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**CHECK OUT THE
 ALTERNATIVES**

Jean Sayre, Associate Director

You can't read a newspaper or magazine today without coming across an article on alternative or complementary medicine. The United States' population has discovered that there are alternatives to Western medicine. Many of the "new" alternatives are really systems of medicine several thousand years old, such as Aryuveda from India and Traditional Chinese Medicine. Why are people looking toward alternatives? They are looking for safer, less toxic and cheaper alternatives to prescription drugs. People are also taking more responsibility for their health and well being than ever before. Some people are turning to alternative therapies when other therapies fail or traditional medicine can't give a diagnosis. And, people are living longer with chronic conditions that respond better to alternative therapies than to the traditional forms of treatment. In general, alternative therapies attempt to maintain the body's balance with

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**Non-Traditional Alternatives
 for Consumer Health**

Jean Sayre, Acting Director

More and more consumers are becoming aware of the increasing number of options for obtaining consumer health information. The National Library of Medicine has recently unveiled a web site, *MEDLINEplus*, to assist consumers in finding medical information on the Internet. The library's role in providing consumer health information is evolving. Many librarians are now including resources for alternative medicine and non-traditional health care in their library collections. The interest in alternative medicine is beginning to be reflected in the scientific literature. The November 11, 1998 issue of *JAMA* is devoted to current alternative medicine practices. Specific topics in this issue include trends in alternative medicine, medical malpractice implications, integrating alternative medicine into practice, and controlled trials for alternative medicine therapies. This issue of *3 Sources* explores new approaches to providing medical information to health care consumers.

Jean Sayre's article describes the role of the National Institute of Health in facilitating evaluation of alternative medical treatments. The article describes the National Center for Complementary and Alternative Medicine (NCCAM). NCAAM provides alternative medicine information for the health care consumer and has developed a broad classification scheme for alternative therapies. Judith Reike from the University of North Dakota defines two common terms,

complementary and alternative medicine, and provides suggestions for obtaining print and electronic resources in this field.

Two articles from GMR member librarians focus on extending library services to health care consumers. Francis Ellis Rice illustrates the development of the Children's Medical Library in Sioux Falls South Dakota. The library provides current information regarding children's medical care to consumers by identifying family resources available locally and providing referrals to additional library resources or health care organizations.

Kara Logsdon, Director of the Patient's Library at the University of Iowa, describes a centralized service approach to consumer health care education. The Patient's Library is designed to provide access to print and electronic resources to meet patient information needs, including health care, recreation, and business.

An article discussing *MEDLINEplus*, the new NLM consumer health web site is included in this issue. In Tech Notes, Chris Shaffer and Charniel McDaniels outline procedures for updating records in SERHOLD after the last GMR tape load. In addition, the issue provides a listing of Consumer Health journals currently indexed by MEDLINE.

The GMR wants to include information in *3 Sources* about its members. If you have a unique experience, article, or idea to share, please contact the GMR. We all benefit by sharing new developments in the region. Contact the GMR at (800) 338-7657 or via e-mail at gmr@uic.edu. ■

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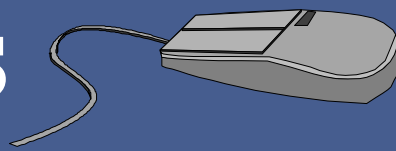
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Tech Notes



Web-SERHOLD

Charniel McDaniels, Network Coordinator

Chris Shaffer, Technology Coordinator

The OCLC GM#L tape upload to SERHOLD is going away. How will you update your holdings?

What are the OCLC GM#L tape upload, Online SERHOLD, and Web-SERHOLD?

OCLC GM#L Tape Upload

The GMR has been using the OCLC GM#L tape upload to get holdings information into SERHOLD for many years. On October 1, 1998 OCLC produced the last GM#L tape for the GMR. If your library is on the OCLC GM#L tape, your entire SERHOLD holdings will be replaced by the information that is on the OCLC GM#L tape (tape upload projected December 1998).

Online SERHOLD

As an interim service between the OCLC GM#L tape upload and Web-SERHOLD, the GMR has contracted with at least one Online SERHOLD inputter in each state. Most libraries will not be able to access Online SERHOLD themselves. Online SERHOLD inputters can access SERHOLD directly to modify library holdings. Most Online SERHOLD inputters charge a modest fee for their services. Note that Online SERHOLD is now only an interim system - libraries can choose to bypass Online SERHOLD completely and wait for Web-SERHOLD.

Web-SERHOLD

At the DOCLINE Users' Meeting at MLA 1998, NLM announced that Web-SERHOLD will be available in June 1999 (and DOCLINE will be web-based in 1999 too!). Every library will be able to maintain their individual holdings via the web. Anyone can be a Web-SERHOLD inputter - to make someone your inputter, just give them your userid and password. NLM is considering allowing FTP uploads and/or downloads between SERHOLD and OCLC and/or library OPACs. Check the Web-SERHOLD page at (<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/gmr/publish/serhold.html>) for upload/download options as additional information becomes available.

