



# Update

Fall 1998

Volume XII, No.3 / 4

## CONSUMER HEALTH RESOURCES FOR YOUR “INFORMATION-HUNGRY” PATIENTS

by Judith Kronick, MLS - Librarian, Healthnet: Connecticut Consumer Health Information Network

**Health Professionals, do you recognize this patient?** During an office visit, he or she pulls out a thick file folder of information concerning their recent diagnosis or surgery, referring to the “latest medical treatment” found by searching on the Internet – then makes a request for a new prescription drug that was advertised on television recently! As a clinician, you may have wondered where to direct these self-motivated patients for sources for up-to-date health information written in non-clinical language and terminology. This hypothetical patient fits the profile of many health-care consumers in the 1990’s—aging ‘baby boomers’ actively searching for medical information and current treatment options, eager to read supplementary materials, with sophisticated questions on disease etiology. In fact, by 1998 the demand for reliable consumer health information became such a trend that the National Library of Medicine introduced subject indexing for 12 major consumer health publications into their MEDLINE database, a citation database of over 9,000,000 records. There are also hundreds of information sites available to technology-savvy consumers who search the World Wide Web.

While the focus of the Health Center Library collection is the technical, scientific literature used by UCHC faculty, students and staff, there are books and newsletters here written in laymen’s terms which are appropriate for your

patients. The Health Center Library and health science resources are available for the public to use. However, only UCHC-affiliated faculty, students or staff are given free borrowing privileges or other services such as interlibrary loan.

In 1985, UCHC librarians created Healthnet, an outreach program designed to help make consumer health information more accessible to residents through their local public libraries by providing reference and advisory services, training for librarians searching the health science literature, and by publishing a quarterly newsletter sent to many public libraries throughout the region. The recommended resources listed on page 2 can be found in public libraries throughout Connecticut.

Any Connecticut resident with a valid public library borrowing card may visit any other public library, statewide, to use that collection or borrow materials there. Interlibrary loan (ILL) service makes it possible for patients to request materials from other libraries but must be initiated through their town library. Your patients should be encouraged to visit their town library as their “first-stop” for current medical information and treatment options. Following is a brief list of recommended books, newsletters and internet sites for patients seeking medical information in lay language.

## CONSUMER HEALTH BOOKS

### **The Merck Manual of Medical Information/Home Edition**

Whitehouse Station, NJ: Merck Research Laboratories, 1998      **Ref WB 130 M555 1997**

This consumer version of the venerable **Merck Manual** includes all topics found in the clinician's version. Good diagrams and charts.

### **Everything You Need to Know About Drugs**

Author: L. Brass. Springhouse, PA: Springhouse, 1997. **Ref QV 772 E93 1997**

This edition gives one-page explanations and instructions on individual drugs in easy-to-understand English. Drugs are listed alpha-betically by brand name, with reference to generic name. Includes drug side effects, typical therapeutic uses, contraindications, drug and food interactions.

### **Children with Disabilities: A Medical Primer**

Author: M. Batshaw. Baltimore: P. H. Brookes Publishing, 1992. **WS 368 B334c 1997**

Discusses the medical and daily care of children with specific developmental disabilities.

### **Everyone's Guide to Cancer Therapy**

Author: M. Dollinger. Kansas City, MO: Andrews and McNeel, 1994.

**Ref QZ 201 D665e 1994**

Explanations of specific cancers and their treatment. Chapters on coping with treatment side effects, controlling pain, investigational drugs, accessing cancer information.

### **The Harvard Guide to Women's Health.**

Author: K. Carlson. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1996.

**WA 309 C284h 1996**

Comprehensive question-and-answer format for information relevant to women's medical concerns; includes clear diagrams and charts.

### **The Human Heart: A Basic Guide to Heart Disease.**

Author: B. Phibbs. Philadelphia: Lippincott-Raven Publishers, 1997

**WG 210 P543h 1997**

A detailed, extensive (but not overly technical) explanation of the functions and disorders of the heart.

