

	<p style="text-align: right;">Date : 26/06/2007</p> <p>The Rio Grande Valley of Texas: Issues and Models for Health Information for Youth¹</p> <p>Barbara Immroth and Bill Lukenbill Professors at the University of Texas at Austin School of Information USA</p>
<p>Meeting:</p>	<p>118-1 Reading with Public Libraries and School Libraries and Resource Centres (1)</p>
<p>Simultaneous Interpretation:</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">WORLD LIBRARY AND INFORMATION CONGRESS: 73RD IFLA GENERAL CONFERENCE AND COUNCIL 19-23 August 2007, Durban, South Africa http://www.ifla.org/iv/ifla73/index.htm</p>	

Abstract

Bibliotheca Las Américas, 2006 American Library Association/American Association of School Librarians Award winner, is the South Texas High School for Health Professionals Library, Mercedes, Texas, in the Lower Rio Grande Valley Region near the Mexican border with Texas. The school's primary mission is to serve students interested in professional health careers. The program of academic instruction and advanced technical skills prepares students for allied health careers and/or post secondary education. The school is located in a largely Spanish-speaking region, one of the poorest areas of the United States where health care workers are scarce and where disease rates are high. This presentation will highlight Bibliotheca Las Américas' unique range of services and resources including: modern facilities and technology, professional and clerical staffing, convenient service hours, extensive book, video, periodical, database, Spanish language collections and instructional and research services. Special attention will be given to its extensive dual language literacy and reading programs, peer mentoring on health topics, outreach and partnership programs with community, state and national partners such as the Hidalgo County Health System, Valley Medshare, interlibrary loan programs with

1. Based in part on the authors' *Keeping Youth Healthy and Fit: Programs and Services for Youth Librarians*. (Libraries Unlimited). In press.

Rice University, the University of Texas School of Public Health and Health Science Center San Antonio and National Library of Medicine MedlinePlus. During MedlinePlus outreach, four peer tutors reached more than 2000 people in the initial year. The program reaches students, teachers, parents and community members with current, accurate health information. The presentation will conclude with suggestions of how these services and programs in a poor, bilingual regional can be adapted to other school and public libraries and community environments.

Introduction

Health care and health care information are of critical concern to societies around the world. The lower Rio Grande Valley of Texas, across the border from Mexico, is an example of how one of the richest countries in the world also faces inequality in health care delivery and information. Like all of Texas and much of the western United States, it was once a part of Mexico.¹ In Texas the area is often referred to simply as the “Valley.” This area includes eleven Texas counties with large Hispanic populations. It is one of the poorest and most underserved areas in the United States.

Language and education play large roles in health care and health-care information. This eleven-county region is bilingual with both English and Spanish spoken widely. Nevertheless, many residents speak only Spanish. In 2000 government statistics reported the Hispanic population for the region to be 88.2 percent and indications are that by 2020, this population will reach 93.3 percent.

Although health-care coverage for many low-income children and adolescents has increased in recent years in the Valley and nationally because of federal and state funding, there are still large numbers of people living in the region who are not covered for health care. In 2000, 34 percent of area residents had no health insurance compared to 14 percent in the rest of the United States.

Education levels are generally low in the area. The 2000 United States Census reported that 33 percent of the area's adults, 25 years or older, had less than a ninth grade education compared to 11 percent for the entire United States.

Poverty levels for the region are high. In 2000 some 35 percent of the population lived below the federal poverty level, compared to 12 percent for the United States. Hidalgo County has the highest poverty level in the entire United States, with 40 percent of all residents living below federal poverty level in 2000.

The Texas-Mexico border is one of the most heavily crossed borders in the United States. Texas alone has 16 border crossing points with millions of people crossing each year. This bi-national crossing and the mobility of the population introduce the dangers of communicable diseases, which, in turn, place stress on the health care facilities of both countries. Communicable diseases that are of special concern in the region are tuberculosis, water-borne gastrointestinal diseases, sexually transmitted diseases (STD), Dengue Fever (a mosquito-transmitted viral disease); and HIV/AIDS. In addition to these concerns, the Valley must also deal with issues such as oral health, maternal and child health care, mental health, and chronic diseases such as diabetes (including childhood diabetes), and childhood obesity. In recent decades asthma affects youth in growing numbers.