Union Lists and Library Holdings Lists

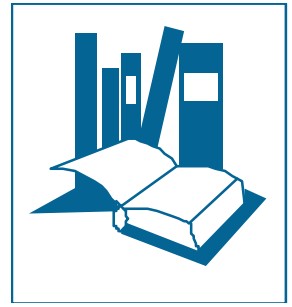
The Greater Midwest Region Union List, state union lists, and individual library holdings lists created on May 1, 1998 are now available on the GMR web site at (<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/gmr/serhold>). About two weeks after the OCLC GM#L tape upload (projected December 1998), the GMR will update these lists. Each library will be able to view their own holdings live on the web using Web-SERHOLD (projected June 1999). In addition, NLM has indicated that union listing features will be included in Web-SERHOLD. Check the Web-SERHOLD page listed above for additional information about union listing as it becomes available.

Making the Transition through Online SERHOLD to Web-SERHOLD

How you make the Transition through Online SERHOLD to Web-SERHOLD will depend on who you are and where you are located. See the GMR web site for specific state information. (<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/gmr/publish/serhold.html>). The GMR office will be happy to send you a printed copy of the information upon request. ■

Children's Medical Library

Francis Ellis Rice, Director, Children's Medical Library



Organizational Background:

The Children's Medical Library (CML), a co-sponsored project of the Junior League of Sioux Falls (JLSF) and the Children's Miracle Network (CMN), assists those seeking information on children's health and medical challenges. The Children's Miracle Network is involved with children in medical crisis, providing financial assistance to children and their families regardless of medical condition. The Junior League of Sioux Falls is committed to improving the community through effective action of trained volunteers.

Our Beginning: Program Description:

Since 1997 the Children's Medical Library has provided customers with up-to-date information regarding various children's medical challenges, as well as helping to identify family resources available on a local and national level. The customers served by the Children's Medical Library include parents or caregivers of children with medical challenges, extended family members, educators, healthcare providers and libraries. The library offers a variety of specific medical information resources, referrals to other medical library resources, organizations, support groups, and multimedia sources (i.e., web sites). The Children's Medical Library acts as a clearinghouse for families seeking one source for all relevant

information on a medical challenge. The general public, social service agencies and medical professionals use the services of the Children's Medical Library. Children's Medical Library also includes a collection of children's materials to assist children in coping and learning about their specific medical challenge.

The Children's Medical Library emphasizes the using technology to optimize operations. Children's Medical Library has a web site (<http://www.childmedlib.org>) and uses CD-ROM and Internet bibliographic information. Children's Medical Library acquires materials that enhance the resources currently in the state. Children's Medical Library makes use of the Internet site NetWellness (<http://www.netwellness.org>), an established consumer health information program for the state of Ohio, as well as government and national non-profit web sites. Children's Medical Library has established partnerships with many organizations, including the South Dakota Library Network.

From surveys compiled in 1994/95, the JLSF and Children's Miracle Network received strong indication of public desire for materials accessible in a public library setting. The use of the local setting was strongly emphasized. One survey respondent stated, "I didn't know where to go to find information or support... There are many

familys [sic] that must feel the ame way we do and we need a place to go to read information about medical problems and how to deal with them." This respondent typifies the majority of the survey findings. Families are desperate for children's consumer health information to be brought to their communities. Using current technology infrastructures, and planning to include future networking opportunities, (i.e., Libraries On-Line, Wiring the Schools program), the Children's Medical Library provides an accessible and comprehensive collection for families and the community. Children's Medical Library reaches all regional customers in need of children's health information - those who wish personalized contact as well as those using technology to find informaion. During the first year, search topics have ranged from basic health to technical medical information. Children's Medical Library reaches out to the customer challenged by an impaired quality of life and/or community-bound.

A common scenario is the following: a customer will call, e-mail, visit our web site, or appear in person to discuss their information needs with a trained volunteer or medical librarian. The staff then gathers resources to meet the specific request. The information is then sent to the requester via mail, fax, or electronically. The Children's Medical Library has a goal of adding a dial-in system, that

partners with the Library's web site and gives the customer the ability to request health topics over the phone and have the materials delivered to them by designated means (fax, e-mail, or mail).

Services Offered by Children's Medical Library

The Children's Medical Library is a unique information and referral resource dedicated solely to children's health needs. The library serves the information needs of the patient, extended family members, healthcare providers, librarians and students. Children's Medical Library provides a variety of specific medical information, referrals to additional library resources or support groups, and functions as a single point of contact.

