

PH/HA News

Newsletter of the Public Health/Health Administration Section
of the Medical Library Association
Summer 2005

Editor: Barbara Nail-Chiwetalu, bnailchi@umd.edu

Column Editors: [Marie Ascher](#) (Grey Literature), [Helena VonVille](#) (GIS)

Newsletter Committee: [Linda Spitzer](#)

PH/HA News Web site: <http://phha.mlanet.org/newsletter.html>

CONTENTS

PH/HA Reports

- From the Editor
- From the Chair
- Membership Committee Report
- Partnering for Public Health: Information, Librarians, and the Public Health Workforce DVD Available
- Core Public Health Journals Project Gearing Up for New Version
- PH/HA Program Theme for MLA 2006: Evidence-Based Public Health Librarianship
- Sewell Stipends Available for the American Public Health Association Annual Meeting

Column

- Grey Literature Column: Lessons from the Open Access Debate for Improving Access to Grey Literature and the Potential Benefits of Institutional Repositories

MLA Conference Reports

- Highlights of PH/HA Sponsored Sections at the MLA Conference 2005

News From/About the National Library of Medicine (NLM)

- Tox Town: Environmental Health Concerns Along the US-Mexico Border
- WISER Windows™ Version Now Available for Free Downloading
- My NCBI Enhances PubMed's LinkOut to NLM's Hazardous Substances Databank (HSDB)
- NLM's Division of Specialized Information Services Offers FAQs for TOXNET
- Resources Related to Education, Training, and Careers in Toxicology and Environmental Health
- TOXMAP Now Includes Bar Charts

- Review of PDA Applications in Toxicology and Environmental Health
- TOXNET Survey Update
- Coming Soon -- Re-design of the Division of Specialized Information Services Web Pages
- List of Journals Indexed for MEDLINE, 2005
- NLM to Administer Public Health Informatics Grant

Resources and Announcements

- ASPH's Core Masters in Public Health Competencies
- New Health Department DOCLINE Group
- CDC Offers Preventing Chronic Disease Journal
- Focus on Field Epidemiology
- Guide to Clinical Preventive Services 2005
- Guide for Public Health Preparedness
- Emergency and Terrorism Preparedness for Environmental Health Practitioners Web Site
- Public Health Information and Data Tutorial
- InformationLinks: Connecting Public Health with Health Information Exchanges
- Information Access Needs of Public Health Professionals
- Webcast on Public Health in Regional Health Information Organizations
- Recommended Resources in Occupational and Environmental Health
- New Health Information Resource for Asian-Language Speakers
- Public Health Information Needs and Information-Seeking Behavior Bibliography
- New Grey Literature Journal
- Computer Game Teaches About Public Health
- E-Roadmap to Evidence-Based Public Health Practice

Keeping Up: Focus on Published Literature

- Special Issue on Emerging Roles of Health Science Librarians
- Teaching Elderly Adults to Use the Internet to Access Health Care Information

Conferences / Calls for Papers and Posters

- South Central Chapter of the Medical Library Association Conference
- SOPHE's 56th Annual Meeting
- Community-Campus Partnerships for Health Conference

PH/HA Reports

From the Editor

Barbara Nail-Chiwetalu, Editor/Chair of Newsletter Committee, bnailchi@umd.edu

In this issue of *PH/HA News*, we welcome our new Chair, **Nancy Schaefer**, and note additional changes in membership and officers in the report From the Chair and the Membership Report. So, I will let their words speak for me in that respect.

As always, members of the PH/HA section are actively engaged in projects and activities as you will see from the reports that follow, making this section so vibrant. I often remark that what drew me to this section was not only the focus on public health and health administration, but the dedication of its members to being continuously engaged in projects of significance and, despite the busyness of our work and personal lives, in keeping up that momentum over time. Our section keeps growing and thriving in its contributions to the field. It's a pleasure to be associated with professionals such as these.

Thank you to all who contributed in one form or another to making this newsletter what it is.

Back to top

From the Chair

Nancy Schaefer, NancyS@library.health.ufl.edu

Thank you for giving me this opportunity to give back to the PH/HA section as its chair.

Many, many thanks to **Kris Alpi** for her excellent leadership as Chair last year, to **Marie Ascher** for her work as Past Chair/Nominating Committee Chair, and to **Pauline Fulda** for her years of help as Membership Chair. Thanks to **Pat Auflick**, **Kay Deeney**, **Helen Look**, **Barbara Nail-Chiwetalu**, and **Lisa Wallis** for their good work this past year. I look forward to working with all of you again this year. And thanks to **Laura Larsson**, past Chair of the Client Relations Committee, who has graciously agreed to act as Chair again for the 2005-2006 association year.

Welcome to all our new members! And to **Margaret Basket**, the new Membership Chair; **Christine Marton** and **Melissa Rethlefsen**, who have joined the Web Committee; and **Carolyn Medina**, new member on the Client Relations Committee. New member **Teresa Hammett** has volunteered to make the section's block for the MLA quilt, so we will finally be part of that overall project! It's fun to see the new members getting involved. May they find the energy and "passion" in our section as "infectious" and inspiring as the rest of us have.

In this issue you will find a message from Chair-Elect, **Marcus Banks**, who is currently working hard developing section programming for MLA 2006 May 19-24, 2006 in Phoenix, AZ. Quite a few proposed programs seem of interest to PH/HA members, so keep your eyes open next month for Marcus's calls for abstracts and volunteers to review abstracts!

Another exciting opportunity for involvement this year is the update of the Core Public Health Journals Project. Many of the original participants have signed on again, proving the value of gaining knowledge and making connections in the process. Watch this newsletter and the PH/HA email list for invitations to participate and progress news on this project.

That's all for now. Stay safe and healthy and have a great summer!

Nancy

Back to top

Membership Committee Report

Submitted by Margaret Basket, PH/HA Membership Chair

Associate Fellow, National Library of Medicine, basketm@mail.nlm.nih.gov

The Public Health/Health Administration Section currently has 168 active members, including 37 people who joined the section in 2005. This includes two members who signed up for a "trial" membership during the MLA Annual Meeting. This total count of active members does not include the 41 people who paid through 12/31/04 and have not yet renewed.*

We extend a special welcome to the new members who have joined in 2005. We are delighted to have them as members and look forward to their participation in our section.

