

November is American Diabetes Month

(2007 National Health Observance online at:
<http://www.healthfinder.gov/library/nho/nho.asp>)

“There are 20.8 million children and adults in the US with diabetes-and nearly one-third of them (or 6.2 million people) do not know it!” Take a free diabetes risk test at <http://www.diabetes.org/risk-test.jsp>.
—American Diabetes Association

LILRC HLSP Annual Meeting

The LILRC Hospital Library Services Program Annual Meeting was held on October 30, 2007 at the New York College of Health Professions. Special thanks to Mona Wasserman, Director, Library and Information Services of the New York College of Health Professions and the LILRC Committee on Services to Health Sciences Libraries for their contributions to this year’s event which featured guest speaker, Rezan Akpinar.

Keeping Up with Open Access

The emergence of new web-based applications, such as wikis, blogs, and podcasts, has begun to transfer over to the medical world. As the internet makes it increasingly easy for people including medical professions to share information, new issues are arising with regards to publishers’ printed journals and open access journals.

Open access publishing allows medical professions to publish almost instantaneously onto the web, where the content can be viewed world-wide and reach a larger readership, than through the traditional methods. This is not the only reason why this is appealing to so many, the fact that the price incurred is almost zero, has many applauding this new trend. Especially when open access medical journals are offering the same features, most notably, the ability to provide peer-reviewed articles. Many opponents have argued that open source journals in general lack the trustworthiness of their printed counterparts because they lack such features. However, this is changing as open source journals stride to make publishing open and accessible to all. One such example can be seen in **Open Medicine** (www.openmedicine.ca), which is a peer-reviewed, independent, open-access general medical journal that “facilitate[s] the equitable global dissemination of high-quality health research.”

Publishers on the rebound are devising new ways to take advantage of technology trends as well. Most recently in the news, Reed Elsevier has taken a step into uncharted waters, by offering free access to oncology articles from its medical journals via OncologySTAT.com. Users are required to fill out personal information to register for free access and even though it is specifically geared for oncologists, if successful, other fields of medicine may be offered similar services. In doing so, Elsevier aims to attract sponsors and advertisers, especially from pharmaceutical companies selling cancer drugs (see “a medical publishers’ unusual prescription: online ads” at <http://www.news.com>).

Please visit the following websites to explore what is available from open access journals covering medicine

BioMed Central (<http://www.biomedcentral.com/>)

PLoS/ Public Library of Science (<http://www.plos.org/index.php>)

DOAJ/ Directory of Open Access Journals (<http://www.doaj.org/>)

For additional information on organizations, including patients, physicians, researchers and institutions that support open public access to taxpayer-funded research, please visit <http://www.taxpayeraccess.org/>.

The LILRC
Committee on Services to
Health Sciences
Libraries
Congratulates
Jeanne Galbriath,
Assistant Director of
Resource Management,
HSC Library of Stony
Brook University
on her
Retirement.
Best Wishes!

Websites in Review

Google Health Co-op (<http://www.google.com/coop/topics/Health>) is a customized search engine created by contributors with an expertise in the health field, in order to provide users with quality annotated website links. Contributors include such institutes and organizations such as the Center for Disease Control (CDC), National Library of Medicine (NLM), Mayo Clinic, the New England Journal of Medicine and many others. Users are provided with health related categories to choose from including Health Conditions, Drugs and Tests & Procedures. For each category chosen there is a corresponding number of linked health labels providing related health information.

Health Vault (<http://www.healthvault.com>) was recently launched by Microsoft and provides users with the ability to search health topics and store personal health records all at the same time and one website-all for free. The Health Vault Search feature is multifunctional and allows refinement of search results based on topics, article and web result views, and a user created private Scrapbook for saving searches and search results. The Health Vault Account allows users to enter personal information, including uploading health documents and records, where they can be shared with whomever the user would like.

Grey Literature Report

Librarians are reminded about the Grey Literature Report issued by the New York Academy of Medicine (NYAM). This bimonthly publication alerts readers to new “grey literature” publications in public health. For additional information, including how to subscribe to the Grey Literature Report, please visit:

http://www.nyam.org/library/pages/grey_literature_report

LILRC Health Literacy Series Workshops

October 5, 2007-LILRC kicked off its Health Literacy Series #1 and #2 at the Farmingdale Public Library. Guest speaker Dr. Milton Haynes, NYU School of Medicine, provided participants with an engaging and interactive overview of the health literacy problem in the US. Special thanks to Claire B. Joseph, Director, Medical Library of South Nassau Communities Hospital who provided participants with useful internet resources for easy to read health information.

The Health Literacy Challenge: Finding and Creating Easy to Read Health Materials

Compiled by: Claire B. Joseph, MS, MA, AHIP.

Readable Reliable Resources:

- MedlinePlus (www.medlineplus.gov)
- FDA (www.fda.gov/opacom/lowlit/7lowlit.html)
- MLA (www.mlanet.org/resources/healthlit)
- Health Literacy Consulting (www.healthliteracy.com)

How to Write Easy-to-Read Health Materials:

- “How to Write Easy to Read Health Materials” (www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/etr.html)
- “Pfizer Principles for Clear Health Communications Handbook” (www.pfizerhealthliteracy.com/media/chc-principles.html)



Dr. Haynes presents “Exploring Health Literacy” to students and librarians at the Farmingdale Public Library, explaining what the problem is and ways in which we can fix the problem.

The LILRC *Healthline* is published bimonthly by the staff of the Hospital Library Services Program. We appreciate contributions of news articles. Please notify us of significant events such as personnel changes, publications, construction, moves, and addition of innovative services or any news items that may be of interest to your colleagues.

Editor: Christina Rivera, (631) 632-6654, crivera@lilrc.org **Staff:** Charlotte Sweda, (631) 632-6692.