Future goals for the Children's Medical Library include: increasing public awareness, promoting the library web site, performing fee-based research upon request, and developing public learning labs. The Children's Medical Library will not intentionally duplicate existing services. The library does not provide medical advice or diagnosis or physician referrals.

Audience Served

Numbers based on 1992 Census data: 1,163,694 potential healthcare consumers in

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CONSUMER HEALTH INFORMATION AT THE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA: A UNIQUE BUNDLING OF SERVICES

*Kara Logsdon, UIAIMS Project Director, Hardin Library for the Health Sciences
and Director, Patients' Library, University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics*

Since 1932, the Patients' Library has served patients at the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics (UIHC), Iowa's tertiary health care center. In 1988, the Patients' Library incorporated the Health Information Center (HIC) into its services to provide consumer health information. Annually, serving over 88,000 individuals and circulating over 45,000 items, the Patients' Library has seen a dramatic rise in demand for its services. The largest percentage of service increase has been in the Health Information Center where patients have access to health information in a number of formats, including print, electronic, audio and video.

If we build it - will they come? Five years ago, and again one year ago, Patients' Library staff examined the effectiveness of its services. In light of increasing demand by patrons, and the explosion of consumer health information available, a commitment was made to increase and enhance consumer health information services as well as other library services. During this building period, the Patients' Library consciously created a "one-stop-shopping" information hub within the UIHC. Our philosophy is to provide an area where patients and their families can meet their recreation, education, and family business needs in one location. To that end, we have an on-line public access catalog to help with the locating materials, a copy machine, a FAX machine, and

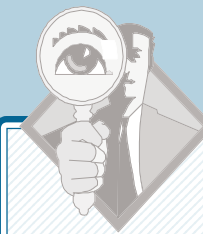
four Internet connected computers. One computer is dedicated to patrons seeking consumer health information. The other three are clustered in close proximity to the staff to facilitate small group training sessions and questions during open use times. Using these computers, patients can search for health information on the Internet, from local databases, visit recreational sites, and check their e-mail. Patients' Library staff provide formal and informal training sessions to help patrons navigate the resources available at the Patients' Library and to teach skills for use when the patient goes home.

To effectively provide consumer health services, the Patients' Library collaborates with the Hardin Library for the Health Sciences to make networked databases available to patients as well as students, faculty, and staff. We also work with the National Laboratory for the Study of Rural Telemedicine and The Virtual Hospital, who jointly provided the first Internet accessible computer for patients to use. The success of this venture validated our request for funding to purchase additional computers for patient use and reinforced the notion of "If we build it, they will come."

Future plans for services include creating a Web page with links to PubMed, the Virtual Hospital, the Virtual Children's Hospital, HealthWeb, and other resources for consumers. We also plan to expand our training sessions so our patients

can learn information-seeking skills that can be used at the Patients' Library, local public libraries and at home.

At UIHC, bundling consumer health information with recreation and family business needs has been an effective means to deliver overall library services. The Patients' Library is a family-friendly area that has cultivated its services around needs and demands from patients and their families. We will continue to build on the services provided at the Patients' Library while constantly upholding our motto: "Making a difference for UIHC patients everyday!" ■



**Check out
the November 1998 issue
of *American Libraries*
(v.29 n.10).**

**The title of the issue is
"Information is the Best
Medicine: Libraries and
Health."**

**This issue features
articles on using
MEDLINE, providing
consumer health infor-
mation, assisting dis-
abled patrons, and find-
ing information tools.**

Searching For Alternatives?

My Advice on Finding Resources

Judith L. Rieke, Assistant Director, Library of the Health Sciences,
University of North Dakota

With the legitimizing of alternative and complementary medicine has come a flood of information resources. Alternative medicine was considered for addition to the 1997 Brandon-Hill Selected List of Books and Journals for the Small Medical Library (1). Finding reliable ones that best fit your users' needs is the challenge. Use standard techniques when making decisions, and apply quality filters when making final selections. Resources come in all formats, but this article focuses on books and briefly mentions journals, databases, pamphlets and the Internet.

Although the terms alternative and complementary medicine are often used interchangeably, many sources distinguish the two. Barrie R. Cassileth, Ph.D. in *The Alternative Medicine Handbook* notes that the term alternative is more commonly used in the United States, and complementary is more European. The author makes this distinction throughout the book: "alternative is applied to therapies recommended by their practitioners for use instead of mainstream care (thus truly alternative to conventional medicine), while complementary is used for therapies that, as the term literally implies, serve a supplementary role." (2) It is helpful to keep a perspective of the terms in mind as you investigate available resources.

Resources for home and library: Where to find books.

Health sciences book vendors are the best place to start. All major book suppliers have web sites, and often you can search for recently published titles.