Health care resources are limited. In 2000 nineteen hospitals located in the eleven county area served a population of 1,301,053. Local public health departments operated by various governments in the area appear to provide only limited services. A 2003 survey showed that only three agencies offered indigent services, one provided HIV/-AIDS care, two treated STDs, three addressed tuberculosis (TB) needs, three offered vaccinations, and three provided health education.

Professional health care workers are scarce in the eleven county area. In 2000 only 1,362 physicians practiced in the area, with Kinney County having only one and Zapata County only two.

The South Texas Independent School District

The South Texas Independent School District is a publicly funded district located in San Benito, Texas, a city of approximately 23,000 persons located in Cameron County. It was originally established by the Texas Legislature in 1964 specifically “to provide education to disabled youth who were then excluded from public education.” Originally it was called the “Rio Grande Rehabilitation District.” In 1973 it was renamed the South Texas Independent School District and it now serves three south Texas counties in the lower Rio Grande Valley: Cameron, Hidalgo and Willacy. It augments the services of 28 other school districts in these counties by offering magnet school opportunities for students with special interests. Originally, the legislature intended the district to offer vocational training, but in recent years it has focused on technical and academic education.

In 2006, the magnet schools included the South Texas Business Education & Technology Academy located in Edinburg, the South Texas High School for Health Professions (Med High), in Mercedes, the South Texas Academy of Medical Technology (Med Tech) in San Benito, and the Science Academy of South Texas, also located in Mercedes. All of these campuses are served by newly constructed library facilities; and in 2006 the centers collectively reported library holdings of 70,000 books, 5,000 videos and 50 web databases.²

The South Texas High School for Health Professions (Med High)

The South Texas High School for Health Professions was the first magnet school in the Rio Grande Valley. The school offers open admission, but prospective students must attend an advisement session and a full-day “New Scholar Academy” in the summer. The School’s mission is to provide “rigorous academic training and advanced technical skills that will allow students to pursue careers in allied health careers and/or post secondary education.” The school offers both a standard high school curriculum and intensive health-related courses. Emphasis is placed on academic study, practicums in health-related fields, and outreach services in the community. Students take a series of Health, Science, and Technology classes that include medical terminology, medical technology, and introductions to various medical environments (e.g., dental assistance, medical laboratory, clinical nutrition, rehabilitative service, veterinary assistant, maternal health, gerontology, and pharmacology). Med High offers the National Health Care Foundation Skills Standard Certification curriculum and programs. Once students pass the state required exams for these certifications, they are employable in a number of health care positions throughout the state. Electives include scientific research and design, research in environmental health, psychology, sociology, sports medicine, and weight training. *Newsweek* recognized the school in 2006 as among the 100 top high schools in the United States.³

Science Academy

As a part of its offerings the district also maintains a highly regarded Science Academy. The Science Academy of South Texas (Sci Tech) provides an academic program for secondary grades in math and science career fields, supporting architecture, engineering and computer science. The school is associated with "Project

Lead the Way, Inc., "a national pre-engineering program in which students can receive college credit beginning their freshman year." In their senior year, students research "a real-world problem and develop a solution." The academy also has partnerships with a number of universities including Rice University, Rochester Institute of Technology, University of Texas-Pan American and South Texas College.⁴

Biblioteca Las Américas⁵

The library media center for Med High and the Science Academy is Biblioteca Las Américas. The two high schools and the library building share the same large campus area. The library was one of three 2006 National School Library Media Program of the Year Award winners designated by the American Association of School Librarians (AASL). In its award announcement AASL said this about the programs:

Biblioteca Las Américas is a 33,000 square foot facility serving over 1,300 students from two magnet schools in the South Texas Independent School District. Although a freestanding facility, the library media program at BLA is a model of curriculum integration. The program is also a model for student inquiry, with over 40 opportunities for research, inquiry, and presentations for grades 9-12. Extended hours provide additional time for student research.

