**NLM E-Minute:**

**Beyond PubMed: Seven Must-See NLM Portals**

By Holly Ann Burt, MLIS, AHIP

The National Library of Medicine (NLM) works tirelessly to connect people with information. Consider these free and online portals – some you may already know and some are very new. We offer portals to public health resources, student curriculum materials, drug information, conference proceedings and statistics, genetics databases, historical collections in medicine, and environmental health and toxicology research. Bookmark your favorites today!

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**Pathways for Public Health Information**


Are you researching public health topics? Here you will find an extensive collection of links to information in the categories of environmental health, disasters, and special populations. Below find a few of the many and frequently updated collection titles.

- **Enviro-health links:** Climate change and health, Environmental justice internet guide, Laboratory safety, Mercury and human health, Nanotechnology, Pesticide exposure
- **Disaster health links:** Animals in disasters, Biological warfare, Coping with disasters, violence and traumatic events, Personal preparedness, Tornadoes, Weather and storms
- **Targeted populations:** American Indian health, Children's environmental health information resources, Multi-cultural resources, Refugee Health Information Network (RHIN®), Women’s health resources

Also, visit the [PHPpartners.org](http://PHPpartners.org) portal for additional public health resources and databases.

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**K-12 Science and Health Education**


Do you work with students? Do your patrons need curriculum resources? Do you want to brush up on a medical science topic? The NLM is partnering with teachers and scientific experts to provide free reliable resources to help introduce, reinforce, and supplement education programs. Access these topics from the portal page:

- **Science topics:** Biology, Environmental health science/chemistry (including [Environmental Health Student Portal](http://Environmental Health Student Portal)), Forensics and medical technology, Genetics (including the [GeneEd portal](http://GeneEd portal)), General health, HIV/AIDS
- Careers, Health information tutorials, Lesson plans, Projects, Spanish-language resources

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For anyone researching drug information, this is the portal to bookmark. Search by a drug name or category across consumer-oriented and professionally-focused databases.

- **Literature**: PubMed, PMC (PubMed Central), TOXLINE, DART
- **Research**: AIDSInfo (HIV/AIDS Information), Drugs@FDA (US Food & Drug Administration), ClinicalTrials.gov, NIAID ChemDB (National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Disease), PubChem (NLM), RxNorm (Standard nomenclature), TOXNET
- **Consumer**: MedlinePlus, Pillbox (Drug identification and image display)
- **Labels**: DailyMed (FDA approved manufacturer labels/package inserts), Dietary Supplement Label Database (DSLD)

**Subject Guides on Selected Topics**
http://www.nlm.nih.gov/services/Subject_Guides/subjectguidesonselectedtopics/

Compiled by the NLM Reference and Web Services Section, these subject guides introduce some of the major online resources. Links to databases and to significant articles are included. Listed below are samplings of topics.

- **Conference Proceedings**: Database providers, International resources, Major medical journals, NLM search strategies
- **Health Statistics**: General statistical resources, Health economics, Heath insurance, Nutrition, Pharmaceutical statistics, Veterinary Medicine
- **Library Statistics**: Salary surveys, Standards and measurements
- **Drug Information**: MeSH headings, Laws and regulations, Special audiences or uses

**GQuery: NCBI Global Cross-database Search**

The NLM National Center for Biotechnology Information (NCBI) GQuery recently received a significant facelift, sorting the NCBI databases nine categories. Start here for genetic questions.

- **Literature** (e.g. PubMed, MeSH, Books, PMC), **Health** (e.g. MedGen, OMIM), **Organisms** (Taxonomy), **Nucleotide Sequences**, **Genomes**, **Genes**, **Proteins**, **Chemicals** (PubChem), and **Pathways** (BioSystems)

Access the one-stop search portal by using **All Databases** from any NCBI drop-down menu.

**History of Medicine Finding Aids Consortium**

This new discovery tool, still in the pilot stage, provides keyword search services across 3,600 indexed finding aids from 35 institutions. Find historical documents, personal papers, business records, and more, from history of medicine special collections and archives throughout the U.S. (With more to come!)
To close, I want to remind you of this faithful and important portal.

**TOXNET:**

This searchable collection of databases focuses on hazardous chemicals, toxic releases, and environmental health. My personal favorite is the Household Products Database accessing Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) for over 12,000 common products. Or find the toxic release next to your house with TOXMAP. The two literature databases include a PubMed search.

- **Literature:** Developmental and Reproductive Toxicology Database (DART), TOXLINE (Toxicology Literature Online)
- **Health risk:** Carcinogenic Potency Database (CPDB), Chemical Carcinogenesis Research Information System (CCRIS), Comparative Toxicogenomics Database (CTD), Genetic Toxicology Data Bank (GENE-TOX), Integrated Risk Information System (IRIS), International Toxicity Estimates for Risk (ITER)
- **Health/Environmental health:** Haz-Map (Hazardous Chemicals and Occupational Diseases), Hazardous Substances Data Bank (HSDB), Household Products Database, LactMed (Drugs and Lactation Database), Toxics Release Inventory (TRI), TOXMAP
- **Chemicals:** ChemIDplus

Rumor has it that the LiverTox database (http://livertox.nih.gov/) will be added to the TOXNET portal later this year.

Visit these resources to day and come back often to explore!

Happy Searching!

Holly Ann Burt  
haburt@uic.edu  
Outreach and Exhibits Coordinator  
National Network of Libraries of Medicine Greater Midwest Region

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