Examine them thoroughly to find all possible subject headings used. For example, one vendor uses Complementary Medicine but also makes entries under individual therapies, such as Acupuncture or Chiropractic. Another vendor places its books under the subject heading Alternative Medicine. Health sciences vendors who supply books on the topic include Login Brothers (<http://www.lb.com>), Majors Scientific Books (<http://www.majors.com>), Matthews (<http://www.mattmccoy.com>), and Rittenhouse (<http://www.rittenhouse.com>). Majors has also published *Complementary Health*, a print catalog of titles devoted to alternative medicine.

If books can not be found from a health sciences vendor, try a general book vendor such as Amazon.com (<http://www.amazon.com>), Barnes & Noble (<http://barnesandnoble.com>) or Borders (<http://www.borders.com>). Often these suppliers will have a broader array of consumer oriented titles than health sciences vendors, but they usually carry fewer technical and scientific titles.

Be Selective

There are hundreds of titles available, so remember to read reviews in professional journals. Check not only the library literature, but also book reviews in medical journals. Many mainstream medical journals, including *JAMA*, *Lancet*, *Annals of Internal Medicine*, and *NEJM*, include reviews of alternative medicine books. Although there is a Medical Subject Heading (MeSH) BookReview, alternative medicine books are indexed only selectively

in MEDLINE. Routine browsing of journals and searching general literature indexes are often effective approaches.

Doody's Electronic Journal (<http://www.doody.com>) or the print version *Doody's Health Sciences Book Review Journal* is an excellent source of reviews written by health care professionals. You can look for a specific title or browse the specialty "alternative therapies." Using their rating system, you can tell at a glance if a book has a review available, number of stars it earned, and if it's predicted to be best seller. Free trials for the service are available.

Examples of Books

One book that has received positive reviews in the professional medical literature as well as the general book review press, (3) is Barrie R. Cassileth's *Alternative medicine handbook: the complete reference guide to alternative and complementary therapies*. Dr. Cassileth is a founding member of the advisory board to the National Center of Complementary and Alternative Medicine (NCCAM). The book doesn't recommend treatments, but rather describes techniques, their backgrounds and claims, and provides available evidence about their safety and utility. The book is divided into sections based on the classifications devised by NCCAM.

Alternative Medicine: The Definitive Guide (5) is a huge compendium covering every therapy imaginable. It provides signed articles, extensive references and is edited by a number of experts. Although compiled in 1993, it is one of the most comprehensive sources

available. This book, along with the Handbook, carries the disclaimer that the information is not a substitute for consultation with a physician. Another favorably reviewed recent book by Marc S. Micozzi is *Fundamentals of Complementary and Alternative Medicine* (4). This book was written specifically for medical, health, and science students and practitioners to provide them with a foundation to understand alternative therapies.

No collection should be without *Alternative Medicine Resource Guide* by Francine Feuerman and Marsha J. Handel published by the Medical Library Association in 1997. It is a thorough examination of the print resources available from a variety of sources. It has extensive coverage of organizations and lists locations where practitioners can study. It is arranged first by general resources and then by therapy. Two new publications that libraries will find helpful are the *Directory of Schools for Alternative and Complementary Health Care* (7) and *The Dictionary of Alternative Medicine* (8). *JAMA* carried a favorable review of the dictionary saying that it filled the gap in the need for an "up-to-date, unbiased, and concise dictionary of alternative medicine." (9)

Journals and Newsletters

Lists of titles available can be found in standard sources, such as *Ulrich's* or the *Serials Directory*. Serials vendors often have web sites that allow users to access title lists. SERLINE is an excellent place for serials information and verification of titles indexed in MEDLINE.

Continued

Searching For Alternatives

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A recent search revealed 90 titles under the MeSH term Alternative Medicine, three of which are indexed in MEDLINE. Two peer-reviewed titles are *Alternative therapies in health and medicine* (10) and *Journal of alternative and complementary medicine* (11). Many of the citations found in MEDLINE are from these sources. The NCCAM quarterly newsletter, *Complementary and Alternative Medicine*, is available online at (<http://altmed.od.nih.gov/nccam/cam>). Although primarily information about NCCAM, it does provide an idea of the latest developments.

Databases

There is no major database devoted to alternative medicine. References are indexed in a variety of sources. The MeSH heading Alternative Medicine is defined as "an unrelated group of non-orthodox therapeutic practices, often with explanatory systems that do not follow conventional biomedical explanations." Many of the individual therapies, such as Chiropractic, can also be searched. The NCCAM has a Citation Index, which consists of more than 90,000 bibliographic citations from 1966 to 1997, retrieved through MEDLINE. The citations were obtained using MeSH controlled vocabulary terms from the "alternative medicine" tree structure, and other selected MeSH terms.