The awards committee said this about all three winners:

In each of the schools and districts, the school library media specialists are acknowledged as curriculum leaders.... Administration, fellow teachers, and students acknowledge that role, and provided

examples of ways in which they depend on the school library media program as the central focus of teaching and learning in the school.⁶ Biblioteca Las Américas opened in 1998.

It has a staff of three librarians, five assistants, one secretary and a three-person custodial staff. Its book collection is over 38,000, and it provides students and staff with extensive periodical and newspaper subscriptions and retrospective microform periodical collections, videos/DVDs/CDs, art prints and framed art works, and networked computers. Online resources include MedlinePlus, full-text services from Proquest and eLibrary, EBSCO services including its Health Source files, GALE Infotrac containing its Health Module, and a variety of online reference resources including *Facts on File*. Interlibrary loan services are also available through local and regional institutions such as the Hidalgo County Library System, Rice University, Valley Medshare, and the Regional Academic Health Center of the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio. The library is also a member of Amigos Library Services.

Programs and services at Biblioteca Las Américas include research assistance, reading encouragement programs, satellite recording facilities, video editing and production facilities and rotating displays of student work and art exhibits. Special collections include a Spanish language collection, the Rice University Professional Collection, Rice University Patent Collection, and the Baylor University Medical Collection. In addition to these, BLA offers a lunch time concert series by student performers, German classes (taught by the Lead Librarian who has extensive knowledge and education in German), Valley community information, and information on wellness activities in the school and community.

The school provides numerous programs including outreach into the community and a peer tutor program which the library sponsors. One of the school's successful events is the health fair. This is a program of exhibits providing health information for students and showcasing community health related organizations. The fair includes demonstrations, activities, and door prizes. Peer tutors with major support of the professional librarians and the Physical Education Club organize the fair. The professional library staff is also involved with the Medical Library Association and is often invited to speak and present at various conferences held throughout the United States.⁷

Impact on Valley Communities

These magnet schools serve the needs of students who want employment in the medical field after graduation, as well as preparing students for further academic study. Important, too, is the service the schools provide in helping to alleviate some of the severe health problems that Valley communities now face through field experiences, practicums and outreach activities that impact their communities.

Learning from Biblioteca Las Américas

How transferable are the experiences of this library to the world beyond the United States? In some ways, the lower Rio Grande Valley faces many of the same problems that developing countries face—poverty, lack of health care services, and a poorly educated population. Granted, the school district has monetary resources provided by the state, the federal government, and participating school districts; but it would not have been successful without planning and advocacy. School libraries by themselves can do little to provide health care information if there is not a strong advocacy voice for their support. This advocacy voice is political and it must call for

financial support. Advocacy is very much a part of community building and development.

Advocacy must support community development and it must have political energy, ensuring that both financial and logistical support is available and sustainable over time. Advocacy is very much a part of community building and development.

American community reformer H. Diester Siebel says that planning must be personalized for success. He outlines these characteristics of a personalized approach to planning:⁸

- Evaluate the situation. Determine skills at hand; recourses; and the challenge to be faced.
- Set Objectives. Focus on the immediate, be realistic, make them obtainable, rank them by priority
- Cultivate Drive. Make the drive personal, consider reasons for the goals and objectives; place an emotional element on the objectives; place less emphasis on the analytical and the intellectual nature of the project
- Become assertive, but not aggressive.
- Cultivate confidence based on self-appraisal and strength
- Use Leverage. Concentrate your efforts for the most effectiveness; ask the right questions at the right time; question to uncover wrong and even dangerous assumptions
- Communicate ideas effectively
- Work with others
- Cultivate group activities.

