



2014 Report for the E-Library Training Initiative Grant Medical Library Association/Librarians Without Borders®

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This report summarizes the activities of the Medical Library Association/Librarians Without Borders® (MLA/LWB®) 'E-Library Training Initiative' during 2014. This project was funded via a renewal from the Elsevier Foundation Innovative Libraries' Grants in Developing Countries program. For this funding period, the focus of the program was 'to provide critical information literacy training supporting the usage high quality STM information' in low use areas... It also continued the development and updating of training material as 'the instructional materials developed will be shared by users at all Research4Life eligible institutions'.

1. Workshops conducted focusing on low usage countries

A total of 292 individuals were trained either at workshops or via distance learning courses. Three workshops were conducted in countries with no previous training activities: 37 individuals were trained in **Yemen** (March), 16 individuals were trained in **Bosnia & Herzegovina** (April), 20 in **Montenegro** (April), 25 in **Zanzibar** and 35 in **Cambodia** (December). For more detail, see Appendix 1 – Workshop Reports. In all these settings, individuals from key institutions took part in the training and this has resulted in further training and use of Research4Life (R4L) resources within the participating institutions. The impact of these workshops is evaluated in post-workshop surveys. Six months after the workshop, the survey is sent to all participants. Other training activities are listed below.

In collaboration with the Information Training and Outreach Center for Africa (ITOCA), 85 individuals completed the HINARI distance learning courses. 50% of the participants were from the University of Gondar (Ethiopia) as Medical Informatics instructor 'assigned' the course to the students. Another 30% of the participants were from Ecuador where a distance learning course was conducted through the WHO Country office. Both groups' answers to the exercises

were excellent. Individuals that complete the distance learning coursework at their own pace appear to have sufficient time to effectively complete the exercises.

Additional training was conducted at the **University of Florida** in April and May 2014. Two visiting scholars from the University of Dar es Salaam received R4L (primarily AGORA), Zotero and Authorship Skills training. 32 students participating in the University of Florida Certificate in One Health completed a short course that included an overview of HINARI's features, PubMed searching, material on Open Access journals and Zotero.

Other training activities included a one day workshop at the Association for Health Information and Libraries Association (AHILA) meeting in **Dar es Salaam, Tanzania** (October 2014). This workshop focused on Authorship Skills but also included a R4L update (revision of HINARI training page and creation of R4L training portal plus Summon search engine). Approximately 40 individuals attended this workshop. Other AHILA activities included HINARI users' meeting that was coordinated with Gaby Caro (HINARI/Geneva) and Blessing Chataira (ITOCA and Chair of the Africa R4L Users Group).

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 post-training survey of impact that is sent to the participants six months after the completion of the workshop. It focuses on two constituencies – librarians and end users – and evaluates the impact of the training. For the librarians, key questions include number of trainings, individuals trained, number of presentations, discussions with administrators and sources of training material used. For the end users, the questions focus on amount of use of HINARI resources, amount of discussions with colleagues and students, use of HINARI articles for citations and usefulness of the various R4L resources and training material. Note: some end users also complete training and complete both sections of the survey.

Requests for responses are sent twice. Included in Appendix 3 are the responses from 2013 and 2014 and replies from 3 ITOCA workshops. Approximately 35% of the participants have returned the surveys. Although 81 individuals have completed the survey, this response rate does limit the overall value of the data.

A significant majority of the users noted that access to the literature is essential, the material was used for conducting research, writing articles and maintaining current awareness, that the

resources are discussed with colleagues and students and HINARI resources are used for citations.

Per the librarians, 70% noted that they had conducted training at their institutions, the average number of sessions conducted was 4 with the average number of individuals trained being 25. The average number of discussions with administrators was under 2. Many of the open ended questions discussed the local environment and various issues that hindered training and use of the resources. (Appendix 4).

3. Upcoming Training

Since the MLA/LWB® E-Library Training Initiative has been funded for 2015-16 by the Elsevier Foundation, the project has scheduled 2015 workshops for **Georgia** (HINARI), **Armenia** (HINARI), **Nepal** (R4L – 1st in Asia and assisted by the HINARI Nepal Trainers Group), **Fiji** (HINARI regional workshop) and possibly **Laos** (R4L) plus Short Courses (using the MLA and ITOCA Moodle platforms) and an additional **University of Florida** Certificate in One Health workshop. The R4L Training Team has made R4L distance learning courses a high priority for 2015.

4. Training Material Updates

- a. The HINARI training material (www.who.int/hinari/) has been significantly revised and consolidated. Material has been reorganized into Basic and Advanced Courses. In November, these revised modules were launched on the redesigned HINARI training page. Gaby Caro edited the training material and Christine Fresnel developed the redesigned format.
- b. The Research4Life training portal (www.research4life.org/training) was developed and launched in July. It includes all inter- program material that previously was on the HINARI training page (e.g. Authorship Skills, Reference Management Software, Marketing, Managing Change, R4L Programs Similarities and Differences plus more). Natalia Rodriguez (R4L) is responsible for designing and launching this additional portal.
- c. The AGORA training material also has been revised and consolidated and will be accessible on a re-designed training page in early 2015. Kristin Kolshus (FAO) has edited this material and is working on the redesign of the training page.
- d. The initial draft of the ARDI training module is 85% complete and will be launched in early 2015.
- e. By mid-February 2015, the HINARI, AGORA and OARE revised modules will be converted into the distance learning format and made accessible on the ITOCA (all three) and Medical Library Association Moodle (only HINARI) servers.

5. Publicizing Activities

Reports of all workshops and photos are posted on the MLA/LWB® website (<https://www.mlanet.org/about/librarians-without-borders>) and the summary of 2014 activities will be highlighted in the *MLA News*. 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 training page and development of the R4L training portal was publicized via the same channels. This additional publicizing brought attention to some of the key development activities of the grant during the past year. Also, several blogs were posted on the R4L training portal. In 2015, information on the revised training material for the various programs will be disseminated as email messages using the Program's customer relations management system.

6. 2013-14 Expenditures

The expenditures from the 2013-14 grant period are noted in the Appendix #5. The remaining funds (\$1,052.88) will be carried over to 2015-16 and expended with the additional \$26,000 annual support from the Elsevier Foundation.