For thorough coverage of the journal literature, additional databases, such as Cumulative Index to Nursing Literature (CINAHL), Information Access Corporation's Health Refer-

ence Center, and PSYCHLIT should be consulted. The British Library's Health Care Information Service, has produced an Alternative and Allied Medicine (AMED) database containing information on complementary medicine, physiotherapy, rehabilitation, occupational therapy, podiatry and palliative care. The abstracts are compiled from over 400 journals and covers topics unique to alternative medicine. It is now available through database vendors, such as SilverPlatter.

Internet Resources

The National Center for Complementary and Alternative Medicine homepage (<http://altmed.od.nih.gov/nccam>) has information about the office, a citation index, bibliographies, presentations & briefings, and the NCCAM Clearinghouse. It should be the first stop on an Internet search. HealthWeb (<http://healthweb.org>) is developing an Alternative Medicine page, but it is not complete at this writing. There are, however, sites for alternative medicine listed on the Consumer Health Page under Internet Resources and then Health Related Topics. Med-Web (<http://www.MedWeb.Emory.Edu/MedWeb>) points to a whole host of interesting sites.

Often individual libraries have developed pages devoted to the topic because of local demand. Our library, the Harley E. French Library of the Health Sciences, has one at (<http://www.med.und.nodak.edu/depts/library/bibaltmed.htm>). It concentrates on resources specifically available in our library to assist students. Barb Knight and Phyllis Hustoft from the Reference and User Education Department developed the page. **Pamphlets**

Because of the elusive

nature of many of the therapies, it is difficult to find books or articles about them. In these cases, one possible resource is pamphlets. Although less substantial than traditional sources, they may provide the only information available. To find pamphlets, it is often necessary to contact an organization associated with a specific therapy. Lists of specific organizations with addresses are listed in the Alternative Medicine Resource Guide, *Alternative Medicine Handbook* (in the "where to get it" sections), or the *Alternative Medicine: The Definitive Guide* (in the "where to find help" sections).

Conclusion

Although much controversy still surrounds the use of alternative and complementary therapies, their presence is no longer being denied. C. Everett Koop, former Surgeon General of the United States, in the forward to *Fundamentals of Complementary and Alternative Medicine* urges a new look at these therapies and asks for more research and study about them. He states that, "During the nineteenth century American medicine was an eclectic pursuit where a number of competing ideas and approaches thrived. Doctors were able to draw on elements from different traditions in attempting to make people well. Perhaps there is more to this older model of American medicine than we in the twentieth century have been willing to examine. My experience with physicians has convinced me that they are healers first. As such, they are willing to use any ethical approach or treatment that has been proven to work."

References:

1. Brandon, Alfred N. and Dorothy Hill. "Selected list of books and journals for the small medical library," *Bulletin of the Medical Library Association*, 85(2) April 1997, p. 116.
2. Cassileth, Barrie R. *Alternative Medicine Handbook: the complete reference guide to alternative and complementary therapies*. NY: W.W. Norton, 1998; p. 4.
3. Bluming, Avrum. "Alternative Medicine Handbook: The Complete Reference Guide to Alternative and Complementary Therapies (Book Review)" *New England Journal of Medicine*, 339(12) Sept 17, 1998, p. 855.
4. Micozzi, Marc. *Fundamentals of Complementary and Alternative Medicine*. NY: Churchill Livingstone, 1996.
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10. *Alternative therapies in health and medicine*. Aliso Viejo, CA: Innovision Communications. Volume 1, 1995. ISSN: 1078-6791.
11. *Journal of alternative and complementary medicine*. NY: Mary Ann Liebert. Volume 1, 1995. ISSN: 1075-5535. ■

non-toxic methods to enhance health. The general public's interest in alternative therapies is growing rapidly and mainstream providers are following the public's interest.

In 1993 the New England Journal of Medicine published a study by Dr. David Eisenberg and his colleagues from the Center for Alternative Medicine Research at Beth Israel Hospital in Boston. The article sent a shock wave through the medical community. This often-quoted study extrapolated the findings of its survey to produce these interesting numbers: in 1990, the estimated number of annual visits to providers of alternative medicine (425 million) exceeded the number of visits to U.S. primary care physicians (388 million). (1) Recently, Dr. Eisenberg repeated the initial survey done in 1990. He found that the number of visits to alternative practitioners in 1997 increased to 629 million (a 67.9% increase) and total expenditures on alternative therapies are now estimated at 27 billion per year, up from 13.7 billion in 1990. This is comparable to what is spent on physician services in the U.S. each

The U.S. Congress responded to the growing interest in alternative medicine by starting a new Institute of Health in 1992. The Office of Alternative Medicine (OAM) was created through Congressional mandate under the 1992 National Institutes of Health (NIH) Appropriations Bill. Senator Tom Harkin from Iowa was very influential in passing this mandate. Senator Harkin has had a very positive personal experience with alternative medicine, and is one of its champions.