Here are the new members who have joined the PH/HA section since the last newsletter:

- **Alison Aldrich**, Fordham Health Sciences Library at Wright State University in Dayton, OH
- **Angeline Beljour**, Pratt Institute in Queens Village, NY
- **Ellen Brassil**, New Britain General Hospital Health Sciences Library in New Britain, CT
- **Janet Crager**, Brown University Sciences Library in Providence, RI
- **Stephanie Dennis**, National Library of Medicine in Bethesda, MD
- **Michael Fitts**, Lister Hill Library of the Health Sciences at the University of Alabama at Birmingham in Birmingham, AL
- **Kathryn Flatley**, Information Center at the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation in Princeton, NJ
- **Arglenda Friday**, Texas Woman's University in Denton, TX
- **Mina Ghajar**, Center for State Health Policy at Rutgers University in New Brunswick, NJ
- **Andrew Heiz**, Flushing, NY
- **Diane Howell**, Lake Oswego, OR
- **Rose M. Jackson**, Branford Millar Library at Portland State University in Portland, OR

- **Kelly Klinke**, Liberty Hospital Health Resource Library in Liberty, MO
- **Margaret Eilene Moore**, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill Health Sciences Library in Chapel Hill, NC
- **Nancy L. Peterson**, New England States Consortium Systems at the University of Massachusetts Medical School in Shrewsbury, MA
- **Margaret (Peggy) Richwine**, Ruth Lilly Medical Library at the Indiana University School of Medicine in Indianapolis, IN
- **Heidi Thiessen Sandstrom**, NN/LM Pacific SW Region at the Biomedical Library at the University of California, Los Angeles in Los Angeles, CA
- **Edwina (Winn)Theirl**, Medical Center Library at the University of Kentucky in Lexington, KY

All 2004 section members who have not renewed for 2005 are encouraged to renew by mail or online at <https://www.mlanet.org/joinmla/mbrappf.html>

*Per the June 8, 2005 membership report from MLA Headquarters.

 Back to top

Partnering for Public Health: Information, Librarians, and the Public Health Workforce DVD Available!

Submitted by Kay Deeney, PH/HA Continuing Education Chair,
kdeeney@library.ucla.edu

Three PH/HA members, Chair-Elect **Nancy Schaefer**, **Marj Cahn** and **Cynthia Kahn** assisted with planning this successful MLA public health teleconference that ran on March 9, 2005. Member **Nancy Allee** was one of the teleconference live presenters.

The PH/HA Section has purchased the broadcast DVD with CE credits as a continuing education opportunity for section members. This teleconference is available for you to borrow. 2.0 CE is granted after successful viewing and completion of the evaluation.

A quote from one of our members:

“I can’t tell you how much I appreciated having the opportunity to view this teleconference on DVD... Plus I really like and get a lot more out of being able to stop and repeat sections as needed. Many thanks for the loan!”

- Lana S. Dixon, University of Tennessee Libraries

MLA’s description of the teleconference with agenda, goals, and objectives is at:
<http://www.mlanet.org/education/telecon/publichealth/index.html>

Back to top

Core Public Health Journals Project Gearing Up for New Version

Submitted by Kristine Alpi, kalpi@att.net

The Core Public Health Journal Project involves the work of an oversight committee appointed by the PH/HA Chair and volunteers who serve to compile and review the content of the list of journals. The current version 1.0 core journal list with the look and feel of the PH/HA web site is posted on Yale's web site thanks to **Matt Wilcox**. **Marie Ascher** recently presented the project to the Partners in Information Access for the Public Health Workforce and received very positive feedback that encourages us as we move forward for the next version of the list.

The Project committee has created a plan to update and maintain the Core Journal Project. Thanks to all of the members that provided feedback on the project plan. The revised project plan, more information about the project, and email links to contact the committee members are available on the PH/HA Web site at <http://www.phha.mlanet.org/activities/corejournal.html>. Feedback on the plan and the list itself are welcome at any time.

The oversight committee will begin recruiting compilers and reviewers this September, so please watch for the call and join us on this fabulous project.

Back to top

PH/HA Program Theme for MLA 2006: Evidence-Based Public Health Librarianship

Submitted by Marcus Banks, banks01@library.med.nyu.edu

PH/HA's section program at the 2006 MLA Annual Meeting will be "evidence-based public health librarianship." Please plan to attend an important session in which our colleagues add to the evidence base that supports our work.

In coming months, please look for announcements on the PH/HA mailing list about the opportunity to review abstracts. Your participation is welcome and valued.

In addition to our primary program, PH/HA will be a secondary sponsor for several exciting programs organized by other MLA sections. Stay tuned for more information about these programs as well.

Back to top

Sewell Stipends Available for the American Public Health Association Annual Meeting

Submitted by Laura Larsson, Chair, Client Relations Committee,
larsson@u.washington.edu

The Grace and Harold Sewell Memorial Fund is again offering stipends for librarians attending the American Public Health Association Annual Meeting in 2006.

Successful local (greater New Orleans area) applicants will receive a stipend of \$500 while successful applicants from outside greater New Orleans will receive \$850. These amounts will NOT cover all costs so attendees will need to find additional monies to cover remaining costs. Also, the stipends are provided as reimbursements rather than pre-payments.

But past recipients agree that this is a great way to learn the breadth and depth of public health and meet its researchers, policy-proponents, and practitioners, as well as other librarians working with these users.

Download the Word application form at
<http://depts.washington.edu/hswork/mla/stipend/mla-crc-call-2005.doc>. Completed application must be sent as a single email attachment to Laura Larsson **by July 25, 2005**.

For more information, contact Laura Larsson at larsson@cedarc.info or larsson@u.washington.edu .

