CARING FOR THE OLDER ADULT

Pathfinder
Your guide to finding resources about caring for the elderly in the PTC Library

Finding Books

Begin your research by locating books with general information about your topic. Check the library's catalog to find books.

How to Do a Basic Search

Visit the Library Web site at http://www.ptc.edu/library and click on the **Library Catalog** link. Begin your search on the **Basic Search** page. Here, you can do different types of searches and access all types of information.

1. To begin, type a term in the search box.

2. To narrow a search, select one of the following options before clicking the **Search** button:

   - Keyword (word or phrase)
   - Author
   - Title
   - Subject
   - Series
   - Periodical title

3. Select a library to search in the **Library** box, or select **Piedmont Technical College Libraries** to include all branches in the search.

4. Select **PTC Libraries and E_RESOURCES** to search for electronic books in addition to print books.

Remember to write down the whole call number!

Big Tip

Write down words that show up again and again during your research!

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Don't Forget E-Books!

The Library offers 30,000+ full-text electronic books that are completely searchable and accessible from home! To use e-books, **visit http://www.ptc.edu/library/ebooks.htm**. If working from home, you will need to enter a password which is available from PTC Pathway (Library tab) or from staff of the Library or County Center LRCs.

Great Internet Sources

National Institute of Health   http://www.nih.gov
The U.S. Department of Health & Human Services provides this site through the National Institute of Health. The *Health Information* link takes visitors to an A-Z index of health topics, and the *Research* tab connects users to the National Library of Medicine.

Health Finder   http://www.healthfinder.gov
Another A-Z health index from the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services.

Alzheimer's Association   http://www.alz.org
The *Education Center* on this site provides information and interactive tools to help you learn about brain function and Alzheimer's Disease.
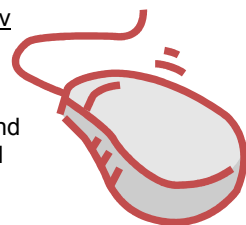
Hartford Institute for Geriatric Nursing   http://hartfordign.org
This site offers resources on caring for elderly patients that will interest all levels of the nursing profession.

Health Web   http://healthweb.org/geriatrics
A meta-site that links users to many quality resources on aging and caring for elderly patients.

AARP   http://www.aarp.org
Search this site to link to AARP articles or links to articles by other reputable groups.

St. Luke's Cataract and Laser Institute   http://www.stlukeseye.com
Information related to eye health.

American Diabetes Association   http://www.diabetes.org
The site offers links to diabetes workshop as well as general information and management resources.

Health-Related Databases

Visit **http://www.ptc.edu/library** to access 49 article databases, including many that are related to health topics. Many articles that you find will be full-text.

Academic Search Premiere. More health articles than any other PTC database.

CINAHL. Covers 1,700+ nursing and health journals and publications.

Clinical Pharmacology. Covers prescription drugs, herbal and nutritional supplements, OTC products, new and trial drugs.

Health Reference Center Academic. Scholarly articles on a wide range of health topics.

Health Source: Nursing/ Academic Edition. Full text access to 550+ scholarly journals and abstracts from 800+ titles.

Health & Wellness Resource Center. Offers current reference materials as well as full-text articles and pamphlets from respected medical sources.

Lexis-Nexis Academic. Full-text news, business, legal, medical, and reference information.

Liebert Online. Electronic access to peer-reviewed journals in the fields of biotechnology, biomedical research/life sciences, clinical medicine and surgery, and law. Includes 28,000+ papers from more than 55 authoritative journals, all full-text searchable and linked to external bibliographic databases.

Medline. References biomedical lit including research, clinical practice, administration, policy issues, and healthcare services. Offers article citations from 4,600 U.S. and international journals.

Evaluating Web Resources

A recent Consumer Reports article states that up to 90% of online health information may be incomplete or inaccurate.
Source: "Expertise online: finding reliable information."
Consumer Reports. September 2005, p. 48.

Before using a source, consider each of the following:

- Does the Web address indicate that the site is commercial (.com), government (.gov), educational (.edu), or other?

- Have you heard of the people who offer this site?

- Are you expected to do, believe, or buy something?

- Is the Web site current?

- Is the information professionally presented?

- Does the provider acknowledge his sources?

If you are still in doubt after considering each of these points, then find other reputable sources that back up what the site is saying.

Checklist

Have you checked all of these resources for information on your

- Encyclopedia
- Books
- E-Books
- Video Tapes
- DVDs
- Audio Tapes
- Magazines
- Reserve Books
- Article Databases
- Internet
- Vertical File

Need Help?

Please contact an staff member in the Library or at a County Center LRC if you have questions!

Main Library Phone
(864) 941-8441

E-Mail
librarian@ptc.edu

Web Site
www.ptc.edu/library

Off-Campus Access

If you are off-campus, you will need to enter a library username and password to use these databases. Look for this information in the PTC Pathway portal under the Library tab, or ask a librarian!

Magazines & Journals

Library periodicals that are likely to offer articles on the elderly and their care:

AARP Magazine
AARP News Bulletin
Diabetes Forecast
Geriatric Nursing
Health
JAMA
Journal of Gerontological Nursing
Journal of Practical Nursing
Journal of Professional Nursing
LPN
Nation's Health
Nursing
Nursing Made Incredibly Easy
Nursing Outlook
Prevention
Psychology Today
Respiratory Care
RN
Social Problems
Social Work

Current issues are in the sitting area near the large windows. Older ones are on the low shelves in the back of the library.