The Institute has begun to make an impact on traditional medicine by holding consensus conferences and by classifying and organizing the many therapies that make up alternative medicine. In October 1998, Congress appropriated increased funding to the institute. With the new funding levels comes a new name: National Center for Complementary and Alternative Medicine (NCCAM). The NCCAM conducts basic and applied research and training and disseminates information on complementary and alternative medicine to practitioners and consumers. NCCAM has a web site containing valuable information for anyone exploring alternative

therapies. The address is (<http://altmed.od.nih.gov/nccam>).

NCCAM has established a Research Database consisting of more than 60,000 non-duplicative bibliographic citations (1966 to 1997) obtained from the National Library of Medicine's MEDLINE database. NCCAM produces fact sheets, information packages, and a quarterly newsletter to enhance public understanding about complementary and alternative medicine. NCCAM also provides funding, a research-training program, and a technical support to facilitate research and education in Complementary and Alternative Medicine.

The NCCAM has classified complementary and alternative health care practices into categories. The classification is a broad categorization of alternative therapies designed for the purposes of discussion and study. According to the NCCAM, the classification and listing of therapies is neither complete nor authoritative, but this classification represents an initial attempt to organize this rather disorgan-

ized arena. The complete classification list is available on the web site.

How many alternative medicine therapies are you familiar with? Besides the NCCAM, there are many authoritative non-government resources that are currently available and suitable for library reference shelves. As a librarian or health care provider, you may be asked to provide information on these topics. Are you ready? To help you prepare, "check-out" Judy Rieke's article "Searching for Alternatives? My Advice on finding resources" to help you keep your library up-to-date, use the NCCAM website, and read articles in the popular and scientific press. It's a fascinating aspect of health care in the United States. ■

- 1) Eisenberg DM.; Kessler R C.; Foster C; et al. "Unconventional medicine in the United States -- prevalence, costs, and patterns of use", NEJM 1993; 328(4):246-252.
- (2) Eisenberg DM; Davis RB; Ehner, SL; et al. "Trends in Alternative Medicine Use in the United States, 1990-1997: Results of a Follow-up National survey", JAMA 1998; 280(18):1569-1575.

Technical Bulletin

The list below summarizes the articles and new information published by the National Library of Medicine in the Technical Bulletin (<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/pubs/techbull.tb.html>). Librarians can request print copies of individual articles from the GMR. Please contact the GMR at (800)338-7657 or via e-mail at gmr@uic.edu.

July/August 1998

Technical Notes (e1)
 Correction to the May-June 1998 NLM Bulletin article titled MLA 1998 (in the DOCLINE Users' meeting Questions and Answers section)
 TRI96 on TOXNET
 Free TOXNET Web Interface
 Impact of the NLM ILS on CATLINE® / AVLINE® /SERLINE® (e2)
 CANCERLIT® and PDQ® To Be Removed from the NLM Databases-Available from NCI's Web Site (e3)
 Introducing Internet Grateful Med Version 2.6 (e4)
 NLM Online Training Program-1999 (e5)

Gold Standard Search (e6)
 NLM Publications
 Internet Directory

September/October 1998

Technical Notes (e1)
 Reminder: CANCERLIT® and PDQ® To Be Removed from the NLM Databases-Available from NCI's Web Site
 Subscribe to New Files Mailing List 1999 MeSH® in USMARC
 Format Available to Download
 Pre-explosion tables for 1999 of Coverage
 Year-End Processing (e2)

Revised NLM Pricing Information
 OLDMEDLINE Expands Years
 YEP of Stored and Saved Searches, Changes to Automatic SDI's and Saved Searches-ELHILL MEDLARS System (e3)
 Farewell to Gratefully Yours (e4)
 The Year-2000 Solution for ELHILL and the MEDLARS Databases (e5)
 MeSH Coming Attractions (e6)
 AVLINE® and CATLINE® Data to be Removed from Other NLM Databases (e7)
 MeSH on the Web (e8)

Appendices
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 List of Subheading Pre-explosions
 MEDLINE-1999 Weekly Update Schedule on ELHILL
 AIDSLINE-1999 Weekly Update Schedule on ELHILL
 HealthSTAR-1999 Weekly Update Schedule on ELHILL
 NLM Databases-1999 Monthly Update Schedule on ELHILL
 1999 NLM Pricing Algorithm Chart
 MEDLARS Pricing Schedule
 NLM Publications
 Internet Directory

Kathy J. Davies,
Communications Coordinator

The National Library of Medicine debuted MEDLINEplus, a new Consumer Health site, on October 22, 1998. The site serves as a information resource for health care consumers; providing access to MEDLINE, medical dictionaries, information clearinghouses, organizations, publications and consumer health libraries. In addition, the site has a health topics link, which organizes information by specific diseases or conditions. MEDLINEplus assists the health care consumer in navigating the sources of information available on the Internet and links to additional medical databases and health care directories. The site is structured to present re-

sources at the following levels: National Institute of Health (NIH) resources, other federal government resources, and other Internet resources.

