INDIANA HEALTH RESOURCES:
2004 UPDATE

by Frances A. Brahmi

In 1982, I compiled a chapter on Indiana health information resources that was published by the Midwest Health Science Library Network: Basic Library Management for Health Science Librarians, Indiana Edition, 2nd edition. Since then, the World Wide Web has become the provider of choice for such resources, making them more accessible and enabling them to be updated more frequently. This article updates the earlier compilation and includes Web addresses and annotations, as well links to useful databases. Not intended to be comprehensive, it may serve as a starting point for librarians new to Indiana.

The proliferation of medical information on the Web challenges our ability to find valid and reliable resources. The key is to critical appraisal of the information provided, based on a set of criteria. They include the most obvious, such as currency, accuracy, and authority, but also sponsorship and unstated biases. Stated more concisely: users need to consider who is providing the information and for what purpose. One of the best sites on the evaluation of Web information is located at http://thorplus.lib.purdue.edu/~techman/eval.html. This two-page guide is straightforward and answers the principal question of sponsorship and bias. Another excellent site is “10 Things to Know About Evaluating Medical Resources on the Web” located at http://ncam.nih.gov/health/webresources. This site addresses not only who runs the web site but also who pays for it. It covers information selection, currency, links to other sites, and what information it collects about you, the visitor.

Below is an annotated list of web sites which may prove to be useful for further research or initial introduction to Indiana health information resources.

HEALTH SCIENCES LIBRARIES

Ruth Lilly Medical Library
The only medical school library in the state has a large electronic and print collection of books, journals, and databases. It is affiliated with the Indiana University School of Medicine and located on the IUPUI campus. http://www.medlib.iupui.edu

Indiana University School of Dentistry Library
One of the few free-standing dental libraries in the nation, it supports the teaching, research, patient care and community outreach services of the faculty, staff and students of the Indiana University School of Dentistry and serves as a source of dental health information for IU School of Dentistry alumni, Indiana citizens and other dental health professionals. http://www.iusd.iupui.edu/Depts/Lib/

Pharmacy, Nursing, and Health Sciences Library—Purdue University
This library supports the instructional and research activities of the Schools of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, Nursing, and Health Sciences. http://www.lib.purdue.edu/pnhs/

Veterinary Medical Library—Purdue University
This library supports the curriculum and research programs of the School of Veterinary Medicine (SVM) and the Lafayette Center for Medical Education (LCME). http://www.lib.purdue.edu/vetmed/

Central Indiana Health Sciences Libraries Consortium
They offer awards of up to $100 for professional development for member library staff. It also provides a link to the Midwest Chapter of the Medical Library Association’s annual meeting. http://www.incolsa.net/~cihsc/

Indiana Libraries for Consumer Health
Provides a list of Indiana libraries which provide consumer health information. http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/libraries/indiana.html

STATE RESOURCES

Indiana State Library
This library offers a variety of Indiana newspaper indexes, a genealogy division, and links to other Indiana libraries which may provide health information. http://www.statelib.lib.in.us

Indiana University Clinical Trials Program
This site addresses both patients and investigators and includes a list of current clinical trials. http://medicine.iupui.edu/ctp/
Indiana State Department of Health
This site includes numerous links to health information, including Quick Sheets in both English and Spanish. It provides updates on such topics as Lyme Disease, Nile Virus, and hot weather tips.
http://www.state.in.us/isdh/

Indiana Public Health Information Network
Provides links to useful sites including government agencies, databases, and epidemiology and statistics.
http://www.medlib.iupui.edu/pbhealth/

Indiana Poison Center
This site provides emergency contact information as well as first aid and poison prevention. The information is provided in both English and Spanish.
http://www.clarian.org/portal/patients
clinical?clarianContentID=/clinical/poisoncontrol/index.xml

Indiana Pesticide Product Database
This database contains information on pesticide products registered in Indiana for the current year.
http://state.ceris.purdue.edu/doc/in/statein.html

Indiana Prevention Resource Center
Indiana’s primary source for alcohol, tobacco and other drug prevention resources. It provides links to Indiana surveys regarding prevalence of use.
http://www.drugs.indiana.edu/

