

## Everyone Can Find Medical Information Online and in Libraries

Be careful getting medical information from the internet. As Mark Twain said, "you could die from a misprint."

### Always remember to:

- Check the site for credibility.
- Don't get all your information from one site.
- Compare information from various sites. For more information for avoiding bad medical/health information, see <http://www.quackwatch.com>

### Do You Need Scholarly Articles on Medical Topics?

The Cambridge College Online Library provides full-text scholarly articles and books in this area.

Search *EBSCOHost Find It Fast* for all our book and journal databases, including MEDLINE with Full-Text, CINAHL with Full-text, Lexi-Pals Drug Information, Health Source Nursing: Academic Edition, Wilson Select Plus, Ebrary Electronic Books, PsycArticles, PsycInfo, PsycBooks, ERIC, and much more.

From the CCOL HOME page click *Research Starters by Subject*, then click **e-global Research Guides**

- click *Science and Technology* for research instruction in *Health Sciences*
- click *Business* for research instruction in *Healthcare Management, Health Economics, and Health Information Systems*

From the CCOL HOME page Research Starters by Subject, then click **e-global Program Resources**

- click Allied Health for *Nursing, Mental Health, Alternative Medicine* and much more!

### Finding Peer-Reviewed Medical Sites

When searching *EBSCOHost Find It Fast* in the Cambridge College Online Library, select the Advanced Search option and check "Peer Reviewed."

When using an internet search engine such as Google Scholar at <http://scholar.google.com> and enter a term for your topic plus the terms "peer review", *peer-review*, "peer reviewed" and *peer-reviewed*.

<http://www.wheretodoresearch.com/Health/Journals.htm>

A site which lists links for 30 peer-reviewed medical journals.

### Online Tutorials Which Teach You to Find and Evaluate Medical Info Online

<http://omni.ac.uk/vts/medic/index.htm> Information is geared toward UK, but it not only teaches you to pick worthwhile sites, but it lets you collect links on your topic as you do so. Be sure to empty your links basket before exiting or you will lose what you collect.

Health Web User Guides at <http://healthweb.org/userguides.cfm>

HealthWeb's User Guides are designed to help health professionals and consumers use Internet resources more effectively.

Identifying and Evaluating Children's Health Resources an ERIC Digest in full-text at:

[http://www.ericfacility.net/databases/ERIC\\_Digests/ed414280.html](http://www.ericfacility.net/databases/ERIC_Digests/ed414280.html)

### **Online Medical Dictionaries, Glossaries, Guides, and Encyclopedias**

<http://www.medicinenet.com> Click Medical Dictionary at top left of page.

<http://www.intelihealth.com> Click top right of page for Merriam Webster Medical Dictionary.

Merck Manual of Diagnosis and Therapy in full-text at

<http://www.merck.com/pubs/mmanual/>

### **Medical Journals**

Medical journal articles are not written for lay readers, so first read the abstract, conclusion, and discussion. If you can't find the full-text online, see the section of this handout Using Local Medical Libraries. Not all medical journals are peer-reviewed. Misleading sites exist. For example, the New England Medical Journal is NOT the New England Journal of Medicine.

<http://www.mdconsult.com>

A virtual library of full-text journals and textbooks for medical professionals. 10-day free trial.

<http://daly.medicine.iu.edu/EJournals.asp>

Search websites of medical journals, particularly to determine which have full-text articles online. Some require an ID, but others are available.

<http://jama.ama-assn.org/>

Journal of the American Medical Association. Allows you to read Table of Contents and Abstracts, maybe some full-text.

<http://www.nejm.org>

New England Journal of Medicine

Table of contents, abstracts, book reviews. Can purchase full-text articles online.

### **What Your Doctor Reads Online**

Medscape keeps physicians up-to-date, but it's written for physicians, so first click [Support](#) at the top of the page, then [Finding Your Way Around Medscape](#) for a tutorial. <http://www.medscape.com>

### **U.S. Government Agencies**

U.S. National Institute of Health has websites for its institutes on many health care issues, such as:

- \* cancer
- \* heart, lung, and blood
- \* allergy and infectious disease
- \* aging
- \* arthritis
- \* child health and development
- \* dental and craniofacial
- \* diabetes, digestive, & kidney disease
- \* drug abuse
- \* environmental health sciences
- \* general medicine
- \* neurological disorders and stroke
- \* complementary and alternative medicine

**All of these institutes and much more can be found by clicking [Institutes, Centers, and Offices](#) at <http://www.nih.gov>**

### **Equity in Health Care Delivery**

Fogarty International Center: Global Health Disparities at

<http://www.fic.nih.gov/>

### **Medical Super Sites**

Carefully monitored big sites. Their links are fairly trustworthy, but use your own judgement.