Back to top

Columns

Grey Literature Column: Lessons from the Open Access Debate for Improving Access to Grey Literature and the Potential Benefits of Institutional Repositories

Written by Marcus Banks, banksm01@library.med.nyu.edu ; Edited by Marie Ascher, marie_ascher@nymc.edu

Just a few years ago, the prospects for open access publishing were much less promising than they are today. Although librarians chafed at the difficulty of acquiring more journals with insufficient resources, there was no viable alternative but to deal with traditional vendors.

With this year's adoption by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) of the "Policy on Enhancing Public Access to Archived Publications Resulting from NIH-funded

Research,” the status of open access publishing has improved greatly. NIH-funded grantees are strongly encouraged to deposit the final version of any manuscripts resulting from their grants in PubMed Central (PMC), anytime up to one year after the publication date. NIH anticipates that authors will rarely wait the entire year [1].

It would be better if NIH mandated deposit in PMC, but contentious discussions with publishers precluded this possibility. Although the policy could be stronger, it is still an endorsement of a leading principle of open access publishing: taxpayers deserve full access to the results of government-funded research.

Librarians have been and will remain instrumental to the success of open access publishing. Many librarians have educated patrons about the inequities of the current publishing model, and encouraged them to consider publishing in alternate venues. Librarians have also become effective lobbyists for changes to the status quo in publishing, through participation in such organizations as the Scholarly Publishing and Academic Resources Coalition, or SPARC [2]. In the spirit of evidence-based librarianship, I think of SPARC as a shining example of “politically potent librarianship.” This potency was a driving force behind the recent adoption of the NIH public access policy.

Progress on behalf of open access publishing serves as a model for how librarians could promote systematic access to the grey literature of public health. The lack of access is a political problem, and should be addressed in a political manner.

As a response to the difficulty of locating grey literature, public health librarians have developed sophisticated finding aids. But these aids are themselves scattered across the Internet, just like the literature they reference. It would be more valuable—albeit very difficult—to integrate access to grey literature within the information sources that public health practitioners consult regularly, such as PubMed. If society valued the benefits of public health more than it does today, this would be possible. Making this happen is where the legacy of “politically potent librarianship” would be valuable.

Just as librarians have worked productively with scholars to further the cause of open access publishing, we could collaborate with public health practitioners to advocate for the benefits of a greater emphasis upon public health. This would be an uphill battle in a political climate that shuns social solutions in favor of individual health prerogatives. However, the benefit of success is significant enough to warrant sustained attention: improved health outcomes for all.

I believe that a corollary benefit of this policy shift, which would be of particular interest to information professionals, is improved access to the grey literature of public health. One measure of a society’s priorities is how easy it is to obtain information about a given topic. Today it is easier to find information about the latest form of heart surgery than it is to find out about effective community-based interventions that reduce the incidence of heart disease. Given an environment more amenable to public health, this would be much less likely to be the case.

Even though a political solution is necessary to improve access to public health grey literature in the short term, institutional repositories (IRs) have the potential to solve the access problem over the long term [3]. IRs seek to contain the full range of intellectual output of an organization. Although typically discussed in the context of universities, the concept is applicable more broadly. Fully integrated and searchable repositories could serve as convenient portals to the public health grey literature that is scattered widely today. In order to be most valuable, public health practitioners would require the capability to do a federated search of repositories of their choice, by using tools such as Google, Google Scholar, or PubMed.

If such a happy state as complete access to public health grey literature ever comes into being, it would still be necessary to lobby for the importance of public health. And in this context, it would not be difficult to track down all the resources necessary to make the case.

References:

1. National Institutes of Health. (2005). *Policy on Enhancing Public Access to Archived Publications Resulting from NIH-Funded Research*. Retrieved June 12, 2005, from <http://www.nih.gov/about/publicaccess/>
2. Association of Research Libraries. (2005). *Scholarly publishing & academic resources coalition*. Retrieved June 12, 2005, from <http://www.arl.org/sparc/>
3. Lynch, C. (2003). Institutional repositories: essential infrastructure for scholarship in the digital age. In *ARL Bimonthly Report* 226. Retrieved June 12, 2005, from <http://www.arl.org/newsltr/226/ir.html>

Back to top

MLA Announcements / Conference Reports

Highlights of PH/HA Sponsored Sections at the MLA Conference 2005

Submitted by Nancy Schaefer, NancyS@library.health.ufl.edu

Continuing Education / Symposium: The Role of Information Services for Emergency Preparedness and Response (Sunday, May 15, 2005, attendance = 100)

This symposium was led by a panel of seven speakers: two doctors who summarized the provider experience in emergencies and five librarians/information providers who briefly demonstrated products and explained library classes and projects designed to meet health care providers' information needs in the event of an emergency.

Approximately 100 participants brainstormed policies that needed to be in place before an emergency: who informs whom at what point in a developing crisis, how much/what kind of information is released to the media and/or elected officials, what is the chain of command, and more. This hit librarians on two levels: as direct victims (our materials and library staff/patrons) in the event of an emergency directly impacting our libraries and as assistants to health care providers in the event of an emergency “out there” in the community.

One lingering question was “How can we as information providers get involved in planning and let police/fire/county health departments/state departments of health know we can offer reliable information if and when they need it?”

One librarian suggested an action involving requesting extra passwords for electronic resources. Immediately after the Oklahoma bombing, Elsevier granted over 100 MD Consult passwords. Do librarians have any guidelines for how long such extra passwords should be offered? Mental health consequences have a notably “long tail.” A preparatory action before an emergency would be developing a mobile book cart (including books such as the *APHA Communicable Disease Manual*) that would go to the site in the event of a power loss. Contact Kris Alpi about the “shelf list” of that cart.

Section Program: Establishing Best Practice (Tuesday May 17, 2005, average attendance = 32)

Rosalind Dudden of the National Jewish Medical and Research Center (corporate information service in New York) listed statistics supporting your library’s value within its institutional home:

- Ratio of library professionals to physicians (or FTE students)
- Ratio of electronic journals to print
- Ratio of library budget to institutional budget

Among the 17 institutions in New Jersey and Colorado that participated in her study, 55% of their budgets were spent on staff.