## CONSUMER HEALTH NEWSLETTERS

### **Harvard Health Letter**

#### **Harvard Women's Health Watch**

Two excellent newsletters published by the Harvard Medical School which provide back-ground articles on current health topics in layman's language. One selected article from the current issue is always posted on Harvard's Web site at: [http://www.countway.med.harvard.edu/publications/Health\\_Publications/.index.html](http://www.countway.med.harvard.edu/publications/Health_Publications/.index.html)

### **Health Facts**

With the stated goal of "promoting informed decision-making", this newsletter is published by the Center for Medical Consumers & Health Care Information, a consumer advocacy group. Provided here are analyses, summaries and recommendations for current treatment options from medical journals.

### **Mayo Clinic Health Letter**

Published by the Mayo Clinic, this attractive newsletter presents brief, easily-readable articles on current health topics that provide an overview of physiology and current treatments, supporting the text with colorful illustrations and graphics.

## INTERNET-BASED RESOURCES

A more complete list of Health Resources available through the Internet can be found on the UCHC Library homepage at this URL:

<http://www3.uchc.edu/~uchclib/departm/hnet/inters.html>.

## BIOMEDICINE & HEALTH IN THE NEWS

<http://www3.uchc.edu/~uchclib/bhn/>

An index of articles appearing in the New York Times that reference medical and scientific studies reported in the journal. Includes citations to medical journal articles and links to journal web sites.

## REUTERS HEALTH E-LINE

<http://www.reutershealth.com/>

Updated daily, this collection of current medical news articles is produced by Reuters Health Information. Keyword-searchable by topic, also included are extensive citations from medical journals. In-depth medical news targeted at health professionals requires a fee subscription.

## ONCOLINK

<http://cancer.med.upenn.edu/>

Found on the University of Pennsylvania's Comprehensive Cancer Center WWW page, Oncolink is an online resource for cancer news and drug treatment updates, reports from NCI's PDQ (Physician Data Query) System, current clinical trials, patient financial information, referrals to support groups.

## NOAH

<http://www.noah.cuny.edu/>

New York Online Access to Health, published since 1995 by a partnership that includes the New York Public Library and the New York Academy of Medicine, gathers information on many health topics

from a variety of resources, full text in both Spanish and English.

## HEALTHFINDER

<http://www.healthfinder.gov>

Produced by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, this comprehensive "gateway" site for online consumer health information has links to over 3,200 selected resources.

Comments, questions or suggestions regarding Consumer Health information resources can be directed to Judith Kronick at 860/ 679-4047 or [KRONIK@NSO.UCHC.EDU](mailto:KRONIK@NSO.UCHC.EDU), or to Healthnet Program Director, Alberta Richetelle, at 860/ 679-4055 or [RICHETELLE@NSO.UCHC.EDU](mailto:RICHETELLE@NSO.UCHC.EDU).



## NEWS FLASH FROM THE EDITOR

**HEALTH REFERENCE CENTER**, a patient education/consumer health database, produced by the Information Access Company, is just one of the **250+ searchable databases available for UCHC researchers** via the World Wide Web through the University of Connecticut-Storrs Libraries. Read Jill Livingston's article (below)

for tips on how to access to this treasure-trove of electronic information resources.

