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Newsletter of the New England Regional Medical Library

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New Staff Member—Lauri Kolakoski Fennell

NER has recently announced that Lauri Kolakoski Fennell is our new Education and Outreach Coordinator. Lauri comes to us from Baystate Medical Center's Health Sciences Library in Springfield, Massachusetts where she's been the Outreach Librarian. She worked as a solo hospital librarian at Franklin Medical Center in Greenfield Massachusetts. Although her skills have been honed in hospital libraries, Lauri has maintained a connection to public libraries, previously working part-time and fill-in hours at the Greenfield Public Library. Lauri's work in libraries spans the last ten years.

With a strong interest in collaboration and outreach, Lauri submitted, managed, and carried out all phases of Franklin Medical Center's Library Connections for Health NER-funded project. This project provided resources and training for public libraries in rural western Massachusetts. Lauri also received LSTA funds for a Community Languages collaborative project.

Lauri has lived in eastern and western Massachusetts, is a graduate of Simmons College GSLIS, and a former dairy farmer.

Here are a few questions for Lauri...

On your outreach project you connected with libraries in a number of rural communities, tell us about that.
I love outreach but it can be difficult knowing whether or not you are reaching people. One thing I learned from this project is to be persistent. I visited each of the 25 libraries in the county even if I didn't get a response from my letters. People seemed to appreciate it. One person surprised me by saying they were expecting me. I never would have known had I not followed up.

You've worked as a solo librarian and at a larger hospital library, again what's been the difference.
As a solo librarian I had my hands in all aspects of managing the library. It was a great experience but lonely at times. I sought outreach opportunities partly because of that. I learned so much in that role. In the larger setting I had coworkers to bounce ideas off of. I enjoyed the brainstorming and projects that we came up with. I am glad I did both.

Dairy farming?
People are curious about the dairy farming. I always wanted to be a farmer when I was a kid. I can't explain why. I was a dairy farmer in my younger years, when I didn't mind getting no sleep and working all hours of the day. I didn't know anything about Pubmed then. If I had, I believe I would have used it to look up mastitis treatment or better calving practices.

Historical Collections

Regional Medical Libraries have been charged with assisting the National Library of Medicine with identifying historical collections in the health sciences. To that end NER recently convened a meeting of the Historical Collection Task Force. The group consists of special collections librarians, archivists, and others representing twelve institutions throughout the region. While serving as a resource to each other, the group will also help identify collections of historical and unique materials related to the health sciences.

These collections will be represented in the Directory of History of Medicine Collections available from NLM at: http://www.nlm.nih.gov/hmd/directory/index.html. This Directory describes collections that provide research, reference, and interlibrary loan services to scholars interested in the history of the health sciences. There are less than ten entries representing the New England region. Given the history of medicine and health sciences in New England, many more collections in the region can be identified for the History of Medicine Directory.

If you are aware of any historical collections in the health sciences, please assist the work of the Task Force. Contact us. NER will make a standard form available to record information about the collection. NER will then forward this information to the National Library of Medicine's History of Medicine Division.

Connecticut Goes Local

The University of Connecticut Health Center's Lyman Maynard Stowe Library has recently been approved to implement a Connecticut Go Local project to add Connecticut's health-related services and resources to MedlinePlus. Connecticut will be the third state in the Region with a Go Local Implementation project. The project builds on the library's successful Connecticut HealthNet consumer health program.

While the Lyman Maynard Stowe Library leadership and staff will be taking the lead in the

implementation, the project will involve many other member libraries such as Hartford Hospital, Midstate Medical Center, Middlesex Hospital, Yale University, Hospital for Special Care, St. Mary's Hospital, Stamford Hospital, and Waterbury Hospital.

We'll keep you posted on the launch date! Congratulations UCHC!

TidBits

Website visits...

NN/LM uses Google Analytics to compile statistics related to web usage or all NNLM websites included NER's website. The locally maintained Health Literacy web page recently generated over 700 visits from keyword searches on many search engines. The average visit to that page lasts just under 2-minutes, and more than 75% of the visitors to that page do not visit other nnlm.gov pages. The health literacy page at http://nnlm.gov/outreach/consumer/hlthlit. html is maintained by Penny Glassman and is an extensive revision of a previous version of that page.

