

**TECHNOLOGY IMPROVEMENT AWARDS
FINAL REPORT OUTLINE**

COVER SHEET

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| 1. Title of the Project | Mobile Library Outreach System |
| 2. Period of Performance (project start and end dates) | January 1, 2009 - December 1, 2009 |
| 3. Library Name (if applicable) | Library |
| 4. Name of Organization | Bastyr University |
| 5. Organization Address | 14500 Juanita Dr. NE Kenmore, WA 98028 |
| 6. Name, Mailing and E-Mail Addresses, Voice and Fax Numbers, of Person Submitting Report | Jane D. Saxton, MLIS Dir. of Library Services Bastyr University 14500 Juanita Dr. NE Kenmore, WA 98028 425-602-3024 Fax: 425-602-3188 jsaxton@bastyr.edu |
| 7. Date Submitted | November 10, 2009 |

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

Posted to *Dragonfly*, November 10, 2009

The True Story of what happened when we received an NN/LM PNR Technology Improvement Award

"We live forward, but we understand backward."

William James

It was love at first sight when I met my first portable library system at the 2008 Regional Academic Health Sciences Libraries (RAHSL) meeting at OHSU. Todd Hannon, OHSU reference librarian, handled the introductions to the system, which included a laptop, a tiny but high-resolution LCD projector, a table-top projection screen, and other portable paraphernalia.

I am the director of library services for Bastyr University, a non-profit educational institution in Seattle offering B.S., M.S. and clinical doctorate degrees in programs relating to the natural health sciences. Our campus is located in St. Edward State Park in Kenmore, WA, in the former St. Thomas Seminary at the northern end of Lake Washington. Our teaching clinic is in the Fremont district of Seattle, about 12 miles south, but frequently up to an hour away. (Anything you may have heard about Seattle traffic is true.)

At the time that I met the portable library system, Susan Banks, librarian, and I were using the laptop and LCD projector that Student Council had purchased five years previously--for student use. (We hoped that when we needed the equipment to teach a class, it would be available.) Presenting library training sessions for our clinical faculty was difficult because they are mostly there--at the clinic in Seattle--and we are mostly here--on campus in Kenmore.

After returning from the RAHSL meeting, I applied for and received an NN/LM PNR Technology Improvement Award to purchase our very own portable library system. We selected, ordered and received the equipment. (Each of these stages brought their own little hubbubs of decision-making and excitement.) And we started doing outreach to our faculty almost immediately. We now make presentations with our portable library system at faculty meetings, both on campus and at the clinic, and regularly attend departmental meetings to profile what's new. Our faculty members are particularly taken with our projection screen, which sits comfortably on the end of a table.

The ideas for outreach sessions (other than for Bastyr-affiliated folks) that we considered at that time revolved around our external clinical shift sites. These include many local clinics and health centers, some focusing on minority populations. If such locations

seem like "naturals" for setting up a portable library system to help the people there to find just the information they need, that's how it seemed to us too. HOWEVER, the reality of this plan proved challenging (i.e. well-nigh impossible). I can sum up this part of the story with something I learned in a CE last March, *Data collection for health information outreach*, taught by NN/LM PNR stars Susan Barnes and Maryanne Blake. They stated the obvious: people who come to a clinic are often ill and don't WANT a helpful librarian just then. It's not a teachable moment! This was the first bump in the road for our outreach plans.

In rethinking the matter, we decided that our expertise might best be utilized in providing outreach to our librarian colleagues. The upshot is that we are offering a two-hour session on evidence-based complementary and alternative medicine (EB-CAM) for the medical librarian community, and a more general session on CAM for the King County Library System reference librarians. These sessions are scheduled for Sunday, Nov. 15 (1:00-3:30 on the Bastyr campus) and Nov.19 at KCLS headquarters in Issaquah.

But here's the problem. Neither of these venues requires a portable library system! On the other hand, we would never have developed these outreach sessions had we not received the Technology Improvement Award.

And that's OK, because technology opens doors—we look forward to walking through the ones that our portable library system opens, setting up our laptop and the snazzy little LCD, and unpacking our projection screen from its handy "bow-and-arrow" case, to help people find the very information that they need.

1. Training:

If training was conducted to new audiences (not already affiliated with the organization), complete the Outreach Activity Data Collection Form for each training event and attach the form(s) to this Final Report. A copy of the form is available at <http://nnlm.gov/pnr/funding/toolkit.html> .

Below, provide a summary of all training events and participants:

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| Total number of sessions conducted as part of the project | 2 |
| Total number of sessions in which half or more than half of participants were from minority populations | 0 |
| Total number of participants in the project's sessions | 46 |
| Breakdown of participants by role | |
| Health care or service provider, with a subtotal for public health personnel: _____ / _____ public health | |
| Health sciences library staff member: 21 | |
| Public/other library staff member: 25 | |
| Member of the general public: _____ | |

2. Training sites:

Provide a brief description of the locations where you provided training.

Bastyr University, with medical librarians around the region invited as guests

Issaquah, WA headquarters of the King County Library System