## ACCESS TO UCONN STORRS DATABASES? Yes!

by Jill Livingston, MLS - Information Services Librarian

Thanks to a cooperative agreement established between Lyman Maynard Stowe Library and the University of Connecticut Libraries, researchers at the Health Center can now access over 250 academic and medical databases via the World Wide Web. Anyone using a computer within the Health Center - with an IP address registered to UCHC - can access these information resources which cover a gamut of academic and medical disciplines. Medically-oriented databases alone index such topics as aging, agriculture, AIDS, biology, cancer, chemistry, consumer health, drugs and pharmaceuticals, grants, FDA regulatory updates, health and medical devices, healthcare organizations, medical information pertaining to foreign countries, mental health, occupational safety, psychology and sociology, social science, sports science, toxicology and much more. See for yourself, by turning your browser to the following URL: **<http://www.lib.uconn.edu/>**

Under the heading **Research**, two options for access are listed: "Databases by Title" provides direct access to an alphabetical list of databases; a second option, "Resources by Subject", provides access to databases and other print and electronic resources (including WWW sites) by subject area. "Resources by Subject" is a fantastic guide to available databases and electronic resources and a great starting point for researchers. Note that only databases with a "UCONN" or GLOBE label next to them can be accessed from a UCHC workstation. The "UCL" label marks those databases restricted to UConn Libraries *only*. These databases are diverse in coverage and cover many millions of records and search interfaces vary depending on the vendor and database. If you are having difficulty locating the information you need and would like assistance, please contact UCHC Information Services librarians at 860/ 679-2942. We're always happy to help you get the information you require.



## **JOURNAL ARTICLES *FAST* – FROM DOCUMENT DELIVERY**

by Arta Dobbs, MSLS, Collection Management Librarian

The attached pull-out section in this edition presents the 1998 list of journals available through UCHC Library's free article retrieval system known as Document Delivery (DD), a service available to all UCHC-affiliated faculty, staff and students. Currently there are 306 titles available, many of which were previously available at UCHC but had to be cancelled due to low usage or high cost. All items ordered through DD will be high-quality photocopies or original tearsheets. Note that a maximum of **five free articles, per title, per academic year** may be requested through this service; if the number of requests exceed this limit, the cost for supplying additional articles will normally be billed to the requestor's department. Items needed within one to five working days will be faxed (with no guarantee of readable quality), those articles needed within a 6-25 day timeframe will be mailed from the lender or commercial supplier. To submit a request for a journal article from the DD list, complete a UCHC interlibrary loan form and return it to Information Services or to Circulation staff. DD articles can be submitted electronically by turning your browser to this URL: <http://www3.uchc.edu/~uchclib/departm/ill/docdel.html>

Suggestions, questions or comments about the Document Delivery service may be addressed to Arta Dobbs, at 860/ 679-2432 or email to DOBBS@NSO.UCHC.EDU.

---

## **BOOKS NEWLY BOUGHT**

by Helen Madden, MLS, Catalog Librarian

### **SCIENCE ON TRIAL: The Clash of Medical Evidence and the Law in the Breast Implant Case.**

Author: Marcia Angell. New York: W.W. Norton, 1997 **WP 33 AA1 A583 1997**

Written by the executive editor of the New England Journal of Medicine, this book stands as an indictment of the system whereby courts and public opinion prevailed in breast implant cases, despite scientific evidence showing no significant link between silicon breast implants and breast disease. It reveals differences in the way science, the law and the public regard evidence.

### **VISUAL EXPLANATIONS: Images and Quantities, Evidence and Narrative.** Author: Edward Tufte. Cheshire, CT: Graphics Press, 1997. **WW 105 T914 1997**

A book about depicting visual evidence relevant to cause and effect. Practical applications and examples include statistical graphics, charts for making decisions in medicine, design of computer interfaces, animations and scientific visualizations, and techniques for talks.

### **MANAGING DEATH.** Author: James M. Hoefler. Boulder: Westview Press, 1997 **W 85.5 H693 1997**

A guide for health care professionals, patients, and families involved in facing difficult decisions on foregoing treatment and managing death.

### **PROBLEM DOCTORS: A Conspiracy of Silence.** Authors: P. Lens, G. van der Wal. Washington DC, IOS Press, 1997. **W 21 P962 1997**

This book is about understanding problem doctors and helping the profession find better ways to help them and protect patients. It examines the phenomenon of non-criticism and denial by colleagues, and discusses self-regulation within the profession as being part of the problem as well as part of the solution.