The experts...

Michelle Eberle has been selected to participate in the Centers for Disease Control and Preventions' National Center for Health Marketing's Expert Panel on Improving Health Literacy for Older Adults. The panel will assess health literacy issues for older adults and identify opportunities for public health professionals to better meet the health communication needs of older adults. The charge of the panel is to:

1. Review and discuss the evidence for health literacy improvement as a critical issue for serving older adults;
2. Identify research gaps in the area; and
3. Integrate experiences from the field serving older adults' with research findings

The expected outcome of the panel's work is to develop:

1. key questions and issues to inform a research agenda for health literacy improvement for older adults;
2. priorities for health literacy improvement for older adults in a public health context; and
3. a preliminary set of best practices based on the evidence to inform CDC and HHS investments in health information for older adults.

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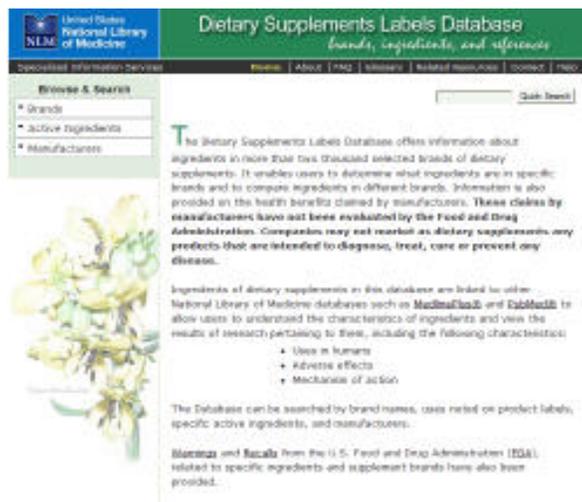Phone: 800-338-7657
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New Dietary Supplements Labels Database from the National Library of Medicine

The National Library of Medicine has released a new resource focused on dietary supplements. The **Dietary Supplements Labels Database** (http://dietarysupplements.nlm.nih.gov) includes information from the labels of over 2,000 brands of dietary supplements in the marketplace, including vitamins, minerals, herbs or other botanicals, amino acids, and other specialty supplements.

The database is designed to help both the general public and health care providers find information about ingredients in brand-name products, including name, form, active and inactive ingredients, amount of active ingredient/unit, manufacturer/distributor information, suggested dose, label claims, warnings, percentage of daily value, and further label information.

Links to other NLM resources, such as MedlinePlus and PubMed, are provided for additional health information. In addition, links to related Fact Sheets from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), Office of Dietary Supplements (ODS), National Center for Complementary and Alternative Medicine (NCCAM), and the National Cancer Institute (NCI) are also available.

MedlinePlus Magazine

Check out the latest issue of the MedlinePlus Magazine! MedlinePlus Magazine is the NLM quarterly guide for patients and families. It brings the latest and most authoritative medical and health care information from the NIH as featured online on the MedlinePlus site. The MedlinePlus magazine is provided to all NN/LM members free of charge. This summer's issue features articles on stem cell research, beating depression, back pain, sleep deprivation, and obesity and kids. A special section highlights"Understanding Stroke" with an interview with Kirk Douglas.

Sign up for a free subscription to the MedlinePlus Magazine at: http://www.fnlm.org/join.pdf.

NIH News in Health – November issue

The November issue of NIH News in Health is here! NIH News in Health is a consumer health newsletter with practical tips to improve your health. You can find it online at: http://newsinhealth.nih.gov. This month's issue features "Heft for the Holidays: How to Hold off Those Extra Pounds." Some quick tips from the NIH for holding off holiday pounds include:

- Be physically active.
- Limit alcohol consumption.
- Limit soda and other sweetened beverages.
- Schedule holiday food celebrations at normal meal times.
- Choose foods with fewer calories.
- Use smaller plates.
- Eat a healthy snack beforehand.

- Weigh yourself daily.

Other articles in this month's edition address vulvodynia, treatment for depressed teens, and African American's and kidney disease.

