NATIONWIDE REMOTE ACCESS TO HEALTH DATABASES:

A STRATEGIC INITIATIVE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH, TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

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Introduction
Strategic Alignment to Political Context

- Aligned with one of Government's pillars for Sustainable Development

- Readily available Government's Information and Communication Infrastructure which :-
  - supports effective communication/information access locally and globally
  - supports ICT integration throughout the health sector
  - empowers its Medical Library Services network

Nationwide Remote Access
The Minister's Mandate

- Availability of up-to-date clinical information nationwide:
  - for the treatment of patients at point of care
  - for all health care professionals of Trinidad and Tobago

- The promotion of research and development within the health sector

Nationwide Remote Access
The Methodology

- Project Team formation

- Defining the product

  - Visit and assess similar libraries' facility

  - Discussions with service providers

  - Determine prospective alliances

  - Define the attributes of the product

- Present the product to the Ministry's Administration

- Gain approval for product development

Nationwide Remote Access
The METHODOLOGY (cont'd)

- Execute Stakeholder Awareness Campaigns

  (with medical practitioners - public & private sectors)

- Develop and streamline the product (pilot)

- Execute product training

- National launch of product (pilot) and press release

- Define Usage statistics and manage usage levels

Nationwide Remote Access
The PRODUCT

- A **web-based facility** which:

  - is powered by EBSCOHost - our partner

  - is accessible to all healthcare professionals in Trinidad & Tobago

  - provides leading medical databases which cover areas such as research, therapy, rehabilitation

  - can be accessed anywhere remotely via mobiles and PCs

  - would require unique User Identification (after the pilot)

Nationwide Remote Access
The LAUNCH

Minister of Health, Dr Fuad Khan (centre) with Mr Eric Block, EBSCO at right and CMO left

From left: Mr O'Brian-MOH,
Mrs Antonia Popplewell-Permanent Secretary -MOH,
C. Kirton- MOH

At front from left: S. Peters –MOH, E. Greenidge-UWI,
L. Phekoo,- MOH, T. Rouse-MOH

The Medical Library Network Team with EBSCO personnel

The Minister's speech at Launch http://youtu.be/LmIlOXPiHR8

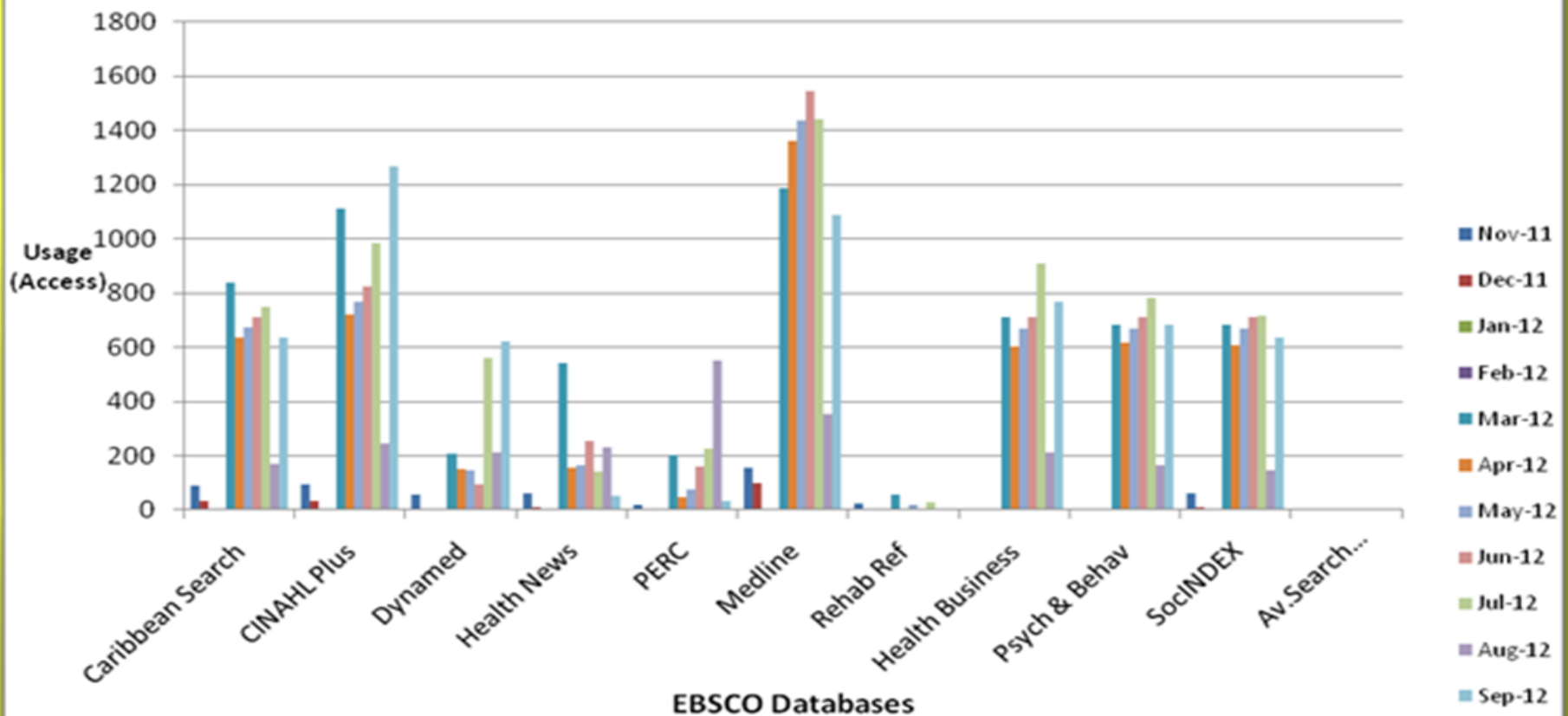# Nationwide Remote Access
The Results

Figure 1: Usage of the Remote Access product by database

Nationwide Remote Access Discussion

Challenges:

- Inadequate operations staff

- Uneven distribution of IT infrastructure across the system

- Increasing the involvement of key stakeholders at this early stage

- Non-availability of a Medical Library website

Nationwide Remote Access
Discussion (cont'd)

Opportunities:

- Subsequent creation of a Medical Library website

- The development of an application that would provide secure access-control to these databases

- Resource sharing potential of consortia because of the expensive nature of quality health information resources

Nationwide Remote Access
Conclusion

Way Forward:

- Increase awareness of and build commitment to this initiative

- Utilize the **Virtual Health Library**

  as a space to promote the use of consumer health information and as a reservoir of pertinent evidence-based health & medical resources to support projects such as EVIPNET(a PAHO Project)