### **RADIUM GIRLS: Women and Industrial Health Reform, 1910-1935.**

Author: Claudia Clark. Chapel Hill, NC: Univ. of North Carolina Press, 1997. **WN 300 C592r 1997**

An historical account of the women who worked applying luminous paint to watch faces and found themselves among the first victims of radium poisoning. Even after developing mysterious, often fatal illnesses, they still had to fight to have their symptoms recognized as an industrial disease.

### **SURGICAL ETHICS.** Editors: L. B. McCullough, et al. New York: Oxford University Press, 1998.

## WO 21 S961 1998

A practical guide to ethical issues relevant to the everyday concerns of practicing surgeons, this book discusses such issues as informed consent, advance directives, poor surgical risk, dying patients, financial relationships with patients and payers, and even the special relationship between surgeons and patients who are friends.

---



### IF IT'S STILL "PUBLISH or PERISH"...

by Marion Holena Levine, MLS, MA - Associate Director

... you might want to check out three new books in the Library's collection!

### **Publishing Your Medical Research Paper: What they don't teach in medical school.**

Author: Daniel Byrne. Baltimore: Williams & Wilkins, 1998 **WZ 345 B995p 1998**

The author's stated purpose is "to explain how to anticipate and avoid problems typically encountered in designing a research study and writing a publishable paper." His ideas are arranged into 245 short, easy-to-read sections, with examples of actual peer review critiques. Included is #43, *Reviewers' and Editors' Most Common Criticisms of Manuscripts*, those comments that are always helpful to review. #45, *Select a Target Journal Before You Begin to Write Your Paper*, provides tables of refereed medical journals with journal citation impact factors. Near and dear to any librarian's heart, there's #188, *Allow Enough Time to Create a Flawless Reference Section*.

### **Writing for Health Professionals: A manual for writers** (2<sup>nd</sup> Ed.). Author: Philip Burnard.

London: Chapman & Hall, 1996. **WZ 345 B985w 1998**

This text takes the usual traditional approach by outlining how to write and how to structure whatever format your writing takes, ranging from articles to essays to books. The author even throws in two chapters on purchasing a computer, and writing using a computer.

### **American Medical Association Manual of Style: A guide for authors and editors.** Editor: Cheryl Iverson. Baltimore: Williams & Wilkins, 1998. **Ref Z 253 B244m 1998**

This is the old standard workhorse of a style manual. The AMA journal editors have updated the older edition to include all the elements needed to make a manuscript "clear and readable... reliable and authoritative." Included in this new edition are expanded chapters on legal and ethical concerns in publishing; statistics; abbreviations; figures and tables; typography; end-of-chapter references; and current information on electronic publishing. All this in a 3-pound, 660 page book!

## NEW SOFTWARE IN THE COMPUTER EDUCATION CENTER

### **A&LERT USMLE step 1 deluxe.**

Stamford, CT: Appleton & Lange New Media, 1998. **W 18.2 A649a 1998 CAI**

### **A&LERT USMLE step 2 deluxe.**

Stamford, CT: Appleton & Lange New Media, 1998. **W 18.2 A649b 1998 CAI**

Both these simulated tests for medical and dental students contain 3,600 USMLE-type test questions and six simulated USMLE-type tests. These programs include 1,200 questions and answers in anatomy, physiology, biochemistry, microbiology, pathology and pharmacology.

### **Cardiax: a computer-aided, case-based approach to learning clinical skills in cardiology.**

Fort Collins, CO: Visible Productions, 1997- . **WG 100 C267a 1997**

Multimedia review of diagnosis involving auscultation, x-ray, and EKG using fundamental principles of cardiac diagnosis. Case 1: Middle-aged woman with chest pain. Case 2: Female university student with systolic murmur. Case 3: 23-year old pregnant woman with systolic murmur.