The PDF makes a nice addition your consumer health collection or for hospital waiting rooms.

NIHSeniorHealth.gov Toolkit for Trainers Released

The Toolkit for Trainers, a free, downloadable training curriculum that instructors can use to help older adults find reliable health information online, is now available on the NIHSeniorHealth website. Developed by the National Institute on Aging, the toolkit comes with lesson plans, student handouts, web-searching exercises, and glossaries which instructors can customize to fit students' skill levels and interests. An introductory video acquaints trainers with the curriculum, and trainer tools help instructors gear their teaching toward the older learner. Designed for beginning and intermediate students of the Web, the curriculum will be a welcome addition to computer classes at libraries, senior centers, community colleges, and lifelong learning centers. Check out the Toolkit for Trainers on the NIHSeniorHealth website at www.nihseniorhealth.gov/toolkit.

Hospital Library Health Literacy Pilot Sites Needed

The Medical Library Association (MLA), under contract and working with the National Institutes of Health/National Library of Medicine (NLM), is looking for eight hospital-based libraries to pilot a new Health Information Literacy (HIL) Curriculum designed to increase health care provider knowledge of health information literacy issues, increase patient and provider use of NLM and other consumer resources, and promote the role of librarians as key providers of health information literacy resources and support.

To become a pilot site, the hospital-based library can be of any size and type, and serve any geographic area. Interested libraries must submit an application form and letter of commitment from their hospital administration documenting organizational commitment to long-term delivery of consumer health information services, via email by January 7, 2008 to Sabrina Kurtz-Rossi. See the Pilot Training Selection Criteria document for a description of the selection criteria, training site expectations, and the support that training sites will receive from the project.

All applicants will be notified of their selection status by January 30, 2008. If you have any questions about this call for pilot training sites, please contact Sabrina Kurtz-Rossi via email.

- Email: sabrina_kurtz-rossi@comcast.net
- Pilot Training Site Application Form
- Pilot Training Site Selection Criteria

For more information about the full project, visit: http://www.mlanet.org/resources/healthlit/hil_project.html

Adapted from the original press release: http://www.mlanet.org/resources/healthlit/hil_pilot.html

AHRQ Releases Toolkits to Help Providers and Patients Implement Safer Health Care Practices

An array of toolkits designed to help doctors, nurses, hospital managers, patients and others reduce medical errors was released today by HHS' Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality.

The 17 toolkits, developed by AHRQ-funded experts who specialize in patient safety research, are free, publicly available, and can be adapted to most health care settings. The toolkits range from checklists to help reconcile medications when patients are discharged from the hospital to processes to enhance effective communication among caregivers and with patients to toolkits to help patients taking medications.

"These toolkits build on AHRQ's investment in patient safety research over the past 6 years and support our commitment to research that can be put to use in everyday settings," said AHRQ Director Carolyn M. Clancy, M.D. "These toolkits are a major advance toward putting knowledge into practice and saving lives."

The toolkits were developed through AHRQ's Partnerships in Implementing Patient Safety (PIPS) program. Researchers who developed the toolkits examined best practices in a variety of health care settings, including small rural facilities, large urban hospitals, health clinics, and hospital emergency departments. They also studied patient safety interventions among diverse populations, including children and older patients.

While some of the toolkits focus on identifying high-risk practices, others are designed to help health professionals reduce medication errors or other patient harms. Examples of the kinds of interventions that the toolkits promote include:

- The Re-Engineered Hospital Discharge "Project RED" toolkit standardizes the hospital discharge process through a set of manuals and software designed to improve communication between patients and clinicians.
- The Medications at Transitions and Clinical Handoffs "MATCH" toolkit focuses on identifying patient risk factors frequently responsible for inaccurate medication reconciliation, including limited English proficiency and low health literacy, complex medication histories, or impaired mental status.
- The Preventing Venous Thromboembolisms in the Hospital and the Interactive Venous Thromboembolism Safety Toolkit for Providers and Patients toolkits focus on multidisciplinary approaches to the elimination of preventable hospital-acquired blood clots.
- The ED Pharmacist as a Safety Measure in Emergency Medicine toolkit focuses on improving medication safety and reconciliation through the implementation of a program that places pharmacists in hospital emergency departments.

