

From: Elaine Walkden WHIN Coordinator

I spent my first week after orientation looking in the office computers for information about the WHIN system. I found files on different health topics that may be included in the database such as information on menopause, STDs, pregnancy and birth control. I also found a list of all of our books and periodicals that could be included in the database.

I am still gathering information on design and layout plans for the system. I will be going over some of this information with Nina, a member of the collective who spent a lot of time working on the development of the project. She and I will be meeting tomorrow.

I am trying to come up with a more detailed proposal for the Centre of Excellence. As you all know they are presently withholding the grant for \$15,000 that we need for the development of WHIN. In order to come up with this proposal Brenda and I have called for a WHIN committee meeting for next Wednesday to get some background from the other women who have been involved with WHIN.

I called all of the organizations that were interested in the WHIN project and that we had included in our original proposal to the Centre of Excellence. I gathered specific information about what part of the community these organizations reach in order to know who will gain access to the Women's Health Information Network. These organizations will eventually be contacted with more information about WHIN as it is developed. We hope to eventually include a member of each organization as a part of a community WHIN committee.

I spoke with Madeline Bosco of the Canadian Women's Health Network yesterday and she gave me some valuable information about their database system that I think will be helpful to WHIN. Some of the points she made are:

1. That if we were to use MINISIS the CWHN would give us a copy of their databases for us to add our information to rather than us designing new databases which would cost us development funds. They already have databases set up for: organizations, resources, and demonstration and research projects. According to Madeline the cost of creating and maintaining these databases is between \$20,000 and 30,000 dollars.
2. By creating our database system on MINISIS we would be able to interface with the CWHN and other provincial database systems through placing our system on the web. Since it is expensive to purchase the web site application ourselves we would use theirs to setup. This would allow us to have our own database system that we maintain while also having our database accessible through the inter net.
3. The CWHN has information on how organizations link up via the CWHN's web site. Madeline gave me the address to find out these steps if anybody is interested.

I have also looked through all of the promotional material for the database program MINISIS. Once we get a computer person we will be able to work together to assess our needs. Right now I feel the most important step is to get a detailed application off to the B.C. Centre of Excellence.