**Doctor's dilemma: essentials of medical ethics.** Authors: R. Martin, A. Reese et al. Tampa: Gold Standard Multimedia, Inc, 1997. **W 50 D637a 1997 CAI**

An interactive medical ethics program allowing individual exploration of controversial issues found in contemporary medical practice. Progress through a week in the life of a family physician, interacting with patients, their families, staff, and colleagues.

**Diagnostic oncology.** Author: Arthur T. Skarin. St. Louis, MO: Mosby, 1997.

**QZ 241 C386 1997 CAI**

2,400+ "classic" images of oncologic tumors or malignancies, organized according to organ systems as well as "uncommon" images. The pathologic features of cancer -- macroscopic and microscopic -- are presented by diagnostic illustrations.

**HIV & AIDS: an interactive curriculum for health sciences.** Authors: J. Anastasi, J. Dobkin, J. Henderson. Stamford, CT: Appleton & Lange, 1996. **WC 503 H676c 1996 CAI**

This software brings issues of AIDS patient care to life by using 3-D graphic models, animations and actual interviews with HIV-positive clients and their caregivers. Interaction time is about six hours, divided among 15 different modules on the four CD-ROMs.

**Clinical hematology.** Authors: A.V. Hoffbrand and J. E. Pettit. Baltimore, MD: Mosby, 1996.

**WH 120 C641c 1996 CAI**

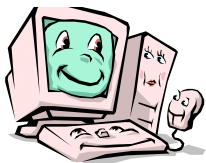
An interactive CD-ROM atlas which provides 1,230 illustrations showing morphologic abnormalities of blood cells with correlating clinical appearances, histology, radiology, and computed tomography. Images may be viewed with or without identifying labels.

**Immunology interactive 2.0.** Authors: Male and I. Roitt. London: Mosby, 1998. **QW 504 I33i 1998**

An interactive program centered around 15 full-color, 3-D animations allowing viewers to experience how the immune system works at the molecular and cellular level. 400+ illustrations or photos showing immune system behavior in real-life cases; and 200 self-assessment questions.

Contact Lynn White at the Computer Education Center, with questions or suggestions about computer software for the Library, at 860/ 679-4253 or email at [WHITE@NSO.UCHC.EDU](mailto:WHITE@NSO.UCHC.EDU). To view a complete list of newly-acquired software available in the CEC from the Library Web page, go to this URL: <http://www3.uchc.edu/~uchclib/departm/cec/newsoft.html>

---



## Yes, Hal!

by Melissa Wisner, MLS - Systems Librarian

Librarians at Lyman Maynard Stowe Library are making plans for a smooth transition into the new millennium. Several improvements and challenges in automated library systems are in the works this year. First, UCHC's online catalog and many of our current electronic databases will soon have a new user interface that incorporates the dynamical features of the World Wide Web. The "point and click" graphics display interface familiar to experienced WWW searchers will soon be up and running, and library users will find that tapping into LYMAN, MEDLINE and other electronic resources will have an identical "look and feel" and be mouse-driven. Searching in the "basic" mode through the Web will require less keyboard input; "advanced" searching features-- such as using EndNote, a commercial bibliographic citation manager--will become customary. Any of the following examples become viable once a Web-based library system is installed: viewing medical images, listening to audio tapes of recent lectures, taking exams online. We are examining the options presented by various vendors and will continue to update the UCHC community on future developments. Meanwhile, if you are interested in a preview of what is to come, turn your browser to one library that has already implemented Web-based computing, at: <http://www-medlib.med.utah.edu/>





## WEB WATCHER : Virtual Reference Desks

by Kathleen Crea, MLS, 6th Year, AHIP - Information Services Librarian

Need to check the Kelly Blue Book of Used Car Prices before making an offer on that Volvo? Need to know when the next low tide will be in Old Saybrook? Uncertain how to construct a list of references? Wondering what time it is in Helsinki if it is 5:00pm in New York? Any of these questions can be answered by checking the "online reference desks" sites below.

