

Internet health resources

ARLENE COHEN*
PATRICIA SHEEHAN**

Abstract

This paper is a compilation of useful websites for health workers in the Pacific. It includes general websites such as Yahoo Health and the Cochrane database of systematic reviews; medical journals; health related websites, health meta guides; other medical resource sites such as American Diabetic Association and Cancernet; pharmaceutical sites; and selected Government and international health agencies. It also includes some internet sites in the French language.

Introduction

The following is a compilation of websites useful for all health workers in the Pacific.

General websites

Yahoo Health

<http://dir.yahoo.com/health.index.html>

Plain language searching and subject category organization to Internet sites.

Cochrane database of systematic reviews

<http://www.hcn.net.au/cochrane>

Claims to be the best single source of reliable evidence about the effects of health care in the world.

*System Librarian, University of Guam RFK Library
303 University Drive, UOG Station Mangilao, GUAM. Ph: +671 735 2345 - Fax: +671 734 6882 - email: acohen@uog9.uog.edu **Secretariat for the Pacific Community, PO Box D5, 98848 Noumea? New Caledonia. Ph: +687 262000 - Fax: +687 263818 - Email: patricias@spc.int

Evaluating Health Information on the Internet

<http://mel.lib.mi.us/health/health-evaluating.html>

Bibliography and full text of articles on the evaluation of health information on the Internet. Project sponsored by The Library of Michigan and the University of Michigan, University Library.

Medical Information and Support

<http://www.geocities.com/HotSprings/1505/guide.html>

Written for newcomers to computers and the Internet, this guide gives technical directions for using the Internet and help in accessing medical information and support groups.

Electronic document delivery. Alice Witkowski/Raul Recio.

<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/psr/lat/v7n6/index.html>

Article appearing in *Latitudes: Newsletter of the Pacific Southwest Region National Network of Libraries of Medicine (NN/LM)*, 7: 6, Nov/Dec 1998 describing document delivery using E-mail.

Uncover

<http://uncweb.carl.org/>

17 000 journal titles indexed, of which approx. 14% are health-related. The databases can be searched free by word, phrase or author, or individual journal title. Most useful for current awareness. For US\$25.00 per year you can receive the table of contents for up to 50 journal titles as they are published. This fee also includes the option of defining up to 25 current awareness keyword searches. Gives much more up-to-date access to journal contents than MEDLINE and other bibliographic databases.

Medical journals - General

The following journals can provide free e-mailed tables of contents, and free searches of journal contents online. Most also provide at least free abstracts of articles, and some articles can be downloaded in full-text free.

British Medical Journal

www.bmj.com

JAMA: Journal of the American Medical Association

www.ama-assn.org

Lancet

<http://www.thelancet.com>

New England Journal of Medicine

<http://www.nejm.org>

Health - National Library of Medicine and Pacific sites**PubMed (Free MEDLINE)**

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/PubMed/>

Provides access to the National Library of Medicine's 15 health related databases, with a choice of search interfaces. Using PubMed provides access to the 10 million citations in MEDLINE and Pre-MEDLINE (with some links to on-line journals) and the specialized *Clinical Queries* search capability with built-in filters for diagnosis, etiology, therapy and prognosis.

Grateful Med (Librarian's version of PubMed)

<http://igm.nlm.nih.gov/>

Provides free access to the same resources as PubMed, but allows more precise searches.

Pacific Basin Medical Association (PBMA) Home Page

<http://128.171.103.16/pbma/pbmahome.htm>

PBMA's website promotes regional continuing medical education and distance medical consulting.

Asian and Pacific Islander American Health Forum

<http://www.apiahf.org/apiahf>

A national advocacy organization dedicated to promoting policy, program and research efforts for the improvement of health status of all Asian American and Pacific Islander communities.

Fiji School of Medicine

<http://www.fsm.ac.fj/>

Hawaii Medical Library

<http://hml.org/>

The Library's large collection can be searched via Telnet. Includes a special collection on medicinal plants. This site has a very useful set of links, and the 'what's new' link is always worth checking out (online tutorials etc).

Robert F. Kennedy Memorial Library (Univ. of Guam)

<http://www.uog.edu/rfk>

Links to OCEAN, RFK Library's online public access catalogue, internet search engines, health related links, an electronic bookstore, an online document delivery service and numerous other sites.

Health – Meta Guides

This lists provide links to sites under categories or groups.

Biosites

<http://galen.library.ucsf.edu/biosites>

A listing of electronic resources in a variety of health care topics, including nutrition, allied health, anatomy, cancer, family practice and public health from a collaboration of medical school libraries in the *Pacific Southwest Region of the National Network of Libraries of Medicine*.

CliniWeb

<http://www.ohsu.edu/clinweb/>

An index and table of contents for clinical information on the WWW, organized using the NLM Medical Subject Headings (MeSH) classification system, with links to sites.

Core Clinical Web Sites

<http://people.unt.edu/~ib29/bookmark.htm>

Excellent collection of links to Web sites for clinical practitioners.

Health Web

<http://healthweb.org/>

Links to specific, evaluated information resources selected by librarians and information professionals at leading academic medical centers of the *Greater Midwest Region of the National Network of Libraries of Medicine*.

