



National Network of Libraries of Medicine, MidContinental Region

The J. Otto Lottes Health Science Library at the University of Missouri serves as one of the eight Resource Libraries for the MidContinental Regional Medical Library, a six state program that is managed by the Spencer S. Eccles Health Science Library, University of Utah. In this role, the J. Otto Lottes Health Science Library and the Missouri Coordinator work together to better serve the population of Missouri providing access to high quality health information and programming.

Goal: to enhance access to health information for health professionals and the public

What we do for the public:

- Promote NLM's resources by trainings and outreach to community organization through classes, exhibits and health fairs
- Consumers get their health questions answered by librarians we've trained
- Patients and clients treated by health professionals are referred to reliable health information resources
- Staff at community organizations are aware of specially designed health information resources to support their community members.

What we do for health professionals:

- Meet health professionals where they congregate (e.g., professional conferences, exhibits) and introduce them to NLM resources and how to obtain the information they need for their practice
- Train health professionals to search NLM resources (e.g., PubMed, ToxNet) to support evidence-based health care.

What we do for librarians who support the public and health professionals:

- Train librarians to become expert searchers of NLM resources to support health professionals' and the public's health information needs
- Introduce librarians to new technologies to facilitate health information access and application
- Fund projects for librarians to improve local health information access for all.



For Missouri:

- We have worked with Health Literacy Missouri to develop a training program on basic health literacy concepts and community collaboration for public libraries and other community agencies. Over twenty trainings have been held across Missouri during 2010 and 2011. The workshops focused on rural and underserved communities and were held in collaboration with the Missouri AHEC and Missouri State Library.
- We have worked with the Missouri Institute for Community Health (MICH) for the past eight years, and contribute a column on NLM resources to their quarterly newsletter.
- The Missouri Coordinator serves on the research council for the Missouri Practice Based Research Committee, currently serving as chair of that organization.
- We have collaborated with the Missouri School Nurse coordinator and conducted trainings on high quality health resources for school nurses throughout the state as well as at state conferences.
- The Missouri Coordinator serves as a member of the Advisory Committee for the Missouri Center for Patient Safety.
- We collaborate regularly with the Missouri State Library, and offer in-person as well as online trainings for public librarians on topics such as senior health programming, emergency preparedness for libraries and health information literacy.
- We regularly exhibit at state, regional and national conferences of organizations such as the Missouri State Library Association, the Missouri Public Health Association, Cambio de Colores and the Westberg Parish Nurse Symposium. Attendees often remark that "I couldn't do my job without you!" or "I use MedlinePlus and your other resources every day!"
- We regularly work with librarians and libraries to strengthen their programming and their value to the hospitals and institutions they serve.