In addition, the 17 PIPS toolkits correlate with the Joint Commission's National Patient Safety Goals, which promote system wide improvements in patient safety. For more information and a complete listing of the 17 toolkits, visit http://www.ahrq.gov/qual/pips.

For more information, please contact AHRQ Public Affairs: (301) 427-1271 or (301) 427-1865.

AHRQ Releases Toolkits to Help Providers and Patients Implement Safer Health Care Practices. Press Release, December 5, 2007. Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, Rockville, MD. http://www.ahrq.gov/news/press/pr2007/pstoolspr.htm

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CHIC Chat:
Consumer Health Information Coordinator **Chat**

Consumer Health Journal Subset Clarification

Just in case you missed the recent article in the NLM Technical Bulletin, if you intend to limit your PubMed search to the consumer health journal subset, please use "jsubsetk" in your search box. The consumerj[sb] will be retired. Please update any existing search strategies you have appropriately. Please also note that the consumer health journal subset is a very limited subset containing only a dozen or so journal titles. Accordingly, we recommend you search with jsubsetk OR patient education handout [pt] to broaden your search.

For a complete listing of journals in the consumer health subset and more information on this change, check out the NLM Technical Bulletin at: http://www.nlm.nih.gov/pubs/techbull/current_issue.html.

New Site Search Engine Allows Easier, More Efficient Navigation of MedlinePlus and NLM Web Site

On Thursday, October 11, the National Library of Medicine released a new search engine for MedlinePlus, MedlinePlus en español and the NLM Library Web site. NLM has made this change to better meet the expectations and preferences of the millions of people who use NLM Web sites each month.

After extensive research, NLM selected search engine software from the Pittsburgh-based company Vivisimo. Vivisimo is also the current search solution for the www.usa.gov site (formerly FirstGov), which contains online information from the entire spectrum of U.S. government agencies.

The new search results feature enhanced relevance rankings and boldface search words in context, to help users select the best Web documents for their queries. An integrated spell checker suggests alternative search terms and spelling corrections.

The new search engine also expands queries using synonyms specific to the sites and medical synonyms from the NLM Unified Medical Language System (UMLS).
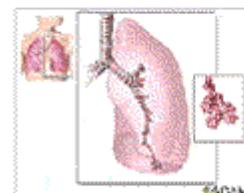
The default display for search results is a comprehensive list of "All Results", from all areas of the site. Users can also focus their search on one part of the site by navigating to individual collections of results, such as "Drugs and Supplements", "Medical Encyclopedia", "Online Exhibits" and "NLM Web Archives".

For searches that retrieve one of the 700+ English-language health topics on MedlinePlus, the relevant topic will be spotlighted at the top of the screen with an image, an excerpt of the health topic summary and links to the topic, as shown below:

Lung Diseases

When you breathe, your lungs take in oxygen from the air and deliver it to the bloodstream. The cells in your body need oxygen to work and grow. During a normal day, you breathe nearly 25,000 times. People with lung disease have difficulty breathing. Millions of people in the U.S. have lung disease. If all types of lung disease are lumped together, it is the number three killer in the United States.

The term lung disease refers to many disorders affecting the lungs, such as asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, infections like influenza, pneumonia and tuberculosis, lung cancer, and many other breathing problems. (Read more)

Searches on the Library Web site for an NLM product or service will highlight the relevant results in the "NLM Selected Resources" box at the top of the results:

NLM Selected Resources

- **Interlibrary Loan and Document Delivery Services at NLM**
  http://www.nlm.nih.gov/psd/cas/illhome.html
- **DOCLINE** — Interlibrary loan (ILL) request routing and referral system
  http://www.nlm.nih.gov/docline/

The Library plans to implement the Vivisimo search engine on NIHSeniorHealth, MedlinePlus Go Local, and other sites in the future.

