

Useful electronic resources for research and practice

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The creation of the Internet as a source of electronic information has allowed access to a wealth of data. Unfortunately, not all information is of good quality, or even accurate. This article will attempt to highlight sources of electronic information that are easy to navigate and provide high quality information for use in research and in daily clinical practice.

Research

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/sites/entrez?db=pubmed>

<http://highwire.stanford.edu/>

The Cochrane Collaboration <http://www.cochrane.org/>

Trip Database for evidence-based medicine <http://www.tripdatabase.com/index.html>

<http://www.library.nhs.uk/Default.aspx>

Searchable databases of osteopathic research

Vienna School of Osteopathy – www.osteopathic-research.com.

Statistics

An online resource created by statistician Will Hopkins. It is an absolute mine of information. <http://www.sportsci.org/resource/stats/>

Random number generator: <http://www.random.org/>

Glossary of statistical terms - <http://www.stats.gla.ac.uk/steps/glossary/> produced by Valerie Easton and John McColl

Sample size calculator - <http://www.surveysystem.com/sscalc.htm>

Statistical considerations for clinical trials and scientific experiments.

http://hedwig.mgh.harvard.edu/sample_size/size.html

Research training

CASP - <http://www.phru.nhs.uk/Pages/PHD/resources.htm>

University of Salford Healthcare Practice Research and Development Unit (HCPRDU)

<http://www.fhsc.salford.ac.uk/hcprdu/critical-appraisal.htm>

National data

Office for National Statistics - <http://www.ons.gov.uk/census/index.html>

Biomed Central – the open access publisher - <http://www.biomedcentral.com/>

Thieme Publishers launched WinkingSkull.com in January of 2008. From Boston to Berlin to Beijing, WinkingSkull.com is rapidly becoming a global phenomenon as interest grows from around the world. This website is a free, interactive resource for medical students and people interested in science. <http://www.winkingskull.com/page.aspx?pid=25>

PLoS- A peer-reviewed open access journal published by the Public Library of Science -

<http://medicine.plosjournals.org/perlserv/?request=index-html&issn=1549-1676>

Website promoting free access to medical journals –

Free Medical Journals - <http://www.freemedicaljournals.com/htm/e16.htm>

NCOR - <http://www.brighton.ac.uk/ncor/osteoresearch/index.htm>

Research Governance - <http://www.brighton.ac.uk/ncor/rgf/index.htm>

Research Governance Framework for Health and Social Care -

http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Researchanddevelopment/A-Z/Researchgovernance/DH_4002112

OEIs and research

<http://www.iso.ac.uk/research.html>

<http://www.eso.ac.uk/ResearchNews.html>

<http://www.bso.ac.uk/sm4resh.htm>

<http://www.bcom.ac.uk/research>

<http://www.collegeofosteopaths.ac.uk/reports.html>

<http://shsc.brookes.ac.uk/research/rehabilitation-enablement>

Osteopathic research

<http://www.library.nhs.uk/CAM/>

CAM research

<http://www.library.nhs.uk/CAM/>

Clinical Audit

Clinical Audit Support Centre:

http://www.clinicalauditsupport.com/what_is_clinical_audit.html

NICE – gives access to downloads including “*Best Practice for Clinical Audit*”.

http://www.nice.org.uk/usingguidance/implementationtools/auditadvice/audit_advice.jsp

Clinical Audit – What it is and what it isn't - www.rcpsych.ac.uk/pdf/clinauditChap1.pdf

National sources of health information

NICE <http://www.nice.org.uk/>

DoH <http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/index.htm>

IRAS <https://www.myresearchproject.org.uk/>

Guidelines

<http://www.nice.org.uk/search/searchresults.jsp?keywords=low+back+pain&searchType=all>

<http://www.library.nhs.uk/guidelinesFinder/>

Outcome measures

Oxford Orthopaedic scores http://phi.uhce.ox.ac.uk/ox_scores.php

PROM Database: http://phi.uhce.ox.ac.uk/perl/phig/phidb_search.pl

<http://www.csp.org.uk/>

<http://www.outcomesdatabase.org/show/category/id/15>

<http://www.backcare.org.uk/>

<http://www.invo.org.uk/>

Patient information sites

Patients increasingly like to research options concerning the management of health problems.