Sociologist Everett Rogers explains that most new ideas or concepts are first accepted by a small number of people, whom he calls “Innovators” and they make up only 2.5 % of a group. These early adopters have personal characteristics that facilitate this role. They generally are the first to be aware of the new idea and have knowledge about it. This knowledge leads to interest, followed by evaluating, putting it to trial, and finally adopting it if it proves worthy.⁹ School library leaders are often innovators of new ideas. This includes providing school library based health information and services.

Drawing on the Biblioteca Las Américas model,¹⁰ we suggest these programs and services can be offered by a library:

- **Design and Production of Health Information:**

Design and production of health care information is an important means of getting health information out into the community. With instruction, student peer tutors can design and produce community information resources such as pamphlets, bulletin boards, posters and advertisements for wide distribution in the community

- **Outreach to the Community:**

In the south Texas area, as elsewhere, community outreach is fundamental to providing adequate health information to a widely diverse population. Peer tutors with the guidance of librarians and teachers can sponsor health fairs and exhibitions throughout the community where health information can be presented and discussed in an informed manner. Peer tutors can present information at various child care facilities, health agencies, schools and community events as diverse as well baby clinics and motorcycle rallies. Sponsoring and/or participating in health fairs are another important

place where peer tutors can engage in outreach. At health fairs peer tutors can present demonstrations on how to navigate free electronic health care information such as MedlinePlus as well as other types of health care information available in the community.

- **Formal Instructional Programs**

Peer tutors can also be a part of schools' instructional programs. With instruction and guidance they can design and present instructional units on various health issues in classes, to small student groups, and to individuals.

- **Peer Tutoring Programs**

As indicated above many of the presentations are based on skills and knowledge about health and health issues information. Biblioteca Las Américas maintains a peer tutor model called “¡VIVA! –Vital Information for a Virtual Age: A Peer Tutor Project” (<http://bla.stisd.net/viva.htm>). This is a library-based program conducted under the guidance of the librarians and supportive faculty. Students are carefully selected as peer tutors based on attitudes and various skills that they offer the program. Biblioteca Las Américas offers a summer school program, which has an online component

Since 2001, the Med High, peer tutors have been helping its various communities become more health literate by increasing awareness of health information, especially resources provided by the National Library of Medicine such as MedlinePlus.

In this program peer tutors are given intensive instruction on how to search for information in MedlinePlus and Internet sources. To make sure that they are able to develop and present information demonstrations in a formal way, peer tutors are taught how to design and present instructional units. To help peer tutors in their instructional tasks, students are encouraged to use Moodle, a free, online course

management system (<http://moodle.org>). Peer tutors use Moodle to share ideas, plan lessons, and keep up with various activities involving the school and community. For more information visit the website at <http://bla.stisd.net/viva.htm>.

- **Use of Information Technology**

For most health information programs, a certain level of information technology is helpful, even necessary. Librarians must advocate support for computer technology and the Internet. They must continue to discover free resources and learn to use and promote them. These include MedlinePlus (In English and Spanish) and government materials available from many levels of governments including the U.S. National Library of Medicine as well as other American government agencies such as the FDA (Federal Drug Administration), and the Centers for Disease Control, state, district and municipal departments of health and human services. The Canadian and Quebec governments offer French language consumer health materials. Private and professional organizations that offer free health information are listed in the appendix of this paper.

- **Health Information Literacy Programs**

School librarians can play a significant role in the delivery of health information by teaching health information literacy. This includes knowing how to find health information from various sources, but also how to evaluate it as a consumer of health information. The Medical Library Association in the United States through their consumer health division has developed many documents that are designed to help librarians teach health information literacy. The National Library of Medicine has also been actively involved in creating ways to improve health information literacy. These documents are widely available through the Internet. UNESCO is vitally concerned with health information and health information

literacy. Among its documents are suggestions as to how health information can be integrated into the total curriculum ranging from literature to biology.