Source:

New Site Search Engine Allows Easier, More Efficient Navigation of MedlinePlus and NLM Web Site http://www.nlm.nih.gov/news/searchengine_vivisimo.html

For more information:

NLM Technical Bulletin, Sep-Oct 2007, NLM Launches New Web Search Engine: NLM Web Site, MedlinePlus, MedlinePlus Español http://www.nlm.nih.gov/pubs/techbull/so07/so07_nlm_search_engine.html

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ILL ADVISED

- Resolving Access Problems with DOCLINE® and PubMed®
- Reviewing Current and Future Releases of DOCLINE
- Placing HOLD Requests in Advance
- Taking "Nursing Practice Court" on the Road
- Welcoming NER's Newest Members
- Getting Advice & Support from the NER

Resolving Access Problems with DOCLINE® and PubMed®

If you are having problems accessing DOCLINE, there may be a problem with your DOCLINE browser settings. Here is a link that will help you verify the browser settings: http://www.nlm.nih.gov/docline/system_requirements.html#browser

If the browser settings are correct and you're still experiencing access issues, please click on "Contact Us" at the top of the DOCLINE Home page.

If you are having a problem accessing PubMed®, please use the "*Write to the Help Desk*" link

at the bottom of the PubMed screen. This form gathers information that is helpful to the PubMed support team investigating the problem.

If you're not sure what the problem is, call Mark at 508-856-5964 or send an e-mail to mark.goldstein@umassmed.edu

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Reviewing Current and Future Releases of DOCLINE®

Current release: DOCLINE® 3.2.5.

NLM announced the implementation of SSL (Secure Sockets Layer) for DOCLINE on Wednesday, October 3, 2007. SSL will provide greater privacy to library patron's personal information and requests by encrypting the communication between the NLM servers and each library.

Users were automatically redirected to the new URL of https://docline.gov, but NLM also recommended that libraries update their bookmarks once the new version became available.

Future releases: DOCLINE 3.3. and 4.0

Later this winter, NLM will be releasing DOCLINE 3.3, with the following enhancements:

1. They will be adding **a new optional email notification system** that will send the library an email when a request routes to them. Libraries will be able to separately indicate whether they want email for normal, rush, and urgent patient care requests. The email would be sent to your email delivery address listed in your institution record – DOCLINE Options.
2. They also plan to add **an alert message to borrowers using the Manual method** indicating better ways to request an item. From analyzing the requests, NLM saw that many requests ordered via Borrow / Manual would be better off being sent via Borrow /

UniqueKey or Borrow / LocatorPlus so the request can route on a library's Routing Table.

3. NLM is also looking at ways to **show requests by library group membership**, as shown by the sample report, below.

Sample Report

MAUMMM as Borrower

Lenders:	Requests	Filled	Fill Rate
ABCD	60	50	83.3%
FreeShare	80	75	93.75%
All others	50	45	90.0%
Totals	**190**	**175**	**92.1%**

MAUMMM as Lender

Borrowers	Requests	Filled	Fill Rate
ABCD	50	45	90.0%
FreeShare	100	90	90.0%
All Others	200	175	87.5%
Totals	**350**	**310**	**88.5%**

A redesign of the Requests and Serial Holdings modules is scheduled to begin next year (2008). NLM is planning to add features to help manage the growing trend of publisher license restrictions. During the design process, they will be discussing and evaluating time period embargos, and will also be evaluating the ability to record delivery method restrictions and restrictions to deliver ILL titles only within one's own country.

Placing HOLD Requests in Advance

With the holidays fast approaching, you might want to plan ahead for temporary deactivation of your DOCLINE account for lending. When your account is inactive, your Loansome Doc® patrons will receive a warning message when placing requests.

See the following FAQ for more information:
http://www.nlm.nih.gov/services/doc_ld_request_inactive.html

A DOCLINE Hold can be requested for **three or more consecutive working days**.

Here's a link to the electronic DOCLINE HOLD Request Form:
http://nnlm.gov/libinfo/docline/dochold.html

Please keep in mind that only one pair of dates may be submitted at a time (i.e., a second, subsequent request may only be submitted when the previous date requirements have been fully met.)

Taking "*Nursing Practice Court*" on the Road

So you missed the performance put on by the RAC Players in Woodstock, VT.?

