
The Central Library Bulletin

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We Have Our Work Cut Out for Us

A Harris poll conducted last summer tells us the number of US adults who have ever looked for health information online is 160 million, up from 117 million in 2005. Most searchers believe they were successful in finding what they were looking for, but only about one-fourth believe the information was “very reliable,” down from over one-third in 2005. More than half have discussed with their doctors the information they found online. Another half went online to do health research *after* talking to their doctors. The Harris pollsters concluded that consumers accessing health information on the web will have a tremendous impact on the doctor-patient relationship, and the practice of medicine.

See the complete poll online at http://www.harrisinteractive.com/harris_poll/index.asp?PID=792

This issue of the Central Library Bulletin includes tips for helping patrons with their health questions. Useful resources include health websites, a HomeAccess database, suggested consumer health titles, and contact information for hospital libraries in your region which are open to the public.



Question of the Month

My child has been diagnosed with Celiac Disease. What does that mean? What can I make for dinner that he will be able to eat, too?

Useful Tools: HomeAccess: Health and Wellness Resource Center.

For an overview, click the *Diseases and Conditions* tab, select the letter *C*, and then scroll down to *Celiac Disease*. Read the article from the *Gale Encyclopedia of Medicine*, and then scroll down to the end for more information, including periodicals to subscribe to, organizations and websites.

For comprehensive information, use the keyword search box. Your search results will include information from reference books, journals, and news sources.

If you are looking for alternative healing, click the Alternative Medicine tab for an article from the *Gale Encyclopedia of Alternative Medicine*.

Web Resources: Google Directory: Health
<http://directory.google.com/> > Health > Conditions and Diseases > Conditions and Diseases Categorized by Letter > C > Celiac Sprue.

The Google Directory offers recommended websites, selected by subject specialists. Choose *Gluten Free Cooking*, or *Gluten-Free Diet* from among the categories presented, or go directly to websites ranked in relevance order. An alternative method of searching is to enter “Celiac Sprue” in the search box, for a short list of relevant websites.

FAQs at the Reference Desk

Q. *How can I find a local doctor who specializes in...?*

A. To find a local doctor practicing the specialty you need, use the WebMD Physician Directory (http://doctor.webmd.com/physician_finder/home.aspx?sponsor=core). Here, you can search by locality, doctor's name, or specialty. To find an internist who practices in Catskill, for example, type the location in the search box, and select the specialty from the list. If you'd like to limit your search by the type of insurance accepted or hospital affiliation, click on More Search Options.

Training Tips: The health question reference interview. Librarians face some additional challenges when conducting the consumer health reference interview. Patrons may have incomplete information about the topic, or have to use unfamiliar medical terminology. Patrons may be sensitive about the nature of the condition, or concerned about the confidentiality of the interaction. They may press the librarian for an interpretation of written material, or advice about the best course of action.

In addition, the librarian must determine whether the question the patron has asked is one which can be answered, and may need to provide potentially upsetting information.

Try to provide a quiet, private spot for the reference interview. Use welcoming behaviors and open-ended questions to elicit information. Determine how the patron plans to use the information (for a report, personal research, information to bring to the doctor's visit) and whether the information is for the patron or someone else. Determine what the patron knows already about the topic, and what further information is needed. Use a medical dictionary, database or encyclopedia to verify medical terms and drug names.

Provide the most accurate information available, in the quantity and at the level the patron requests. Do not withhold negative or potentially upsetting information. Remain neutral, and refrain from offering opinions or personal knowledge about the topic.

Librarians may provide general information about health professionals and organizations,

or refer patrons to their local medical library for more in-depth research.

The list below shows hospitals and colleges which have a consumer health collection and are open to the public.

Albany

Albany Medical College
Schaffer Library of Health Sciences
47 New Scotland Avenue
Mail Code 63
Albany, NY 12208
518-262-5586
<http://www.amc.edu/Academic/Schaffer/index.html>

Kingston

Benedictine Hospital
Medical Library
105 Mary's Avenue
Kingston, NY 12401
845-334-3148
<http://www.senylrc.org/remotearchive/benedictine.htm>

Kingston Hospital
Medical Library
396 Broadway
Kingston, NY 12401
845-331-3131
<http://www.kingstonregionalhealth.org/>

Poughkeepsie

St. Francis Hospital and Health Centers
Health Sciences Library
241 North Road
Poughkeepsie, NY 12601
845-431-8132
<http://hospitalervices.senylrc.org/sfh>

Mount Kisco

Northern Westchester Hospital Center
Health Sciences Library
400 East Main Street
Mount Kisco, NY 10549
914-666-1259
<http://www.nwhc.net/>

If you need help finding a consumer health information center near you, call the National Network of Libraries of Medicine at 1-800-338-7657.

Website reviews: The New York State Department of Health website at <http://www.health.state.ny.us/> offers information on a broad range of topics. Look here to find information about long-term care and nursing homes; hospital profiles by county; physician profiles, reports of professional misconduct, and physician discipline; health topics A to Z; obtaining birth, death, marriage & divorce records; statistics and data; laws and regulations; and the Adoption Information Registry.

Use the New York State Nursing Home Profile to learn about the quality of care various nursing homes provide. Click on the link for [alternatives to nursing homes](#) for information about long term care, home-based care and related links.

Links: For additional health links, go to www.poklib.org and click on the Reference and Research tab. Under Useful Sites, click on Health. Here you will find links to [Consumer Reports Best Buy Drugs](#), [Lab Tests Online](#), [National Alliance for the Mentally III](#) and other useful sites.

Suggested Consumer Health Titles

Alzheimer Disease Sourcebook, 4th edition. Omnigraphics, 2008.

Blacks Medical Dictionary, 41st ed. Scarecrow Press, 2006.

Cancer Dictionary, 3rd ed. Facts on File, 2007.

Gale Encyclopedia of Mental Health, 2nd ed. Gale, 2007.

Encyclopedia of Autism Spectrum Disorders. Facts on File, 2007.

Encyclopedia of Drug Abuse. Facts on File, 2008.

Encyclopedia of Phobias, Fears and Anxieties, 3rd ed. Facts on File, 2008.

Guide to Living with HIV Infection: developed at the Johns Hopkins AIDS clinic. Johns Hopkins, 2007.

Mayo Clinic Book of Alternative Medicine. Time, 2007.

New Medicine: Complete Family Health Guide: integrating complementary, alternative and conventional medicine for the safest and most effective treatment. DK, 2007.

Recent Central Library Acquisitions

[The Adobe Illustrator CS3 Wow! book: tips, tricks, and tech.](#) Sharon Steuer.

[Ex-etiquette for holidays and other family celebrations.](#) Jann Blackstone-Ford and Sharyl Jupe.

[Microsoft Office Publisher 2007 step by step.](#) Joyce Cox and Joan Preppernau.

[My view from the corner: a life in boxing.](#) Angelo Dundee with Bert Randolph Sugar.

[Phlebotomy essentials.](#) Ruth E. McCall, Cathee M. Tankersley.

[Photoshop elements 6: the missing manual.](#) Barbara Brundage.

[Tom Cruise: an unauthorized biography.](#) Andrew Morton.

[Upgrading and repairing PCs.](#) Scott Mueller.

Training Spotlight: Be sure to attend the county-wide staff training offered in April 2008. Register online by going to the Mid-Hudson Library System calendar at <http://calendar.midhudson.org/>.

Please send your questions, comments, and ideas for future issues to Sue Hermans, Central Library Services Coordinator and Head of Reference for the Poughkeepsie Public Library District (shermans@poklib.org.)

