

## LAUC Presentation Grant Request

By: Marcus Banks, LAUC-SF

Date: January 8, 2010

Introduction: This is a request for a presentation grant, in order to present the paper "Best Practices for Wiki Use in International Collaborations" at the Medical Library Association Annual Meeting in May 2010. Please see conference web site here: <http://mlanet.org/am/am2010/>

- a. Summary/current status of the research project/activity: This paper has been accepted for presentation at the conference.
- b. Timetable for activities to be funded by the Presentation Grant: Conference registration fee and travel in May 2010.
- c. Budget:
  - a. Registration fee: \$320
  - b. Airfare: \$180 [covers portion of the cost]
- d. I am a non-represented librarian.
- e. Paper abstract included below.
- f. Sponsoring organization: Medical Library Association
- g. I have request no funds from other sources.

### **ABSTRACT: BEST PRACTICES FOR WIKI USE IN INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATIONS**

#### **Objective:**

A US health sciences university is engaged in an institutional partnership with colleagues in Tanzania, in order to build leadership capacity, transform curricula at both institutions and address the health workforce crisis in Tanzania. Project members are utilizing a wiki provided by the US institution's library. This paper will examine the partnership's experience with using a wiki to support international collaboration.

#### **Methods:**

The project assistant and educational technologist carefully organized the wiki space into logical categories, in order to manage the documentation produced by this sprawling project. While this step proceeded smoothly, it has been harder to encourage all individuals associated with the project to use the wiki. Attachments still manifest themselves in emails and are sometimes not uploaded to the wiki. Our Tanzanian colleagues can have trouble accessing and contributing content due to bandwidth limitations.

The authors will survey key participants in the project to gain an understanding of what works well and why; and what could be improved and how. Our intention is to provide best practices around the use of a wiki for inter-continental collaborations.

\*: Please note that Results and Conclusions are supplied later to MLA, after the research is in progress.





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January 14, 2010

To: Marcus Banks  
From: Gail Persily, Director, Education & Public Services  
Re: LAUC-funded Research Activities

As we discussed, release time will be granted for work on the following 2 presentations:

- "An Analysis of the Impact of Open Access Articles in Translational Medicine" to be delivered at the Evidence Based Scholarly Communication conference in March 2010
- "Best Practices for Wiki Use in International Collaborations" (to be delivered at the Medical Library Association conference in May 2010)

