



# SURGICAL TECHNOLOGY

## Pathfinder

Your guide to finding resources on Surgical Technology 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

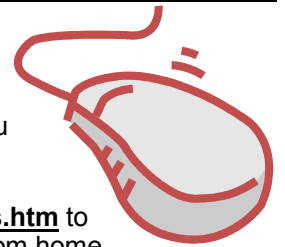
Visit the Library Web site at <http://www.ptc.edu/library> and click on the **Library Catalog** link. Begin your search on the **Basic Search** page. Here, you can do different types of searches and access all types of information.

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!

### Don't Forget E-Books!

The Library offers 30,000+ full-text electronic books that are completely searchable and accessible from home! These are rarely the same books that you would find on our shelves.



Visit <http://www.ptc.edu/library/ebooks.htm> to start using e-books. If you are working from home, you will need to enter a username and password which is available in PTC Pathway (Library tab) or from a staff member in the Library or at the County Center LRCs.

### Great Internet Sources

#### Association of Surgical Technologists

<http://www.ast.org>

**What you will find:** This professional organization's Web site includes information on legislative action impacting surgical technology, educational opportunities, resources and a forum for ideas.

#### The Association of Surgical Assistants

<http://www.surgicalassistant.org>

**What you will find:** This site is hosted by a national organization representing the interests of non-physician surgical assistants and surgical assisting business. Learn about conferences, legislative activity, and download a resource guide.

#### American College of Surgeons

<http://www.facs.org>

**What you will find:** Find out what issues, trends and innovations are impacting surgeons. Learn about what patients should know before surgery. Find resources such as the *Journal of the American College of Surgeons (JACS)*.

### Big Tip

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

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## 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

## 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, and medical 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.

**NOTE:** Off-campus users must enter a username/password to use these databases. Ask your librarian for help!

## 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.



## Magazines & Journals

Magazines and journals that print Surgical Tech articles include:

**Current Health 2**

**JAMA**

**MedSurg Nursing**

**Prevention**

**SSM  
(Surgical Services  
Management)**

**Surgical Technologists**

...and don't forget our online articles!

Current magazines and journal issues are kept in the sitting area near the large windows. Older issues are housed on the short shelves at the back of the library.