The consumer can begin by using a medical dictionary to define complex medical terms. The organizations link allows the user to connect with government and other organizations providing services focused on a specific health care issue such as diabetes. The clearinghouse link permits the consumer to request printed publications directly from a organization; publications provides access to available online text. MEDLINEplus links directly to the PubMed and Internet Grateful Med interfaces to search MEDLINE. Additional medical databases, for example, CANCERLIT

and Combined Health Information Database (CHID), are linked as well. Consumer libraries links to the Consumer Health Pilot Project Libraries, the National Network of Libraries of Medicine, and the Medical Library Association Consumer Health Library Directory. The directories link searches for health care organizations, physicians, and hospitals.

Health topics links the consumer to subject oriented information from MEDLINE, other NIH databases, federal government and other resources. The consumer can view the MEDLINE citations retrieved from a formulated Pub Med search. Searches are grouped into diagnosis, therapy, or treatment guidelines. Other medical databases of interest are linked

here as well. Information located in the other resources category is organized by the following subtopics: general overview, diagnosis, therapy, prevention, disease management, organizations and foreign language information.

MEDLINEplus is structured to assist the consumer on several levels including: defining medical terms, requesting publications, locating a health care provider, and conducting database searches. The site describes the selection criteria and reminds consumers to discuss all medical information with their health care provider. The site has an option for contacting NLM and a search engine for MEDLINEplus pages. NLM plans expansion of the health topics section to include additional subjects. ■

Children's Medical Library

Continued from page 3

the region of SD, Northwest Iowa and Southwest Minnesota; 708,411 residents of South Dakota, 275,660 in Northwest Iowa and 179,623 in Southwest Minnesota. There are 97 Hospitals in South Dakota, Northwest Iowa and Southwest Minnesota and 302 Clinics in South Dakota, Northwest Iowa and Southwest Minnesota.

Partnerships and Sponsors

Initial sponsorship has grown to include the Siouxland Libraries, where the Children's Medical Library is located at a branch library. Additional key collaborators include the South Dakota Department of Health, University of South Dakota School of Medicine, Children's Care Hospital and School, several medical clinics and local commercial organizations.

Children's Medical Library maintains links to critical technology sources and embraces these relationships as the project maintains a state-of-the-art technological presence.

The technology relationships currently existing are with Dakota State University, Midco Communications, Ideesign, Training Partners, South Dakota Library Network, and the South Dakota Bureau of Information Technology. Children's Medical Library strives to provide service to all of the million consumers in the defined target area. To do so, Children's Medical Library should be aware of technological avenues to meet all information seeking approaches ranging from computer illiterate to highly technically skilled. ■

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NN/LM GMR
1750 West Polk • M/C 763
Chicago, IL 60612-7223

Consumer Health Journals Indexed in MEDLINE

Reprinted from the Middle Atlantic Region (<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/mar/contil.html>)

The National Library of Medicine added 12 consumer health titles to MEDLINE in 1998.

Alternative Medicine Review

ISSN 1089-5159; Frequency: bimonthly
Thorne Research
P.O. BOX 3200
Sandpoint, ID 83864
Phone: 208-263-1337
FAX: 208-265-2488
altmedrev@thorne.com
(<http://www.thorne.com/altmedrev/index.html>)

Breastfeeding Review

ISSN 0729-2759; Frequency: twice yearly
Nursing Mothers' Association of Australia
PO Box 4000, Glen Iris
Vic 3146 Australia. ACN 005081523
Phone 61 3 9885 0855
FAX 61 3 9885 0866
nursingm@vicnet.net.au
(<http://home.vicnet.net.au/~nmaa/bfinfo/bfreview.html>)

FDA Consumer

ISSN 0362-1332; Frequency: bimonthly
Food & Drug Administration/
Superintendent of Documents
P.O. Box 371954
Pittsburgh, PA 15250-7954
Phone 202-512-1800
FAX 202- 512-2250
(<http://www.fda.gov/fdac/fdachtml.html>)

Harvard Health Letter

ISSN 1052-1577; Frequency: monthly
Harvard Medical School:
Health Publications Group
164 Longwood Avenue
Boston, MA 02115
Phone: 800-829-9171
FAX: 617-432-1506
hhp@warren.med.harvard.edu
(<http://www.countway.med.harvard.edu/publications/Health/Publications/hlns>)