Harvard Medical School's consumer health info site at <http://www.intelihealth.com>

Mayo Health Clinic site at <http://www.mayohealth.org>

Healthcare and Medicine links in the Free Pint Portal

[http://www.freepint.co.uk/portal/industry/industry.php3?category\\_id=64](http://www.freepint.co.uk/portal/industry/industry.php3?category_id=64)

See especially "Untangling the Web for Health Professionals" and "Electronic Health Information: A Boon and a Curse."

<http://www.lib.uiowa.edu/hardin/md/index.html>

<http://www.healthfinder.gov>

Good starting point. Endorsed by Medical Librarians Assn.

<http://healthweb.org> Annotated links to evaluated websites.

<http://www.noah-health.org/index.html> Reviewed links in English and Spanish.

Yale Medical Library videos on how to do online medical research  
<http://www.med.yale.edu/library/education/guides/feature/finditfast>

Health Sciences Online

<http://hso.info/hso/cgi-bin/query-meta?v%3aframe=form&frontpage=1&v%3aproject=HSO&>

### **Addictions Information**

National Center for Addictions and Substance Abuse at <http://www.casacolumbia.org>

More addictions/substance abuse info at <http://www.well.com/user/woa>

### **Alternative Medicine Information**

Alternative Medicine at <http://www.pitt.edu/~cbw/altm.html>

<http://www.pitt.edu/~cbw/database.html> A credible journal which tests alternative health claims

<http://nccam.nih.gov/>

National Center for Complementary and Alternative Medicine.

### **Mental Health**

See our Cambridge College handout "Everyone Can Find Counseling, Mental Health, and Psychology Sites" on the Internet in the Counseling section of the Research

Resources page <http://www.cambridgecollege.edu/library/research.cfm>

**Reference Books** Some of the many reference books available in local medical libraries are:

- \* *Dictionary of Health Care Management*
- \* *Managed Care Yearbook*
- \* *Dictionary of Health Services Management*

- \* *Dictionary of Public Health Promotion: Terms and Concepts*
- \* *HealthSpeak: A Complete Dictionary of America's Healthcare System*
- \* *A Guide to Strategic Human Services Planning for the Health Care Industry*
- \* *Quick Index to Health Administration Laws, Regulations, and Guidelines*
- \* *Statistical Record of Health and Medicine*      \* *AHA Guide to the Health Care Field*

## **Public Health**

American Public Health Association at <http://www.apha.org>

## **Medical Interpreters**

Massachusetts Medical Interpreters Association at <http://www.mmia.org>

## **School Nurses**

See our handout "Start Here to Research School Nursing Information" in the Medical section of the Research Resources page

<http://www.cambridgecollege.edu/library/research.cfm>

## **Health Educators**

See our handout "Start Here to Research Health Education Information" in the Medical section of the Research Resources page

<http://www.cambridgecollege.edu/library/research.cfm>

## **Using Local Medical Libraries**

These New England medical libraries are probably open to the public, although these policies can change at any time. Materials cannot be borrowed. For websites of **all** medical libraries in Massachusetts go to

[http://mbic.state.ma.us/cgi-bin/ldap\\_search.pl](http://mbic.state.ma.us/cgi-bin/ldap_search.pl)

Boston University Alumni Medical Library, 80 E. Concord St. (South End) (617) 638-4232

Tufts University Health Science Library, 145 Harrison Street, Boston (Chinatown) (617) 636-6705

U. Mass Medical Center Lamar Soutter Library, 55 Lake Avenue N., Worcester (508) 856-6099

University of Connecticut Health Center at Farmington, Lyman Maynard Stowe library: (860)-679-2839

Other local libraries with strong health collections are Boston College, Northeastern, Clark, U/MA- Lowell, UMA-Dartmouth.

Many hospitals have libraries for their employees only.

**If you are researching health management issues, also use management libraries, such as:**

Boston University Pardee Management Library at 595 Comm. Ave (Back Bay) (617) 353-4301

Kirstein Business Branch of Boston Public Library. See our handout at

<http://www.cambridgecollege.edu/student/upload/kirsteinfinal.pdf>

**Outside of Massachusetts**, do a google search for your state's directory of information about academic and medical libraries. Not every state has a medical library open to the public.

Materials prepared by Maida Tilchen, Project Manager for Library Services © 2010 Cambridge College