



2015 Report for the E-Library Training Initiative Grant Medical Library Association/Librarians Without Borders®

Submitted by

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This report summarizes the activities of the Medical Library Association/Librarians Without Borders® (MLA/LWB®) 'E-Library Training Initiative' during 2015. This project was renewed with a grant from the Elsevier Foundation's Innovative Libraries' Grants in Developing Countries program.

In 2015, the E-Library Training Initiative continued to focus on the training of information specialists, researchers, health personnel, students and staff from Research4Life (R4L) eligible institutions. Besides workshops, the Initiative also emphasized updating and developing of training materials.

Many of the activities of this project have a multiplying effect as the training conducted and instructional material developed are shared by users at eligible institutions. Our objectives and activities are linked to the R4L Strategic Plan (2012), R4L Training Strategy Paper (2014) and HINARI annual team objectives (2014).

1. Workshops conducted focusing on low usage countries

A total of 308 individuals were trained either at workshops or via distance learning courses. Two workshops were conducted in countries with no previous training activities: 25 individuals were trained in **Georgia** (April), 47 in **Myanmar** (September), <125 in two 'Short Courses'/**Vietnam** (September) and 16 in **the Fiji Regional Workshops** (December) with participants from Kiribati, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tokelau, Cook Islands, Fiji, Nauru and Tonga. For this workshop, Karin Saric/Norris Library, University of Southern California was the co-trainer.

In all these settings except for Vietnam, key individuals from institutions took part in the training and this has resulted in further teaching and use of Research4Life (R4L) resources within the participating institutions. Besides extensive training on the HINARI/R4L resources, additional instruction focused on Authorship Skills and Reference Management Software tools. In Myanmar and Fiji, participants completed a new Marketing Plan tool that is to be

implemented upon return to their institutions. The impact of these workshops is evaluated in post-workshop surveys. Six months after the workshop, the survey is sent to all participants.

In Hanoi, **Vietnam**, a one-day 'HINARI Resources overview' workshop was conducted at the Bach Mai Hospital. Nguyen, Hai Ha, librarian at the Hanoi School of Public Health and R4L user representative, assisted with this training. Over 100 individuals attended this workshop that was held in a large lecture room. Another one day 'Research Resources' workshop was conducted at the Hanoi School of Medicine. 22 researchers participated in this training. Note – We have recognized the need for additional 'research oriented' training programs in Vietnam and plan to schedule several two-day workshops in 2016 or 2017.

Additional training was conducted at the **Tulane University** (February) and **Johns Hopkins University** (March) – both being institutions with significant global health programs and schools of Public Health. 35 individuals attended the 1st workshop with an additional 45 participating in the 2nd. The goal of these programs was to develop a group of HINARI/R4L trainers and users with the necessary information skills to have a positive impact on evidence-based public health research, policy, research and clinical decision-making. The participants would become advocates/trainers for R4L information access in LMICs. The course was designed for students from eligible countries who will be returning to their respective institutions and Tulane/Johns Hopkins based individuals who have contact with those from eligible countries – either as visitors to their US based institutions or during visits to such organizations.

For more detail on all of the above-mentioned workshops, see Appendix 1 – Workshop Reports.

In collaboration with the Information Training and Outreach Center for Africa (**ITOCA**), 15 individuals completed the AGORA distance-learning course. While we were disappointed with the completion rate (~30%), those that completed the course did an excellent job. Individuals that complete the distance learning coursework at their own pace appear to have sufficient time to effectively complete the exercises.

2. Evaluation of Workshops

Two tools have been used to evaluate the impact of the workshops. One is a post-workshop survey that is completed on the final day of the workshop. This focuses on the participants' perceptions of the actual training – material covered, usefulness of training, skills of trainers plus several open ended questions. The responses to this survey uniformly are quite positive although these results do not measure the long-term impact of the training (Appendix 2). The second tool is a six-month post workshop 'impact' evaluation. For the participants who have completed the 'Marketing Plan' tool, the goal is to measure the outputs from this blueprint.

3. Upcoming Training

Regarding training in 2016, there are two distinct threads. One is the traditional path of working with the HINARI staff in Geneva and Regional Offices particularly Charles Raby/SEARO and Marie Villemain Partow/WPRO. Possible workshops are being scheduled for Myanmar and Bangladesh (April), Laos, Nepal and possibly Vietnam (fall).

The second thread is a direct outcome of the expanded 2016-18 support from the Elsevier Foundation. MLA is establishing the HINARI/R4L Activities Grant. Up to five awards will support HINARI/R4L training activities that promote the use of the programs' scientific research resources in emerging/low income countries. One of the principal goals is to develop a core of librarians who will be able to conduct R4L related workshops. Although not limited to training workshops, proposals for joint workshops with the current coordinator of the E-library Training Initiative will be given a high priority for funding. Selection of the awards will be completed prior to the May 2016 MLA meeting, or soon thereafter, with the recipients having 18 months to complete the activities.

Additional one-day workshops are scheduled for the MLA meeting (Toronto, May), the European Health Information and Libraries conference (Seville, June) and regional one-day workshops at the University of Southern California (February) and the University of California, San Francisco (October). Possible training also being scheduled for CDC, Morehouse School of Medicine and/or Emory University (June). All these workshops will be aimed at the same groups as the 2015 training at Tulane and Johns Hopkins Universities.

4. Training Material Updates

- a. The HINARI training materials continue to be revised regularly as there were some significant changes to the portal in early 2015.
- b. The AGORA and OARE training materials also has been revised regarding the portal changes.
- c. The ARDI training module and related exercises have been completed and made accessible on the ARDI website in June 2015 with some revisions uploaded in December 2015.
- d. Most of the Research4Life training modules also have been updated. These are in the process of being uploaded onto the R4L training portal.
- e. By April 2015, the HINARI, AGORA and OARE basic course modules were converted into the PDFs and uploaded for the ITOCA (Moodle) distance learning courses.

5. Publicizing Activities

Reports of all workshops and photos are posted on the MLA/LWB® website (<http://www.mlanet.org/page/lwb>) and the summary of 2015 activities are highlighted in the *MLA News* as well as through blog posts visible on MLA's homepage. Also, updates on the program's activities have been published in the hinari.trainers EZ-COLLAB group and Research4Life dgroup listservs.

The revision of the HINARI, AGORA, OARE, ARDI and R4L training material was publicized via the same channels. This additional publicizing brought attention to ongoing activities of the grant during the past year. Also, several blogs were posted on the R4L training portal

6. 2015 Expenditures

The expenditures from the 2015 grant period are noted in the Appendix #3. The remaining funds (\$1,052.88) will be carried over to the 2016-18 and expended with the additional \$45,000 annual allocation from the Elsevier Foundation.

In conclusion, we are quite excited about the 2016-18 grant renewal. This level of funding will enable the E-Library Training Initiative to continue the critical capacity building activities for the R4L programs. Via the annual HINARI/R4L Activities Grants, the Initiative can develop a core of trainers who will be able to continue such training activities beyond the current three-year funding period.