Public Health

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Encouraged Partnerships

- Boston Public Health Commission
- Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment
- Maine CDC
- Massachusetts Department of Public Health
- New Hampshire DHHS
- Rhode Island Department of Health
- Vermont Department of Health
- Connecticut Public Health Department

- University of Massachusetts Lamar Soutter Library (MA)
- Poudre Valley Health System (CO)
- Maine Medical Center (ME)
- Maine State Library (ME)
- Rhode Island/Lifespan Hospital (RI)
- University of Vermont Dana Medical Library (VT)
- University of Connecticut Lyman Maynard Stowe Library (CT)
Linking the Public Health Workforce with Trusted Resources

Results

- Digital Libraries in Place
- New Library Partners Established
- Statistics Gathered/Reviewed
- On-site Trainings Held
Maine CDC New Digital Library Page

Maine CDC New Digital Library

On this page...
- New Licensed Databases and Traditional Resources
- Journal Listing
- NLM Databases (beyond PubMed)
- Journal Article Delivery (through the Maine Medical Center)
- Book Delivery
- Academic/Private Industry Library Sites
- Associations
- Government (US & Global)
- Citation Management (Saving and Reusing information)
- Question Box

New Licensed Databases and Traditional Resources
- PubMed
- Cochran Library
- Global Health -- The essential health database for international research
- STATIRef -- The premier healthcare e-book resource
- National Agricultural Library's Agricola
- CDC's Community Guide to Preventive Services
- Maine Communicable Disease Manual
- MARVEL - Maine's Virtual Library

E-Journals to be tested...
- New England Journal of Medicine

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

- PubMed - Comprehensive resource for full-text content and citations for biomedical literature from MEDLINE, life science journals, and online books
- PubMedCentral
- 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
# New Digital Library Database Stats

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# New Digital Library E–Journal Stats
**Jan–Aug 2011**

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Article Delivery Statistics by PHD Division Oct 2010–Aug 2011

N=571

- Environmental Health Division & Testing Lab
- Family Health Division, Injury Prevention Program
- Infectious & Chronic Diseases
- Childrens Behavioral Health Services
- Medical Examiner/Office Tech/Epi

24, 4%

257, 45%

270, 47%

N=365

- Prevention Services
- Disease Control & Environmental Epidemiology
- Health Facilities and Emergency Medical Services
- Emergency Preparedness/Environmental Statistics
- Water Quality Control/Laboratory Services

35

182, 50%

112, 31%

10

112

25

270

257

24

9

11
Use of Journals: Benchmark Comparison
Oxford University Press

- American Journal of Epidemiology
- Clinical Infectious Diseases
- Health Education Research
- Health Policy and Planning
- International Journal of Epidemiology
- Journal of Infectious Diseases
- JNCI: Journal of Nat’l Cancer Institute
- Nicotine and Tobacco Research
- Occupational Medicine
- The Annals of Occupational Hygiene
- Toxicological Sciences

Titles Important to CDC

- MPH
- *CPH
- Maine CDC
- Rhode Island DH
- BPH
- CDPHE
- New Hampshire DHHS
- Vermont DH
Linking the Public Health Workforce with Trusted Resources

Future Directions
Redefining Policies for “Article Delivery”
New Public Health Departments Identified
Funding achieved to expand the project

Testimonials
Future Directions
“New Digital Library Project”

- Additional budget has been allocated to add three new PHDs to the project this fall: Kentucky, Arkansas and Minnesota.
- Digital libraries will be revised to accommodate greater functionality.
- Resources are chosen using multiple methods.
- Data relating public health work to use of journals, databases, books, and reports is used to guide and expand the project.
- Article delivery through “library partners” is defining new, innovative roles for librarians and creating collaborative policies.
- Evaluation of resources—from database to journal title, year of publication and cost—captures what is core to public health work.
One of the seldom recognized, but critical consequences of the economic downturn, is the impact on access to scientific information for many state and local public health professionals. Libraries and journal subscriptions (including electronic access to full-text articles) are often among the first programs to suffer when resources get scarce.

Public health is a science-based practice; so access to evidence-based practice and the science that supports it can make a difference in identifying and implementing services that really make a difference in preventing disease and promoting health. For many of us, the new digital library project has filled in that important gap and continues to support public health activities across the nation.

—Robert J. Marshall, Ph.D., Assistant Director RIDH