

ARIZONA STATE LIBRARY, ARCHIVES & PUBLIC RECORDS



ARIZONA LIBRARIES FILL HEALTH INFORMATION NEEDS

Libraries Provide:

Access: accessible to all ages and backgrounds, on-site or remotely; bringing communities together in rural and urban Arizona

Trust: highly trusted & neutral, allowing partnering groups to work together on health issues/concerns

Programs, Services & Training: health literacy, evaluation, consumer health information

Resources: diverse informational sources, no fee electronic information

Libraries provide the solution for the increased need for Health Information. Health information consumers are faced with complex and varied sources. Patients increasingly have less personalized time with medical professionals. With rapid medical advancements and informed patient requirements, it has become more and more essential to have guidance. Increased information on health related topics is available on the Internet, but much of the information is outdated or false. Libraries provide assistance with evaluating resources and providing valid, trusted sources in a neutral environment.

Health Initiatives in Arizona

AZ Health Sciences Library; University of Arizona (<http://www.ahsl.arizona.edu/>)

- Library is open to everyone and all library materials and computers are available for use within the library. All AZ library card holders can request materials at no charge through their public library. Free Ask a Health Librarian online resource is available. AZ residents may purchase a library card for \$60 per year.
- The U.S. National Commission on Libraries and Information Science (NCLIS) winner for the 2004 NCLIS Blue Ribbon Consumer Health Information Recognition Awards for Libraries.

CHILE: Consumer Health Information Links for Everyone (<http://www.chilehealth.org/>)

- Consumer health information collaboration between Tucson-Pima Public Library and the AZ Health Sciences Library, U of A. Includes information on Diseases, Insurance, Medication, and Providers.
- Funded in part with Federal funds from the National Library of Medicine, National Institutes of Health.

EqualAccess (<http://www.lff.org>)

- Professional development initiative for public libraries provided by Arizona State Library, Archives & Public Records, in partnership with Libraries for the Future.
- 15 libraries each year are selected to participate and receive training on needs assessments, planning, programming and outreach for underserved populations.

Get Real, Get Fit! (<http://www.lff.org>)

- National library-based program promoting physical fitness and healthy eating made possible by a grant from Libraries for the Future and the MetLife Foundation.
- Participating libraries include East Flagstaff Community Library, Glendale Public Library, Tempe Public Library

Health and Wellness Resource Center (http://www.peoriaaz.com/Library/library_databases_health.asp)

- Peoria Public Library's Health Information databases provides a variety of health sources online.

Life Changes: The Future is Now

- Parker Public Library's project includes computer training and consumer health classes that enable community members to independently access accurate and timely health information. Funded in part by LSTA grant.

Operation Health Outreach

- Program developed by Glendale Public Library to raise public awareness and basic knowledge of critical health issues to minority groups. Includes free seminars, health fair, and resource collection.

Turning Point (<http://www.turningpointprogram.org>)

- National Initiative to transform and strengthen the U.S. public health system; supports Public Health Information Center in libraries, health departments, & tribal centers
- Training: AZ Academy Without Walls trains frontline public health workers; Advocates for training in communities on health needs and participation in statewide public health planning