Harvard Heart Letter

ISSN 1051-5313; Frequency: monthly
Harvard Medical School:
Health Publications Group
164 Longwood Avenue
Boston, MA 02115
Phone: 800-829-9171
FAX: 617-432-1506
hhp@warren.med.harvard.edu
(http://www.countway.med.harvard.edu/publications/Health_Publications/hrtns.html)

Harvard Men's Health Watch

ISSN 1089-1102; Frequency: monthly
Harvard Medical School:
Health Publications Group
164 Longwood Avenue
Boston, MA 02115
Phone: 800-829-9171
FAX: 617-432-1506
hhp@warren.med.harvard.edu
(http://www.countway.med.harvard.edu/publications/Health_Publications/mnsns.html)

Harvard Mental Health Letter

ISSN 1057-5022; Frequency: monthly
Harvard Medical School:
Health Publications Group
164 Longwood Avenue
Boston, MA 02115
Phone: 800-829-9171
FAX: 617-432-1506
hhp@warren.med.harvard.edu
(http://www.countway.med.harvard.edu/publications/Health_Publications/mntlns.html)

Harvard Women's Health Watch

ISSN 1070-910X; Frequency: monthly
Harvard Medical School:
Health Publications Group
164 Longwood Avenue
Boston, MA 02115
Phone: 800-829-9171
FAX: 617-432-1506
hhp@warren.med.harvard.edu
(http://www.countway.med.harvard.edu/publications/Health_Publications/whns.html)

Health News (Massachusetts Medical Society)

ISSN 0821-3925; Frequency: 12-15x/year
Massachusetts Medical Society
1440 Main St.
Waltham, MA 02451-1600
Phone: 781- 893-3800
hnews@world.std.com
(<http://www.onhealth.com/ch1/general/bio/0,140,150,00.htm>)

Johns Hopkins Medical Letter: Health After 50

ISSN 1042-1882; Frequency: monthly
Medletter Associates
P.O. Box 420148
Palm Coast, FL 32142
Phone (ordering): 904-446-4675
FAX (editorial office): 212-505-5462
orders@enews.com
(<http://magazines.enews.com/magazines/jhml/>)

Mayo Clinic Health Letter

ISSN 0741-6245; Frequency: monthly
Mayo Foundation for
Medical Education & Research
200 First St., SW
Rochester, MN 55905
Phone: 800-333-9038
FAX: 507-284-8018
(<http://www.mayo.edu/pub-rst/healthlt.html>)

Medscape Women's Health

Free online journal
ISSN N/A; Frequency: irregular
MEDSCAPE
134 W 29th Street, 4th Floor
New York, NY 10001-5399
Phone: 212-760-3100
sales@mail.medscape.com
(<http://www.medscape.com/Home/Topics/WomensHealth/WomensHealth.html>) ■

IMPORTANT DATES

(<http://www.nlm.nlm.nih.gov/gmr/calendar>)

National Online Training Center
Class Dates

Making the Transition: Converting to PubMed and Internet Grateful Med to search NLM Databases

Indianapolis, IN	February 24, 1999
Chicago, IL	March 3 1999
Dayton, OH	March 5, 1999
Ann Arbor, MI	March 24 1999

Introduction to Web-based searching for the Librarian and Information Specialist Using PubMed and Internet Grateful Med To Search NLM's Databases

Indianapolis, IN	February 22-23, 1999
Chicago, IL	March 1-2, 1999
Ann Arbor, MI	March 22-23, 1999

Ohio Health Sciences Library Association Spring Meeting

April 20, 1999
Contact: Patty Augustine
(paugust@neoucom.edu)
(330) 740-3476

Iowa Library Association Health Sciences Roundtable Meeting

Health Resources on the Internet and Advanced Health Resources on the Internet will be taught by the NN/LM GMR.
April 22-23, 1999
Iowa City, IA

Medical Library Association Annual Meeting

May 14-20, 1999
Chicago, IL
(<http://www.mlanet.org>)

Joint Meeting -
Midwest Chapter/MLA Annual Meeting 1999
Michigan Health Sciences Library Association
October 6-9, 1999
Grand Rapids, MI
Amway Grand Plaza
(<http://www.lib.msu.edu/mhsla/conf99>)

Health Science Librarians of Illinois Annual Meeting

For more information, contact
Arlis Dittmer, (217) 228-5520 x6971,
(dittmer@culver.edu)
Toni Tucker, (309) 827-4321 x3642,
(ttucker@darkstar.rsa.lib.il.us)
November 4-5, 1999
Quincy, IL

For additional 1999 NOTC classes, class descriptions, and online registration, check (<http://www.nlm.nlm.nih.gov/mar/online>)
To suggest items for the calendar, please e-mail (gmr@uic.edu) or call 800-338-7657.

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

Library of the Health Sciences
NN/LM GMR
(M/C 763)
1750 West Polk Street
Chicago, IL 60612-7223



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