The Web-based MLA Benchmarking Survey ran from March 19-June 11, 2004. Results from its 450 respondents will merge with Association of Academic Health Science Libraries (AAHSL) data “soon.”

Deborah Silverman explained her application of the Resource Management Model which aims to identify synergies and redundancies. She removed reporting lines to avoid supervisory conflicts and brought together those who worked most closely together, combining the staff of technical services/resource management and circulation. (Another possible combination would have been the library director with reference and technical services [except IT.]) She scheduled circulation desk time for technical services staff to improve their understanding of patron/circulation staff needs. She moved clerical functions of tech services (periodicals check-in and bindery) to circulation staff, since

their workload had decreased in the advent of electronic resources while technical services' workload had increased.

Section Program: The Role of Information and Policy in Health Care (Wednesday, May 18, 2005, average attendance = 31)

This program opened with a discussion of North Carolina AHEC's Go Local program <http://www.nchealthinfo.org>, which went live on the Web January 3, 2005 and now receives 50,000 hits/month. She quoted statistics from the Pew Internet and American Life Project's "Internet Health Resources Report" of July, 2003: 80% of adults surveyed had investigated 1 of 16 health topics, 26% had checked pages on (health) insurance. 59% of users surveyed had home access to the Internet and from '02 to '04 Internet access "somewhere" increased from 65% to 71%. Public librarians estimate 10-40% of the questions they answer are on disease topics and drugs.

Regionally, perhaps 20% of Internet users in the Southeast earn less than \$30 thousand per year. North Carolina is the 10th most populated state, with 50% of the people spread out in rural areas. In 1999-2004, 51% of rural have home access to the Internet, which is greater than the national average.

Almost half of those making less than \$15 thousand per year *with a child in the home* had a computer in their homes.

Of the top 16 health topics searched on the Web, insurance was 7th, Medicaid and Medicare 14th. 21% of home caregivers have searched for Medicaid/Medicare information online. Of the most popular of the 100 Ask-a-Librarian questions posed since 2003 were those on cost of service and identifying providers who accepted Medicaid/Medicare.

PH/HA member **Peter Droese** (Health Policy Librarian, Office of Medicaid, Executive Office of Health and Human Services in Boston, and winner of the Daniel Richards prize for his April 2004 *JMLA* article "A Selected, Annotated List of Materials that Support the Development of Policies Designed to Reduce Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities" <http://www.pubmedcentral.nih.gov/articlerender.fcgi?tool=pubmed&pubmedid=15098056>) presented with his colleague **Nancy Peterson** (Associate Director, Lamar Soutter Library, University of Massachusetts Medical School New England Consortium Systems Organization—Shrewsbury) on health disparities. They reported that health disparities affect one out of four children and one out of six adults. Yet current health policy focuses on drug re-importation rather than the differences in disease incidence and prevalence caused by health disparities. Medical librarians can and perhaps should deliver the information needed to influence policymakers.

Finally, **Annabelle Nuñez** of the Arizona Health Sciences Library at the University of Arizona at Tucson's Hispanic Center of Excellence spoke of border issues (i.e., housing, TB, immunization, citizenship, insurance, farm health information) and the Hispanic Health Web page <http://hcoe.ahsl.arizona.edu> for consumers, faculty, and researchers.

She recommended that librarians interested in addressing health disparities work with faculty to identify information needs, develop a strategy to address those information needs, develop a network of stakeholders interested in eliminating disparities, and be proactive by taking the initiative.

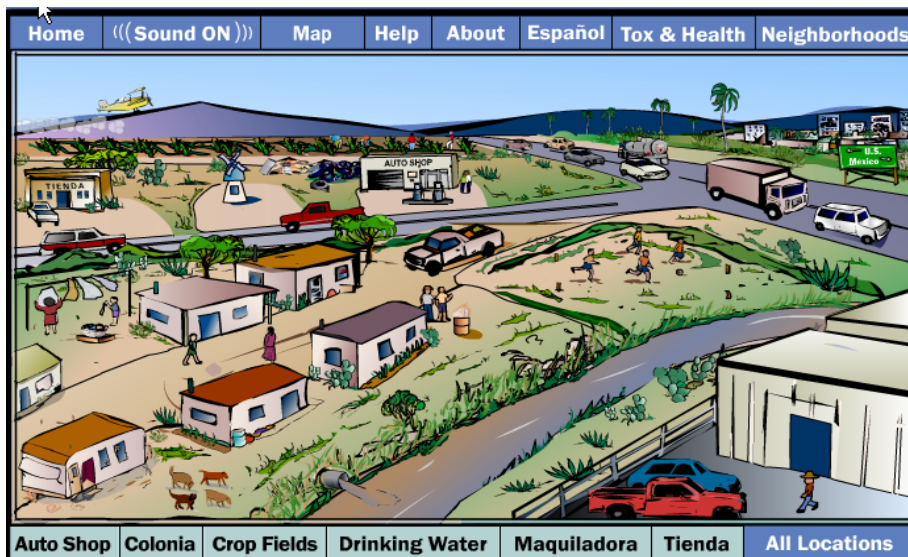
Back to top

News From/About the National Library of Medicine (NLM)

Update from the National Library of Medicine (NLM)

Submitted by Colette Hochstein, D.M.D., MLS, Division of Specialized Information Services (SIS), hochstec@mail.nlm.nih.gov

Environmental Health Concerns Along the US-Mexico Border: A New Neighborhood for Tox Town



A US-Mexico Border neighborhood is the latest scene added to Tox Town®, a Web-based introduction to environmental health risks and toxic chemicals. Tox Town,

<http://toxtown.nlm.nih.gov>, invites visitors to explore a border community to learn about air pollution, drinking water quality, workplace hazards, pesticides, rats and snakes, lead poisoning, backyard trash burning, and many other environmental concerns that may affect one's health. New locations to explore in the border scene are an auto shop, *tienda* (corner store), *maquiladora* (factory), crop fields, storm water and sewage systems, illegal dumps and tire piles, and a *colonia*. Colonias are border communities that lack paved roads, running water, and waste disposal, and are home to over 400,000 people in Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, and California.