Central Indiana Human Services Database
This database provides contact information for many of Central Indiana support, self-help, and service groups. It was previously referred to as the Rainbow Book.
http://www.imcpl.lib.in.us/cgi-bin/irntop.pl

Access Indiana
The Official Web Portal for the State of Indiana Offers an overview of general Indiana information and resources, including a health section. Health care licensing information may be the most helpful.
http://www.in.gov/

GENERAL HEALTH INFORMATION

HealthWeb
HealthWeb is an award winning site created by medical librarians across the country on specific areas of health care, including health informatics. The resources have been reviewed before being included as links. It is updated regularly.
http://healthweb.ghsl.nwu.edu/

Medical Education Online
This site is “a forum for disseminating information on educating physicians and other health professionals.”
http://www.med-ed-online.org/

Medical Directories from MedlinePlus
This site provides an extensive list of directories not specific to Indiana.

HOSPITALS

Indiana State Hospital Directory
This site is a directory of Indiana hospitals. Each major hospital in the Indianapolis area has its own website below. http://www.state.in.us/isdh/regs/cvs/acc/hospital/splash.htm

Major Indianapolis Hospitals
Clarian Health—Methodist IU Riley
http://www.clarian.org/

Community Health Network
http://www.ecommunity.com/

St. Francis Hospital and Health Center
http://www.stfrancishospitals.org/

St. Vincent Hospitals and Health Services
http://www.stvincent.org/

Wishard Health Services
http://www.wishard.edu/

INDIANA HEALTH ASSOCIATIONS

Indiana Health Professions Bureau
This site provides useful links to the Indiana Department of Insurance, and the Indiana State Department of Health. It offers contact information about malpractice, state requirements for health care facilities, complaints about health practitioners and health care facilities. http://www.ai.org/hpb/index.html

Indiana State Medical Association
The Indiana State Medical Association web site offers numerous links including HIPAA, the PDR, state and county medical societies, domestic violence materials, bioterrorism, and a doctor referral service called Doctor Details.
http://www.ismanet.org/

Indianapolis Medical Society
A membership group which produces the Pictorial Roster of Members, a useful resource for identifying physicians.
http://www.imsonline.org/

Indiana State Nurses Association
This association provides services to Indiana registered nurses and a comprehensive list of links to other nursing organizations.
http://www.indiananurses.org/

Sigma Theta Tau International, Honor Society of Nursing
This society, whose headquarters are in Indianapolis, provides its members a number of resources through the Virginia Henderson International Nursing Library, literature and book reviews, publications, and continu-
ing education opportunities.
http://www.nursingsociety.org

Indiana Hospital & Health Association
The Indiana Hospital & Health Association is the
professional trade association for 157 Hoosier hospitals
and health systems whose primary functions include
advocacy, data management, communication, and
education.
http://www.inhha.org/

John Shaw Billings History of Medicine Society
Named after a physician who transformed the Office of
the Surgeon collection into the National Library of
Medicine, it provides a link to the Ruth Lilly Medical
Library special collections which emphasize the practice
of medicine in 19th century Indiana and other Midwestern
states. The collection contains approximately 1,600
book titles. Most of the titles are post-1800. Other
resources include representative medical instruments
and a file Index to Indiana medical obituaries.
http://www.medlib.iupui.edu/hom/jsbinc.html

INDIANA LIBRARY ASSOCIATIONS

Special Libraries Association/Indiana Chapter
http://www.in-sla.org/

The Indiana Health Science Librarians’ Association
http://www.incolsa.net/%7Eihsla/

Association for Indiana Media Educators
http://www.ilfonline.org/Units/Associations/aime/

American Society for Information Science and Technology/Indiana Chapter
http://www.asis.org/Chapters/IASIS/index.html

Indiana Academic Library Association
http://www.ilfonline.org/Units/Associations/IALA/

Indiana Library Association
http://www.ilfonline.org/

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ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Frances A. Brahmi (fbrahmi@iupui.edu) is Curriculum
& Education Director at the Ruth Lilly Medical Library
and Lifelong Learning Competency Director at the
Indiana University School of Medicine in Indianapolis.
She welcomes email contact regarding other useful
resources and additions.