Don't despair, because the troupe (a.k.a. the *RAC Hospital Library Subcommittee*) is planning to "take the show on the road" over the next year. The script will be adapted (and tailored) specifically for targeted audiences (such as nursing staff).

The play was written several years ago by health science librarian Jean Slepian and was created by the Evidence Based Nursing Practice Group at the Cheshire Medical Center in Keene, NH.

In addition to upcoming local (regional) venues, an abstract has been submitted to MLA for review. The Subcommittee's RAC players hope to stage a performance in Chicago next May at MLA'08!

So stay tuned! The show may be coming to a hospital or medical center near you!

Welcoming NER's Newest Members

Caritas Labouré College *Boston, MA*	MAUCLJ	New Affiliate Member *(formerly Full member)*
Central Connecticut State University *New Britain, CT*	CTULRZ	New Affiliate Member
Greenfield Community College *Greenfield, MA*	MAULRR	New Affiliate Member
InRhodes Resource Center *Providence, RI*	RIULNZ	New Affiliate Member *(formerly Full member)*
University of New England at Portland *Portland, ME*	MEUWSR	New Affiliate Member *(formerly Full member)*
Waldo County General Hospital *Belfast, ME*	MEUWAD	New Full Member *(formerly Affiliate member)*

Help? Advice? Questions?

Contact Mark:
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Evidence-Based Public Health Resource Review:
Health-Evidence.Ca
Online Registry of Systematic Reviews on the
Effectiveness of Public Health and Health Promotion Interventions

Health-Evidence.Ca, http://health-evidence.ca, is a searchable online registry of systematic reviews on the effectiveness of public health and health promotion interventions from 1985 to the present. The goal of the online registry is provide research evidence to facilitate the adoption and implementation of effective public health policies, programs, and interventions. It is targeted towards local and regional public health decision makers in Canada, but also has much relevance to public health practitioners and health information professionals in the United States.

sexual health	
sexually transmitted infections-STIs	
social determinants of health	

Q17154 - Interventions to improve water quality for preventing diarrhoea	modified: 8/27/2007
Q17055 - Psychosocial interventions following selfharm. Systematic review of their efficacy in preventing suicide.	modified: 8/21/2007
Q17073 - Meta-analysis: antioxidant supplements for primary and secondary prevention of colorectal adenoma.	modified: 8/21/2007
Q17085 - AIDS education for adolescents: A review of the literature	modified: 8/21/2007
Q17023 - Telemonitoring or structured telephone support programmes for patients with chronic heart failure: systematic review and meta-analysis	modified: 8/21/2007

Searching

A very nice feature of the site is that the all reviews are searchable by commonly-used public health and health promotion terms and categories, so that the registry can searched by focus of review, population, intervention location, and intervention strategy. A user can browse by health topic, such as child health, environmental health, or nutrition. The search tool allows users to narrow their search within each health topic. For example, to find evidence for school-based interventions to reduce childhood obesity, click on **Search**, type in "obesity," and select "Child Health" under **Focus of Review** and "School" under **Intervention Location**.

☐ Social Determinants of Health

Reference Characteristics...

Intervention Location:

- ☐ Camp
- ☐ City/regional/provincial/state/national
- ☐ Clinic
- ☐ Commercial site
- ☐ Community
- ☐ Community health centre
- ☐ Community/recreation centre
- ☐ Correctional institution
- ☐ Day care centre
- ☐ Dentist
- ☐ Family centre
- ☐ Farm
- ☐ Health bus
- ☐ Health departments
- ☐ Highways
- ☐ Home
- ☐ Hospice
- ☐ Hospital
- ☐ Internet
- ☐ Mail
- ☐ Nursing home/long-term care facility
- ☐ Other
- ☐ Primary health care provider
- ☐ Public places (ie. skating rink)
- ☐ Religious institution
- ☐ Residential centre
- ☐ Restaurant
- ☑ School
- ☐ Telephone
- ☐ Worksite

Intervention Strategies

- ☐ Advocacy
- ☐ Behaviour modification
- ☐ Creating supportive environments
- ☐ Education/awareness & Skill development/training
- ☐ Emergency preparedness
- ☐ Immunization
- ☐ Public health inspection & Environmental health
- ☐ Screening
- ☐ Surveillance