The border region shares many of the same environmental health concerns that can be found anywhere in the U.S., but also has unique concerns and issues because of its geography, economic development, and lack of municipal services in some communities.

The United States, Mexico, state, local, and tribal governments are working together to promote better environmental health in the region through programs such as the U.S.-Mexico Border Environmental Program: Border 2012, <http://www.epa.gov/usmexicoborder/>.

Tox Town uses neighborhood scenes, the City, Town, and US-Mexico Border, along with color, graphics, sounds, and animation to add interest to learning about connections between chemicals, the environment, and the public's health. Tox Town's target audience is students above elementary-school level, educators, and the general public. Tox Town has a growing number of resources *en español*, <http://toxtown.nlm.nih.gov/espanol/>.

Tox Town is a project of the Specialized Information Services Division of the National Library of Medicine, National Institutes of Health. Please send your comments or questions on Tox Town to tehip@tehl.nlm.nih.gov.

WISER Windows™ Version Now Available for Free Downloading

An operational version of WISER for Microsoft Windows™ is now available for free download at <http://wiser.nlm.nih.gov>. In addition, updated versions of the WISER for PocketPC and WISER for Palm are available.

WISER is a system designed to assist first responders in hazardous material incidents. It provides a wide range of information on hazardous substances, including substance identification support, physical characteristics, human health information, and containment and suppression advice.

Feedback on WISER is welcome: <http://wiser.nlm.nih.gov/feedback.html>

My NCBI Enhances PubMed's LinkOut to NLM's Hazardous Substances Databank (HSDB)

PubMed searchers can move from a citation to NLM's Hazardous Substances Databank (HSDB) by using LinkOut. PubMed now makes this easier by including a filters feature that groups search results by users' preferences. Filters are set by visiting "My NCBI" and following the directions shown below. In addition, search results will now have a graphical display of the number of LinkOut citations.

To set PubMed preferences:

1. Go to My NCBI, <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/entrez/login.fcgi>, to register for a free account if you don't already have one.
2. After registering, sign into "My NCBI."
3. Select the "Filters" option on the left side of the screen.
4. Click "PubMed" (in the middle of the page).
5. A new page appears. Click on the word "Search".
6. Enter "hsdb" in the search box and click "Go".
7. On the results page, click on the word "HSDB" in the "Matching Filters" section.

8. Finally, on the screen that appears, check the boxes next to
 - o Add a result tab for all items that match this filter.
 - o Add a link icon to every item that matches this filter
9. You will need to be signed in to "My NCBI" to see the filter icons. When you complete your next search, you will see filter tabs above the search results. Select the "HSDB" tab to view citations that link to HSDB.



NLM's Division of Specialized Information Services Now Offers a Set of "Frequently Asked Questions" and Answers (FAQ) for its TOXNET Databases

For those new to TOXNET (<http://toxnet.nlm.nih.gov/>), the FAQ (http://toxnet.nlm.nih.gov/toxnet_faq.html) provides a good source of answers to questions that have already been asked. It can also be a resource for experienced TOXNET users. The TOXNET FAQ addresses the following areas:

- About the databases
- Searching/Linking/Printing
- Finding and managing bibliographic references
- Obtaining TOXNET data
- ChemIDplus
- Household Products Database

Miscellaneous

Please let us know if there are questions/answers that you would like to be considered for inclusion (tehip@tehl.nlm.nih.gov).

Resources Related to Education, Training, and Careers in Toxicology and Environmental Health

NLM's Division of Specialized Information Services (SIS) has released a Web page containing resources related to education, training, and careers in toxicology and environmental health. "Education, Careers, and Outreach in Toxicology and Environmental Health" (<http://sis.nlm.nih.gov/Tox/edcotox.htm>) includes the following topics:

- Education and Outreach
 - Academic Program Directories
 - Continuing Education and Tutorials
 - Distance Learning
 - Education Outreach

K-12 Resources
Miscellaneous Specialized Resources
General Science Resources

Careers and Professions
Accreditation Boards
Career Resources
Professional Societies

International Resources

TOXMAP Now Includes Bar Charts

In response to feedback from users, TOXMAP (<http://toxmap.nlm.nih.gov>) now includes bar charts.

- Users selecting the Facilities tab will see a bar chart for each facility showing up to five top emissions estimates by chemical name as reported annually to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).
- Under the Releases tab, a bar chart shows the distribution medium for the emissions of the selected chemical (land, air, underground injection (U.I.), or water) by each facility.
- Information presented under the Trends tab shows a bar chart of emissions estimates for the most recent 15 years for the selected chemical, as reported annually to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

TOXMAP is an interactive Web site that shows the amount and location of reported toxic chemicals released into the environment on maps of the United States.

Review of PDA Applications in Toxicology and Environmental Health –
<http://sis.nlm.nih.gov/Tox/PDAReview/PDAHomePage.htm>

Software applications recently reviewed for the Division of Specialized Information Services's "Review of PDA Applications in Toxicology and Environmental Health" include 5mTox (4.0). 5mTOX is a quick reference guide to assessing and treating poisoned patients, covering the full range of chemicals, medications, natural compounds, animal encounters, and adverse interactions.

This effort is an ongoing descriptive review of selected PDA applications in the fields of toxicology and environmental health. Individual reports in the series are based on downloadable demo versions of selected PDA applications. Each review typically covers: General Information, Intended Users, Authorship/Data Source, Contents, Navigation, Requirements, Application Type/Price, Availability, Useful Web Links, and Updates when applicable.

TOXNET Survey Update

Have you been asked to complete a TOXNET survey? Have you been asked more than once? TOXNET (<http://toxnet.nlm.nih.gov>) uses the American Customer Satisfaction Index (ACSI) to measure user's satisfaction with National Library of Medicine (NLM) toxicology and environmental health resources. Users of TOXNET are randomly invited to complete a survey telling NLM who they are, why and how they're using TOXNET, and giving suggestions for improvement.

