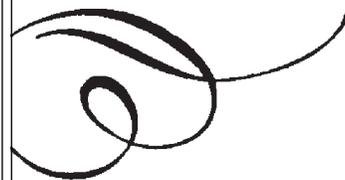


FROM THE EDITOR'S DESKTOP

by Jennifer Burek Pierce



This general issue, with its focus on health information, represents a touchstone for me, first because it explores a compelling area of professional interest and also because it is the last issue of *Indiana Libraries* of my editorship. Connecting with the professionals who have worked on these essays (as well as those that have come before) has been a thought-provoking experience. Essays addressing a range of health information topics written by librarians with diverse insights into health as a professional concern form the content of this issue.

Elizabeth Orban, Head Librarian at the Fairbanks Center for Health Professions at Ivy Tech State College - Central Indiana, offers an introduction to issues associated with providing consumer health information. Patron literacy is a key aspect of her appraisal of these issues. As a whole, this exploration of the literature on consumer health information grounds many of the issues that librarians should consider as they work in this area.

Therapeutic or healing music, an area of complementary and alternative medicine (CAM), is explained by Sara Anne Hook, Professor of Informatics and Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and Undergraduate Studies. She details her experience with therapeutic music, the principles involved in the practice of therapeutic music, and resources which support this form of therapy.

Peggy Richwine, of the IU School of Medicine Library, gives an overview of MedlinePlus, particularly a developing project which ensures that consumers can find accessible health information in their part of Indiana. Susan Maguire assesses the Indiana State Department of Health as a resource for consumer health information. Fran Brahmi has provided a list of web sites, most of them specific to Indiana, which connect practitioners and those with health information needs with online resources.

Josephine Kaiser, of the New Castle-Henry County Public Library, considers other ways partnerships can support consumer access to health information.

A number of these articles identify resources for use in the provision of health information to users. Shannon Bloomquist, now at the Indiana State Library, outlines issues common to inquiries regarding autism and indicates which resources can be most helpful to meeting information needs in this area. Bridget Tierney explains information issues associated with Fetal Alcohol Syndrome.

Melody Allison explains how historically normalized medical practices are beginning to change in light of biomedical research on sex-linked differences in physiology, as well as suggesting resources on this topic.

Indiana Libraries' columnists have addressed topics in conjunction with this health information orientation. In Management Basics, Herb Snyder offers library managers advice regarding worker's compensation issues. In The Well-Read Librarian, Marissa Priddis suggests resources to aid with evaluating web sites providing health information.

No editor's final column is complete without acknowledging those who've participated in the process of creating the issues which go forth. Among those to be thanked are Anne Marie Moser, a SLIS Indianapolis MLS student who has served as an editorial assistant for this and previous issues, and Katherine Schilling, SLIS faculty at Indianapolis, who shepherded a number of student writers through the transition between course papers and journal articles for this issue. Thanks are also due to Crissy Gallion, managing editor; Dave Eisen, recent head of the Publications Committee; and the rest of the committee, who have graciously given their support to the editorial direction I've sought to carry out in my years as editor.

Best wishes to Alberta Comer, who will be *Indiana Libraries'* new editor. The input of readers and contributing writers is important resource for editors, and I hope you will continue to commit your time and efforts to supporting Alberta as she takes on this responsibility.

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