1. **A Web of Online Dictionaries--Bucknell**  
<http://www.bucknell.edu/~rbeard/diction.html>
2. **Electronic Reference Shelf--UConn Storrs**  
<http://www.lib.uconn.edu/lib-assignments/refsources.htm>
3. **The Digital Librarian: Reference**  
<http://www.servtech.com/~mvail/reference.html>
4. **Instructions to Authors—Med. College of Ohio**  
<http://www.mco.edu/lib/instr/libinsta.html>
5. **My Virtual Reference Desk**  
<http://www.refdesk.com/>
6. **Online Reference Works--Carnegie Mellon University**  
<http://www.cs.cmu.edu/references.html>
7. **I-Tools... including ResearchIt & FindIt**  
<http://itools.com>
8. **Online Dictionaries & Translators**  
<http://rivendel.com/~ric/resources/dictionary.html>

---

## EVIDENCE BASED MEDICINE REVIEWS on our OVID Network

by Hongjie Wang, MLS, MA - Head, Information Services

Evidence-based medicine (EBM) is a growing, international movement in health care that encourages physicians, nurses, pharmacists, and allied health professionals to seek out, appraise, and apply the "best evidence" from the medical literature when confronted with patient treatment decisions.

Indexed in EBMR is data from two international information sources: **the Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews** and **Best Evidence**. The Cochrane Collaboration is a volunteer group of 3,500 biomedical researchers throughout the world who review hundreds of published research studies, selecting those which meet strict, stated EBM criteria. The Cochrane authors then perform "meta-analyses" when possible on each of the included studies, and then write a detailed and structured review of the topic and the findings which is then loaded into the Cochrane database. **Best Evidence** incorporates citations from two separate publications- ACP Journal Club, published by the American College of Physicians (ACP) and Evidence-Based Medicine, which is a joint publication of the ACP and British Medical Journal Group. The editors of **Best Evidence** screen the top clinical journals on a regular basis and identify studies that are both methodologically sound and clinically relevant. They write an enhanced abstract of the chosen articles and provide a commentary on the value of the article from clinical practice viewpoints.

EBMR will be installed on our UCHC Library network when it becomes available from OVID. Search screens and commands for EBMR will be the same as currently used for searching OVID MEDLINE, CINAHL and Current Contents. Search results, like with other OVID databases, can be printed, downloaded or e-mailed. **An announcement will be made when EBMR is available! Stay tuned.**

Plans for UCHC Library Home Page to get a 're-design' are in the work this fall! Soon we will have a whole new look! To keep posted on these developments, check out the "**What's New**" section, at the following URL: <http://www3.uchc.edu/~uchclib/latebreak/>

**UPDATE - Fall 1998**  
**Volume XII, No. 3 & 4**

---



**WELCOME BACK STUDENTS, FACULTY and STAFF !**

**Good Luck with your academic endeavors this year**

**1998-1999 LIBRARY SCHEDULE**

Aug 17, 1998 - Regular Academic Hours Begin

Regular Academic Year Hours:

Monday-Friday            7:00am - 12 Midnight

Saturday                    9:00am - 12 Midnight

Sunday                     10:00am - 12 Midnight

Stop in at the Circulation Desk for a copy of the 1998-1999 Library Schedule or call 860/ 679-2739.

---

Comments or Questions? Please reply to the Editor: **Kathleen Crea** at [CREA@NSO.UCHC.EDU](mailto:CREA@NSO.UCHC.EDU)

UPDATE - Fall 1998

Volume XII, No. 3/4

LYMAN MAYNARD STOWE LIBRARY

UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT HEALTH CENTER

P.O. BOX 4003

FARMINGTON, CONNECTICUT 06034-4003

Non-Profit Organization  
U.S. Postage

PAID  
Permit No. 13  
Farmington, CT