Survey results show 58% use TOXNET daily or weekly, 52% are toxicologists, researchers or chemists (5% are librarians) and they are looking for chemical, toxicology, and environmental health information. 68% have graduate degrees, 94% are age 25 and above, 62% are male, and 57% are outside the United States. 86% are likely to recommend TOXNET to someone else and 88% are likely to return.

Areas that users would like to see improved are primarily ease of navigation and search capabilities. TOXNET has an overall satisfaction score of 77, which is a very strong score when compared to other federal Web sites and private sector information sites. NLM uses the ACSI, along with focus groups, expert reviews and Web metrics, as part of a total approach to evaluating and improving its Web sites.

Because the survey is designed to give feedback for at least 2 years, you may be asked more than once to complete the survey. You're invited to complete the survey as many or as few times as you choose. The questions are slightly different each time.

For further information on the ACSI, see their Web site, <http://www.theacsi.org/>. ACSI scores for federal Web sites are listed at <http://www.theacsi.org/government/govt-04.html>. For TOXNET results, contact Cindy Love, cindy_love@nlm.nih.gov, Specialized Information Services Division, NLM.

Coming Soon:

Re-design of the Division of Specialized Information Services Web Pages <http://sis.nlm.nih.gov>

NLM's Division of Specialized Information Services (SIS) is in the process of re-designing its Web pages (currently at <http://sis.nlm.nih.gov>). The new design will reflect the look and feel of the recently re-designed NLM pages. We hope the new pages will provide easier access to our many resources (by providing search boxes on multiple pages), and assist users in selecting appropriate resources for their needs (by adding "Especially For" and "Topic" pages).

Back to top

List of Journals Indexed for MEDLINE, 2005

http://www.nlm.nih.gov/tsd/serials/terms_cond.html

The annual *List of Journals Indexed for MEDLINE* (January 2005) is available in PDF format at the Web page above. Included in this list are several titles related to public health which include: *Biosecurity and Bioterrorism: Biodefense Strategy, Practice, and Science*; *Environmental Health: A Global Access Science Source*; *Journal of Water and Health*; and *Preventing Chronic Disease*. In addition to this list is the *List of Serials Indexed for Online Users* (February 2005), also in PDF format.

Back to top

NLM to Administer Public Health Informatics Grant

<http://www.rwjf.org/newsroom/newsreleasesdetail.jsp?id=10353>

In June 2005, it was announced that the National Library of Medicine (NLM) will administer a \$3.68 million grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) to develop future public health leaders in the area of public health informatics. Public health informatics integrates state-of-the-art computer technology in order to manage knowledge and information to further the work of public health professionals. Four educational training sites will be funded: Columbia University, The Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, the University of Utah, and the University of Washington. The grant will support program development, stipends, tuition, and other trainee expenses.

Back to top

Resources and Announcements

ASPH's Core Masters in Public Health Competencies

Submitted by Kalpana Ramiah, KR@asph.org

The Association of Schools of Public Health (ASPH) is leading an initiative on Core MPH Competency development as a result of the:

- increased emphasis on accountability in higher education;
- proliferation of competency-based training in the field of public health;
- challenges of 21st century public health practice;
- recommendations by important national organizations regarding competency domains in graduate public health education (GPHE);
- increasing incorporation of competencies into accreditation criteria; and,
- potential development of a voluntary credentialing exam for public health graduates.

The final consensus set of core MPH competencies in each of the five core areas (plus public health biology) along with an interdisciplinary, cross-cutting, and integrated set of overall competency domains is intended to serve as a *resource* and *guide* for those interested in improving the quality and accountability of public health education and training. They will respect the uniqueness and diversity of the schools of public health (SPH) and will not prescribe the methods or processes for achievement, recognizing that implementation of the competencies may vary as a function of each school's mission and goals.

ASPH intends to disseminate the competencies to a wide audience beyond our 37 member schools. In particular, we anticipate that the competencies could be useful to colleagues at graduate public health programs, employers, practice and agency partners, Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH), and the potential board that will credential graduates of our schools. Through this process, we are aiming to fill the void that exists regarding an MPH core, and thus provide leadership in GPHE that will help define contemporary and future education in public health.

You can view details on the project and the recent version of the competencies at <http://www.asph.org/document.cfm?page=851>. Comments are welcome at competency@asph.org.

Back to top

New Health Department DOCLINE Group

Submitted by Melissa Rethlefsen, Minnesota Department of Health, RN Barr Library, melissa.rethlefsen@health.state.mn.us

Under the initiative of **Connie Neuman** at the Minnesota Department of Health RN Barr Library, several local, state, and federal public health libraries banded together to form a new DOCLINE group, HealthDept. Current members include 3 city (Detroit, Nashville, New York) and 9 state health department libraries (Illinois, Massachusetts (3), Minnesota, Michigan, New York, Rhode Island, Texas) and 2 other public health libraries (Naval Ambulatory Care Center, United Hospital Fund of New York). The group was formed primarily to discuss common concerns amongst public health department libraries, but is also cooperating for interlibrary loan. In a pilot project, the CDC Information Center has been providing limited, trial interlibrary loan services to HealthDept group members; in the January to March quarter, the CDC was able to supply 6 group members with 62 documents.

The HealthDept group has started a Yahoo! group for discussion and ideas exchange. To join the discussion, send a submission request to pubhealthlibraries_subscribe@yahoogroups.com. For more information on the HealthDept group, contact Connie Neuman at connie.neuman@health.state.mn.us.

Back to top

CDC Offers Preventing Chronic Disease Journal

Preventing Chronic Disease is a peer-reviewed electronic journal established to provide a forum for public health researchers and practitioners to share study results and practical experience. This journal is published by the National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, one of eight centers within the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The journal is now available free, via PubMed Central at <http://www.pubmedcentral.gov/>.

Back to top

Focus on Field Epidemiology

Focus on Field Epidemiology is a periodical with a hands-on, practical approach to various topics in field epidemiology. It can be used for computer-based self study, a teaching tool for trainers, or in-service training. It is available from the North Carolina Center for Public Health Preparedness.