A number of sites have been created with patients specifically in mind, avoiding much of the jargon beloved by health professionals.

Health Talk Online is a perfect example of a good quality site aimed specifically at patients. It was created by a research team at Oxford University; it has conducted hundreds of interviews that allow patients to read and listen to the experiences of other patients. www.healthtalkonline.org. A version of the website aimed solely at young people has also been developed by the research team. This can be found at www.youthhealthtalk.org. Another site for teenagers can be found at www.teenagehealthfreak.org. This is based on a series of successful books that have been developed under the same name.

NHS Choices has been created to provide local information about health services including General Practices, hospitals, dental services e.t.c. The site also includes blogs from expert patients, and detailed medical information. www.nhs.uk
Patient UK is an independent site run solely on advertising revenue (excluding drug companies) by a husband and wife GP. It provides extensive medical information accompanied by clear pictures and diagrams. It can be found at www.patient.co.uk. Net Doctor provides general medical information written by an expert panel of healthcare professionals. It also contains current healthcare news stories, video information and a directory to local services. www.netdoctor.co.uk

Patient-led sites

These are regarded by many healthcare professionals to be of great help in offering support. It can be easy for healthcare professionals to provide facts and figures about conditions, but dealing with the emotional impact and sheer practical difficulties about those conditions can be unwittingly forgotten. Patient-led sites fill this niche and remind patients that they are not alone in experiencing a particular type of problem. Two notable patient-led sites are the mental health website www.mdf.org.uk, and www.downyourdrink.org.uk which is aimed at individuals who drink too much but are not physically dependent on alcohol.

Some patient-led websites are frequently used by health professionals. The site www.prime-cfs.org is a clear example of this: it provides information about chronic fatigue syndrome.

Condition-specific information

Information for practices

Clinical practice and learning

<http://www.metabolics-seminars.com/seminars.php>

<http://www.elu.sgu.ac.uk/cso/>

Online physical examination teaching assistant -

<http://medinfo.ufl.edu/other/opeta/index.html>

Connecticut Tutorials <http://www.conntutorials.com/video.html>

Neuroanatomy through clinical cases - <http://www.neuroexam.com/>

Medical examination through a series of video clips

<http://www.learnerstv.com/lectures.php?course=ltv032&cat=Medical&page=1>

<http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/regindex.htm>

<http://www.workingforhealth.gov.uk/Resources/Default.aspx>
<http://www.businesslink.gov.uk/bdotg/action/layer?topicId=1073858787>
http://www.ealing.gov.uk/services/business/health_safety/legislation/business_requirements/acupuncture.html
http://www.burnley.gov.uk/site/scripts/download_info.php?fileID=100

<http://www.labtestsonline.org.uk/>

The first issue of Bandolier, an independent journal about evidence-based healthcare, written by Oxford scientists, (RAM AND HJM) was printed in February 1994. It has appeared monthly ever since and has become the premier source of evidence based healthcare information in the UK and worldwide for both healthcare professionals and consumers.

Bandolier - (www.ebandolier.com)

Medical Research Council www.mrc.ac.uk

BOA market place <http://www.osteopathy.org/MAKAQJ16999>

GOsC fact sheets http://www.osteopathy.org.uk/about_osteo/about_osteo_factsheets.php

A SchARR Introduction to Evidence Based Practice on the Internet

Netting the Evidence is intended to facilitate evidence-based healthcare by providing support and access to helpful organisations and useful learning resources, such as an evidence-based virtual library, software and journals.

Sheffield University School of Health and Related Research

<http://www.shef.ac.uk/scharr/ir/netting/>

Radiographic anatomy of the skeleton: <http://www.szote.u-szeged.hu/Radiology/Anatomy/skeleton.htm>

Centre for Reviews and Dissemination <http://www.york.ac.uk/inst/crd/em.htm>