▸ Q16121 - Effectiveness of physical activity enhancement and obesity prevention programs in children and youth
strength: 10
(strong)

▸ Q16352 - Physical activity interventions in the prevention and treatment of paediatric obesity: systematic review and critical appraisal
strength: 9
(strong)

▸ Q16147 - The effectiveness of school-based strategies for the primary prevention of obesity and for promoting physical activity and/or nutrition, the major modifiable risk factors for type 2 diabetes: A review of reviews
strength: 9
(strong)

▸ Q16141 - The effectiveness of school-based interventions in promoting physical activity and fitness among children and youth: A systematic review
strength: 9
(strong)

▸ Q15292 - Heart healthy eating behaviors of children following a school-based intervention: A meta-analysis
strength: 9
(strong)

▸ Q16710 - Interventions for treating obesity in children.
strength: 8
(strong)

▸ Q16976 - Childhood obesity: should primary school children be routinely screened? A systematic review and discussion of the evidence.
strength: 7
(strong)

▸ Q17012 - Do interventions to limit sedentary behaviours change behaviour and reduce childhood obesity? A critical review of the literature
strength: 7
(strong)

▸ Q16945 - Interventions to prevent obesity in children and adolescents: a systematic literature review.
strength: 6
(moderate)

▸ Q15607 - Parental influence on models of primary prevention of cardiovascular disease in children
strength: 6
(moderate)

Search Results

The results provide a citation, abstract, methodological quality rating (strong, moderate, or weak), and a link to the full-text review if it is available from an open source. This search resulted in 21 systematic reviews. Full-text Cochrane Reviews are accessible to those who have a subscription through OVID. Many reviews are accompanied by a summary statement that outlines the review content, methods, findings and implications for policy and practice.

Saved Searches

Another feature of Health-Evidence.ca is an optional registration to set up a user profile. This allows you to select areas of interest, save searches, and bookmark reviews to find later.

My Profile – Bookmarks, Saved Searched and Preferences

▶ My Bookmarks...

▶ Q16141 - The effectiveness of school-based
interventions in promoting physical activity and fitness   delete   saved: 11/15/2007
among children and youth: A systematic review

▶ Q17009 - The efficacy of influenza vaccine for healthy
children: A meta-analysis evaluating potential sources   delete   saved: 11/15/2007
of variation in efficacy estimates including study quality

▶ My Saved Searches...

▶ flouride   delete   saved: 11/15/2007

▶ influenza vaccination   delete   saved: 11/15/2007

▶ obesity, child health, school   delete   saved: 11/15/2007

▶ My Preferences...

environmental health   nutrition

food safety & inspection

Health-Evidence.ca is one of several sources of public health systematic reviews available from the Evidence-Based Practice for Public Health website at http://library.umassmed.edu/ebpph/syst_reviews.cfm.

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NER'*eastah*

Newsletter of the New England Regional Medical Library

Tech Time

Online Collaboration Tools
Part 1 — Wikis

Have you ever worked on a team or a project and struggled to keep everybody up-to-date on the status of the project between meetings? Or perhaps you worked with a group to produce a written document? Using email is great, but document version control can be an issue. In addition, it is very easy for information to get "lost" in an email in-box. Collaboration software simplifies the process. Everybody in the group can access the most up-to-date information at a central location.

This is the first in a series of articles about online collaboration tools. This first column was written by my colleague Sharon Dennis for Latitudes, the Newsletter for the NN/LM Pacific Southwest Region. In the next issue of NER'eastah I plan to cover Google Docs. It would be great if I could hear from you to learn about your experiences implementing some of these tools.

Getting Started with Wikis
Posted on October 24th, 2007 by Sharon Dennis

Perhaps you have used the public wiki encyclopedia site WikiPedia, and wondered how to get started with a wiki application in your library. This article will look at projects that are most useful for a wiki format and review options for choosing and implementing wiki software.