Each issue of *FOCUS* has a corresponding downloadable PowerPoint® presentation. Included in the periodical is a topic overview with examples, helpful illustrations, a glossary, additional resources, and discussion questions for individuals or groups. Solutions for the questions are posted on the *FOCUS* website. In addition, online self-evaluation questions complement each issue.

FOCUS is available as a downloadable PDF file or by subscribing to the email mailing list. Use the following URL to access FOCUS
<http://www.sph.unc.edu/nccphp/focus/issuelist.htm>

Back to top

Guide to Clinical Preventive Services 2005

<http://www.ahrq.gov/clinic/pocketgd.pdf>

The Guide to Clinical Preventive Services 2005, released by the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (ARHQ), highlights current recommendations from the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force. These evidence-based recommendations for clinicians address preventive services, which include screening tests, counseling, and preventive medications for adults and children in the primary care setting.

Back to top

Guide for Public Health Preparedness

<http://www.phpreparedness.info/>

This guide, prepared by the New York Academy of Medicine, provides access to more than 1400 electronic publications related to public health preparedness. It also includes a searchable database for topics in public health with special emphasis on disaster medicine.

Back to top

Emergency and Terrorism Preparedness for Environmental Health Practitioners Web Site

<http://www.cdc.gov/nceh/ehs/ETP/default.htm>.

The Environmental Health Services Branch of the Center for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC's) National Center for Environmental Health has launched their Emergency and Terrorism Preparedness for Environmental Health Practitioners Web site. This site contains links to CDC's environmental health services in addition to other links to environmental health sites.

Back to top

Public Health Information and Data Tutorial

<http://phpartners.org/tutorial/>

The National Library of Medicine (NLM), in collaboration with the University of Michigan Public Health Library and Informatics Division and Partners in Information Access for the Public Health Workforce, has announced the release of the *Public Health Information and Data Tutorial*. This online tutorial is a tool designed to help the public health workforce effectively locate and use health information.

Back to top

InformationLinks: Connecting Public Health with Health Information Exchanges

This program will provide grants to support the participation of state and

local public health agencies in health information exchanges. The program will make funds available to public health agencies for activities in support of population-based public health services, as opposed to direct provision of health care (e.g., safety-net provider services). The program is designed as a one-time, short-term stimulus to catalyze and facilitate greater participation by public health agencies in health information exchanges.

State and local health departments and nonprofit organizations, such as public health institutes, specifically designated by a state or local health department to receive funds on their behalf, are eligible to apply.

The application **deadline is September 7, 2005**. More details and how to apply <http://www.rwjf.org/applications/program/cfp.jsp?ID=19420>

Back to top

Information Access Needs of Public Health Professionals

Submitted by Hathy Simpson, e.hatheway.simpson@umassmed.edu

Project staff from the Evidence-Based Practice for Public Health Project, based at Lamar Soutter Library at the University of Massachusetts Medical School, have investigated how public health professionals currently access information and identified improvements needed to develop an information systems model that would address specific public health information accessing needs. The project is funded by an award from the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention and the Association of Teachers of Preventive Medicine. **Dr. Elaine Martin**, Director of Library Services, is the Principal Investigator of the project and **Hathy Simpson** at the Lamar Soutter Library is the Project Coordinator. **Dr. Nancy La Pelle** and **Dr. Roger Luckmann** from the University of Massachusetts Medical School are serving as expert consultants for the project. Their paper, *Enhancing Evidence-Based Information Access to Inform Public Health Practice*, has been accepted for presentation at the American Public Health Association Annual Meeting on November 9, 2005 in New Orleans, Louisiana, http://apha.confex.com/apha/133am/techprogram/paper_108127.htm. The project team conducted a qualitative study comparing the information needs of two different groups within a health department. Participants identified resources they needed along a continuum of knowledge. The project team was able to use these findings to recommend enhancements to simple and complex models of evidence-based resources. The project team has also identified the knowledge domains of public health and associated public health journal literature, public health bibliographic databases, and evidence-based public health resources. Information about the project and its findings can be viewed on the project's Web site at: <http://library.umassmed.edu/ebpph>. Please contact Hathy Simpson at e.hatheway.simpson@umassmed.edu for more information.

Back to top

Webcast on Public Health in Regional Health Information Organizations

<http://mchcom.com/archivedSeries.asp>

On May 18, 2005, the Public Health Informatics Institute held a live interactive Webcast presentation titled, "Ready or Not: The Role of Public Health in Regional Health Information Organizations (RHIOs)". The presentation was meant for maternal and child health program managers and related staff as well as public health practitioners with some involvement or interest in information systems, public health policymakers, and public health practitioners interested in RHIOs. A RHIO is a recently coined term for an initiative that guides the exchange of personal health information to assist providers in making better treatment decisions and to help public health improve the health of a community. The archived version of the Webcast will be freely available at the URL above.

Back to top

Recommended Resources in Occupational and Environmental Health

The March 2005 issue of the Journal of Occupational and Environmental Medicine has a 17-page list of "Recommended Library and Electronic Resources for Occupational and Environmental Health Physicians and Health Professionals" (pp. 316-332). It covers basic "core" books and journals as well as annotated lists of books in several subdisciplines.

Back to top

New Health Information Resource for Asian-Language Speakers

<http://spiral.tufts.edu>

On April 6, 2005, Tufts University's Health Sciences Library announced the availability of a health resource for Asian Americans whose first language is not English. Dubbed SPIRAL for "Selected Patient Information Resources in Asian Languages," it is a Web site with detailed health information in seven Asian languages, specifically Chinese, Hmong, Khmer, Korean, Laotian, Thai, and Vietnamese. Segmented by language and by subject, a user – either a patient, doctor, or other caregiver -- can search for documents in an Asian language on topics such as asthma, diabetes, nutrition, substance abuse, SARS and HIV/AIDS. A native speaker of an Asian language would go to the main Web site, select his/her language, and then search for the information that was needed. Material is

also provided in English so that an English-speaking physician or caregiver can see what patients are reading.

The work has been sponsored by two subcontracts from the National Network of Libraries in Medicine, New England Region, coordinated by the National Library of Medicine. An additional partner in the creation of SPIRAL is South Cove Community Health Center, a primary and preventative health center for Asian Americans in New England. For more information, visit the Web site above.

