

NIH Public Access Policy Made Permanent

2009 Consolidation Appropriations Act Signed into Law

The 2009 Consolidated Appropriations Act was signed into law this past March, with a major change to the language concerning the NIH policy as follows:

The Director of the National Institutes of Health shall require in the current fiscal year and thereafter that all investigators funded by the NIH submit of have submitted for them to the National Library of Medicine's PubMed Central an electronic version of their final, peer-reviewed manuscripts upon acceptance for publication to be made publicly available no later than 12 months after the official date of publication: Provided, That the NIH shall implement the public access policy in a manner consistent with copyright law.

Thus making the NIH policy permanent rather than subject to annual renewal. According to the Alliance for Taxpayers Access (ATA), under the new policy, “the percentage of eligible manuscripts deposited into PubMed Central has increased significantly, with over 3,000 new manuscripts being deposited each month. The PubMed Central database is a part of a valuable set of public database resources at the NIH, which are accessed by more than 2 million users each day.” For additional information, please refer to the ATA press release online at: <http://www.taxpayeraccess.org/media/Release09-0312.html>.

May is Healthy Vision Month

More than 11 million Americans have uncorrected vision problems such as nearsightedness, farsightedness, astigmatism, and/or presbyopia and can benefit from the use of corrective eyewear such as glasses or contact lenses. The National Eye Institute (NEI) has created a **Healthy Eyes Toolkit** for Healthy Vision Month, which aids in raising awareness about the importance of eye exams in detecting common vision problems. This toolkit contains electronic resources, downloadable resources, educational programs, and much more. The toolkit is available online at http://www.nei.nih.gov/healthyeystoolkit/e_resources.asp.

Healthy Vision Month was established in 2003 by NEI to elevate vision as a health priority and to promote the Healthy People 2010 vision objectives. Healthy People 2010 (www.healthypeople.gov), the prevention framework of the Nation, identifies the most significant risks to health and establishes national goals to reduce those risks.

Highlights from MLA Webcast

The LILRC Committee on Services to Health Sciences Libraries recently sponsored the MLA Educational Webcast *Finding Work-Life Balance: Strategies for You and Your Institution*.

This webcast provided information on defining work-life balance and workplace wellness for both the employee and employer. Of interest—the benefits of work life balance including:

<i>For Employees</i>	<i>For Employers</i>
—Healthier Outlook	—Higher productivity
—Less stress	—Improved customer service
—More time for family and friends	—Higher job satisfaction

For resources on workplace wellness initiatives visit:

- ALA Circle of Wellness @ Your Library (<http://www.ala-apa.org/wellness/home.html>)
- Spring into Health: A Weekly Workplace Wellness Series (<http://nmlm.gov/ner/training/material/SpringIntoHealthGuide.doc>)

Websites in Review: Evidence-Based Practice

Evidence-Based Practice in the Health Sciences Tutorials (<http://ebp.lib.uic.edu>): Intended for new learners of EBP, this website provides tutorials covering five health sciences disciplines including: applied health, dentistry, medicine, nursing, and pharmacy. Each tutorial contains five instructional modules, which cover topics such as the structure of literature, research design, and evaluating the quality of research.

EBM Page Generator (<http://www.ebmpyramid.org/home.php>): Created by the Dartmouth Biomedical Libraries, the EBM Page Generator allows users to easily create an EBM webpage, which will display an evidence pyramid for resources only available in your library.

Twitter for Health-Related Information and More



Twitter (<http://www.twitter.com>) is a social application tool that allows users to create short 140 character messages—or *tweets*—where followers are instantly updated. Twitter is not only being used on a personal level to communicate with friends and family, but also on a professional and organizational level. Is this *another* trend in the Web 2.0 world or a viable application here for the long run? The use of Twitter is providing some beneficial—if not interesting—uses for health-related information. Here are a few of examples:

- **The Red Cross** (<http://twitter.com/RedCross>): tweets to quickly deliver information about disasters and response efforts.
- **St. Jude Children's Research Hospital** (<http://twitter.com/StJude>): tweets on a variety of topics including donors, events, new research findings, and overviews of topics such as cancer diagnosis and care.
- **Henry Ford Health System** (<http://twitter.com/henryfordnews>): performed the first live-tweeted brain surgery with over 1,900 followers—including medical students—following the step-by-step progress and links to video portions posted on YouTube @HenryFordNews. Other tweets by the Henry Ford Health System include patient information on upcoming screenings and preventive medicine, news, upcoming CME information, and more.

Twitter is also being used by government health agencies including the National Institutes of Health (NIH). It allows NIH to post links to Funding Opportunity Announcements in a format no longer than a text message (<http://twitter.com/NIHforFunding>), as well as general NIH health news (<http://twitter.com/NIHforHealth>). According to *140 Health Care Uses for Twitter* by Phil Baumann (<http://philbaumann.com/2009/01/16/140-health-care-uses-for-twitter>), some potential healthcare uses for Twitter include:

- *Emergency response team management*
- *Supportive care for patients and family members*
- *Maintaining a personal health diary*
- *Emitting critical laboratory values to nurses and physicians*
- *Alarming silent codes (psychiatric emergencies, security incidents)*
- *Drug safety alerts from the FDA*
- *Exercise management and encouragement*
- *Weight management and support*
- *Nutritional diary and tracking*
- *Medical service collaboration in the clinical setting*
- *Triage management in emergency rooms*

The LILRC *HealthLine* is published 5 times a year 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.

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Refer to *Medicine in the Era of Web 2.0* for additional information on social networking applications for health at: <http://www.minnesotamedicine.com/PastIssues/January2009/FeatureWebJanuary2009/tabid/2801/Default.aspx>.