Health on the Net

<http://www.hon.ch/>

Health On the Net Foundation (HON), an international initiative, is a non-profit organization headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland. Multi lingual resources are provided, with sites annotated and reviewed by health professionals.

Medical Matrix

<http://www.medmatrix.org/index.asp>

Guide to Internet Clinical Medical Resources. A one-time, free registration gives you access to a vast database of specialty and disease categorized information evaluated by practitioners, with links to online journals, textbooks and other resources.

Virtual Hospital

<http://vh.org>

A project of the University of Iowa College of Medicine, this digital health science library provides patient care support and continuing education resources to physicians and other healthcare providers.

Other medical resource sites

American Diabetes Association

<http://www.diabetes.org>

CancerNet

<http://cancernet.nci.nih.gov/>

CancerNet provides a wide range of accurate, credible cancer information brought to you by the National Cancer Institute (NCI). CancerNet information is reviewed regularly by oncology experts and is based on the latest research.

Martindale's Health Science Guide '98

<http://www-sci.lib.uci.edu/HSG/HSGuide.html>

A *Multimedia Specialized Information Resource* currently containing over 52,000 teaching files; over 125,000 medical cases; 1,020 multimedia courses/textbooks; 1,450 multimedia tutorials; over 3,350 databases, and over 10,300 movies.

Medscape

<http://www.medscape.com/>

Interactive, multi-specialty, commercial Web service for clinicians and consumers with thousands of full-text articles that are Web-enhanced for online browsing.

OMNI

<http://omni.ac.uk>

The *Organized Medical Network Information* (OMNI) project is essentially the United Kingdom's equivalent to the United States based *Medical Matrix*. A gateway to quality, peer-reviewed resources with a UK bias, it is a good counterbalance to the US bias of the *Medical Matrix*.

Pharmaceutical

RxList: The Internet Drug Index

<http://www.rxlist.com/>

Web resource providing in-depth drug information on nearly 300 drugs. Also provides information on 200 most frequently prescribed drugs and links to generic prescribing information.

PharmInfoNet

<http://www.pharminfo.com/>

The Pharmaceutical Information Network provides links to pharmaceutical, healthcare and biotechnology information. The DrugDB allows searching by drug trade name or generic name, with entries skewed toward new and investigational drugs.

Selected government and international health agencies

Australian Department of Health and Family Services

<http://www.health.gov.au/>

Information about health in Australia, many online publications.

The Communicable Disease Australia section:

<http://www.health.gov.au/pubhlth/cdi/cdihtml.htm>

has *Communicable Diseases Intelligence* in full-text, other surveillance data and links to overseas outbreak databases.

Fiji Ministry of Health

<http://www.health.gov.fj/>

French Polynesia Service de Santé

<http://polynesie.gov.pf/sante>

New Zealand Ministry of Health

<http://www.moh.govt.nz>

Information about the Ministry of Health with many publications available online, full-text, including *New Zealand Public Health Report*.

U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention:

<http://www.cdc.gov>

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services:

<http://www.os.dhhs.gov/>

U.S. Food and Drug Administration:

<http://www.fda.gov/>

U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration:

<http://www.hrsa.dhhs.gov>

U.S. National Health Information Center (NHIC)

<http://nhic-nt.health.org/>

U.S. National Institutes of Health

<http://www.nih.gov>

U.S. Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion

<http://odphp.osophs.dhhs.gov/>

WHO

<http://www.who.int>

The essential resource on global health. Has details of WHO and programmes. WHO library catalogue and WHO publications database can be searched. *Weekly epidemiological record*, WHO press releases etc available in full-text. Their statistical service (WHOSIS) gives access to statistical services and databases such as Global-Health-for-All Database, Mortality Database, etc, also

statistical tools (CD-10, Epi-Info etc), plus information by general topic or disease. WHOSIS allows keyword searching of the entire WHO site. The WHO website has an excellent set of links, including links to European epidemiological sites such as French Sentiweb.

WHO Western Pacific Regional Office

<http://www.wpro.who.int>

Gives access to epidemiological data etc.

French sites**CISMeF: Catalogue et index des Sites médicaux francophones**

<http://www.chu-rouen.fr/cismef>

Produced by Rouen Hospital. Has a very comprehensive set of links for francophone health professionals.

Les Echos

<http://www.lesechos.fr/>

French health news site, produced by *La Revue du praticien médecine générale*. As well as news and access to contents of the journal, it has a good set of links by subject and type to guide the francophone health professional in the use of the Internet.

Other sites**Health, Mental Resources and Medical Interpretation**

<http://www.acf.dhhs.gov/programs/orr/Healthan.htm>

This part of the Office of Refugee Resettlement website offers a variety of administrative and refugee health including language and culture issues.

Public Health Training Network

<http://www.cdc.gov/phtn/>

A main place for public health related distance learning opportunities from CDC.

TrainingFinder.org

<http://www.trainingfinder.org/>

A new distance learning clearinghouse for PHF.

□

Success is all about the quiet accumulation of small triumphs.

J. P. Donleary 1926

Irish-born American writer and dramatist