Back to top

Public Health Information Needs and Information-Seeking Behavior Bibliography
<http://www.health.state.mn.us/library/infoneeds.html>

Melissa Rethlefsen from the Minnesota Department of Health has posted a bibliography on public health information needs and information-seeking behavior. Its focus is on publications stemming from National Library of Medicine public health outreach grants. Included are PowerPoint, PDF, Word documents, and links to Web pages.

Back to top

New Grey Literature Journal
<http://www.greynet.org/pages/5>

The Grey Journal: An International Journal on Grey Literature has been launched with the initial issue in spring 2005. This serial publication will be issued three times per year in spring, summer, and fall. Each issue will cover a different theme dealing with one or more topics in the field of grey literature. It is available in both print and electronic formats. For more information, see the Web site above.

Back to top

Computer Game Teaches About Public Health
<http://www.mclph.umn.watersedge>

An innovative computer game titled “Outbreak of Watersedge” has been developed by the University of Minnesota Midwest Center for Life Long Learning in Public Health to introduce high school students to the field of public health. For more information, see the Web site above.

Back to top

E-Roadmap to Evidence-Based Public Health Practice

<http://www.publichealthsolutions.org>

Developed by the New Hampshire Institute for Health Policy and Practice at the University of New Hampshire, the purpose of this Web site is to define and provide information about the significance of evidence-based practice in public health, provide data driven solutions to public health practices, and to provide guidance on how to be an efficient and effective consumer of public health research. The Skill Building section includes a slide presentation, hot links to resources, and a 12-hour Web-based course which will soon to be available. In the Evidence section, a step-by-step strategy is provided for finding evidence for public health solutions. The Web site contains some useful information now, but is still in development.

Back to top

Keeping Up: Focus on Literature

Special Issue on Emerging Roles of Health Science Librarians

Reference Services Review, Vol. 33, No. 1, 2005 presents a special issue on Emerging Roles of Health Sciences Librarians, Part 2 with guest editors, Jean P. Shipman and Sarah Barbara Watstein. See

<http://thesius.emeraldinsight.com/vl=1559586/cl=22/nw=1/rpsv/cw/www/mcb/00907324/v33n1/contp1-1.htm>

Back to top

Teaching Elderly Adults to Use the Internet

A PH/HA sponsored program at the Medical Library Association conference 2005 titled "Reaching Them Where They Live: Bringing Health Care Internet Information to Senior Residences" has been published.

Robert J Campbell, David A Nolfi. Teaching Elderly Adults to Use the Internet to Access Health Care Information: Before-After Study. *J Med Internet Res* 2005 (Jun 29); 7(2):e19. OPEN ACCESS (HTML): <http://www.jmir.org/2005/2/e19/>

Back to top

Conferences / Calls for Papers and Posters

South Central Chapter of the Medical Library Association Conference

<http://www.library.uams.edu/scc2005/>

October 26, 2005

Little Rock, AK

The South Central Chapter of the Medical Library Association (SCC/MLA) will have their annual Conference, *Public Health Challenges: The Librarian's Role*, October 22-26, 2005 at the Peabody Hotel in Little Rock, Arkansas. Special program events include **Dr. Joycelyn Elders** to speak about health disparities, a panel discussing the librarian's role in meeting public health challenges, and a farewell reception at the Clinton Presidential Center and Park. For program information, continuing education opportunities, and registration and tourism please see the conference Web site above.

Back to top

SOPHE's 56th Annual Meeting

<http://www.sophe.org>

November 3-5, 2005

New Orleans, LA

Looking to maximize your Council on Education for Public Health (CHES) credits? Looking for great networking in a small, focused atmosphere of health education professionals? Always wanted to attend the Society for Public Health Education (SOPHE) meeting, but found it conflicted with your American Public Health Association (APHA) duties?

Then, make plans now to attend SOPHE's 56th Annual Meeting, "Global Health Promotion: Bridging New Worlds and New Cultures," November 3-5, 2005, at the Hotel Intercontinental in New Orleans. This year, the one and one-half day conference will start on Friday morning, November 4 and conclude mid-day on Saturday, November 5 – leaving PHEHP members time to address APHA meetings. Pre- and post-conference workshops, including Cajun cooking classes, will be offered on Thursday and Saturday, rounding out an outstanding mardi gras of learning, networking and fun! SOPHE's cameo Annual Awards banquet will be held at the Audubon Aquarium of the Americas on Saturday, November 5, with a small museum exhibit and a gorgeous view of the mighty Mississippi.

This year's meeting will include plenary sessions on three key meeting subthemes: global health, translating research to practice, and cardiovascular health. Among the

plenary speakers will be **George Mensah**, CDC's Director the National Center for Health Promotion; **Dr. Ron Labonte** of the University of Saskatchewan; and **Dr. Gerald Berenson**, father of the Bogalusa Heart Study, one of the longest running pediatric interventions to reduce cardiovascular risk.

There is nothing else like the Big Easy – a gentle and relaxed pace of life, garden districts, jazz clubs in the French Quarter, and streetcars transporting you back in time to experience the founding French influence. New Orleans' architecture and ambiance are unsurpassed! Stay tuned for more program information in the spring or visit SOPHE's Web site (www.sophe.org).

Back to top

Community-Campus Partnerships for Health Conference

<http://www.ccph.info>

May 31-June 3, 2006

Minneapolis, MN

Community-Campus Partnerships for Health (CCPH) is a nonprofit organization that promotes health through partnerships between communities and higher educational institutions. See the Web site above for more information about the conference or becoming a member of CCPH.

Back to top

Copyright Internet Scout Project, 1994-2005. <http://scout.cs.wisc.edu/> Permission is granted to make and distribute verbatim copies of the Scout Report provided the copyright notice and this paragraph is preserved on all copies. The InterNIC provides information about the Internet to the US research and education community under a cooperative agreement with the National Science Foundation: NCR-9218742. The Government has certain rights in this material.

[Return to the PH/HA Newsletter Main Page](#)