Uses for Wikis

The main purpose of a wiki is to create a body of knowledge by capturing the collective intelligence of a group. Wikis are useful for any project that is worked on by more than one person. Some examples include:

Internal documents:

- A grant application written by a team
- Policy and procedures manual
- Strategic plan
- Technical instructions

External documents on a library site:

- Research / subject guides
- Community information
- Any kind of library knowledge base

If you are not familiar with wikis, you can view a short, clever YouTube video called "Wikis in Plain English". The video is 3 minutes, 52 seconds long.

For more examples of wiki uses in libraries, see How libraries can use wikis with their patrons. The MLA Hospital Library section also has a wiki to share best practices, and the University of British Columbia has started HealthLib-

Wiki, a "knowledge-base for health librarians". For a health care example, take a look at "Ask Dr. Wiki". Ask Dr. Wiki's tag line says that it is "a medical wiki with the goal of creating a collective memory for physicians, nurses, and medical students." It includes review articles, clinical notes, and medical images on a variety of health care subjects.

Wikis can be public or private; in the case of internal documents, you will keep the wiki private to your small work group. In other cases, you may allow the public to edit your wiki; you may require that users are registered with your wiki before they can edit.

Choosing Wiki Software

Once you've identified a suitable wiki project, you now need to select wiki software. Your first stop should be the extremely useful site WikiMatrix. WikiMatrix allows you to select the wiki software packages or sites that you are interested in and then compares all of the features of the software side-by-side (see Figure 1 below).

Figure 1. WikiMatrix screen shot comparing Confluence, Twiki, and WetPaint

Wiki software generally comes in two flavors, hosted and installed. Hosted sites may be free or have a monthly fee associated with them. Since hosted sites do not require any server installation, you can sign up for an account online and begin using the software right away. Installed software requires that your server administrator install the software and set up accounts before you can begin using the software. Some installed software is open source; others are commercial packages.

As you can see from the WikiMatrix site, there are dozens of wiki programs available. Some of the more popular programs are listed below:

Installed software:

- Mediawiki (http://www.mediawiki.org/wiki/MediaWiki)
- Twiki (http://www.twiki.org/)
- Confluence (http://www.atlassian.com/software/confluence/)

Hosted services:

- WetPaint (http://www.wetpaint.com)
- PBWiki (http://www.pbwiki.com/)
- Central Desktop Wiki (http://centraldesktop.com/)

The programs listed above vary widely in their features and learning curve. Some wiki programs require that you learn a special coding language; others have "what you see is what you get" (WYSIWYG) graphical interfaces; and still others use a combination of the two. If you are working with a group of library staff on a wiki project, you should plan to allow time for training to use the software.

Experimenting with a Wiki

If you don't have wiki software available at your institution but would like to start experimenting, the free WetPaint hosted service is a good place to start. WetPaint has a simple WYSIWYG interface that will allow you to produce pages immediately. A drawback of using WetPaint for external projects, however, is that WetPaint displays ads on each page.

If you'd like to see what wiki coding is all about, you can also play in the WikiPedia "sandbox".

Conclusion

Wikis can be a useful tool for building collective intelligence and working on group projects. Before getting started, it is worth taking some time at the Wikimatrix site to compare software features, and experimenting online a bit before picking a software package.

If you have questions about setting up a wiki or if you've created a wiki project that you'd like to share with the region, please contact Sharon Dennis, Technology Coordinator, NN/LM Pacific Southwest Region, sdennis@library. ucla.edu or (310) 825-9170.

Questions? Comments? Please feel free to contact me at penny.glassman@umassmed.edu

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From the NLM Technical Bulletin

The homepage for the Technical Bulletin is: http://www.nlm.nih.gov/pubs/techbull/tb.html Know when something's posted on the site by signing up for email notification or set up an RSS feed. See the links on the TB homepage to learn how.

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Links

NIH Public Bulletin

http://getinvolved.nih.gov/newsbulletins/.

Read about the latest public events, activities, and health information resources from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) in the NIH Public Bulletin.

The NIH Public Bulletin is published monthly. If you would like to be notified when new issues are posted, please subscribe to the Bulletin listserv at http://getinvolved.nih.gov/subscribe.asp

Additional Links

- NN/LM Training and Exhibit Schedule
- Classes Offered by the New England Region
- NLM Technical Bulletin

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