Based on examples from the Biblioteca Las Américas, library leaders can develop innovative programs and services that include:

Community Resources

- Provide community information resources (directories, bulletin boards)
- Sponsor health fairs and exhibitions
- Offer opportunities for student participation through health information activities created and managed by the library
- Develop opportunities for outreach and practicum programs involving health care information through community venues.

Information Sources and Information Technology

- Advocate support for computer technology and the Internet
- Discover free resources and learn to use and promote them
e.g., MedlinePlus (In English and Spanish) free US Government
sources from the National Library of Medicine
- Locate free materials in various languages e.g., French Language
Materials (Canadian and Quebec government resources).
- Search for free and/or inexpensive private and professional resources
that offer free health information.
- Students design and create health information resources for other
students and the community

Examples of commercial and free Internet sources are provided in the appendix of this paper. These include references to resources in English, French, and Spanish.

Health Information Literacy Programs

School librarians can play a significant role in the delivery of health information by teaching health information literacy. This includes:

- Knowing how to find health information from various sources, but also how to evaluate it as a consumer of health information. The Medical Library Association through their consumer health division has developed many documents that are designed to help librarians teach health information literacy. The National Library of Medicine has also been actively involved in creating ways to improve health information literacy. These documents are widely available through the Internet.
- Collaborate with teachers to integrate health information in the Curriculum.
- UNESCO is vitally concerned with health information and health information literacy. Among its documents are suggestions as to how health information can be integrated into the total curriculum ranging from literature to biology.

Conclusion

Education is one of the primary solutions to problems of health care and health care information in all parts of the world. Questions of how to create and prepare health care information, how to distribute it, and how to help people use it are critical

concerns reflected in the literature and discussions of many professions. School librarians play an important role in this dialogue as we perform significant educative roles in today's society. As such, we are being called on more and more to assume a forceful role in providing health information. Good models helpful to librarians and school library media specialists are available, as we have discussed. Nevertheless, more research and reporting of good practices are needed now and in the future to further advance this important social and education role within library environments

Notes

1. David C. Warner and Lauren R. Jahnke, *U.S./Mexico Border Health Issues: The Texas Rio Grande Valley*. (San Antonio: Regional Center for Health Workforce Studies, Center for Health Economics and Policy, the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio, April 2003). Much of the descriptive materials in this section are based on this report. Available at <http://www.uthscsa.edu/RCHWS/Reports/NAFTA2.pdf>, accessed 27 December 2006.
2. "South Texas Independent School District." Available at <http://www.stisd.net/>, accessed 30 December 2006.
3. "Med High. South Texas High School for Medical Professions." Available at <http://medhigh.stisd.net/>, accessed 30 December 2006.
4. South Texas Independent School District, "Sci Tech." Available at <http://www.stisd.net/scitech>, accessed 28 March 2007.
5. "Biblioteca Las Américas." Available at <http://medhigh.stisd.net/>, accessed 15 December, 2006.
6. "AASL Selects 2006 NSLMPY Award Winners." Available at <http://www.flr.follett.com/intro/pdfs/nslmpy06.pdf>, accessed 23 December 2006.
7. Letter and editorial comments from Lucy Hanson, Lead Librarian, Biblioteca Las Américas, 26 March 2007.
8. Dieter H. Seibel, *The Dynamics of Achievement: A Radical Perspective*. (Indianapolis, Bobbs-Merriel, 1997).
9. Everett M. Rogers, Everett M., *Diffusion of Innovations*. 5th ed. (New York: Free Press, 2003).

10. Sara Reibman, Lucille Hansen, and Ann M. Vickers, "Collaboration as an Element of School Culture: Biblioteca Las Américas. *Teachers Librarian: The Journal of School Librarian Professionals* Dec, 14, 2006, pp.73-75.

Appendix

Non-subscription Internet Electronic Sources

AIDS info. This is a service of the NLM, offering information on a variety of topics concerning HIV, the infection that causes AIDS. Major

categories include clinical trials, translation tools, live help, HIV/AIDS glossary, drugs, vaccines, and health management topics

<http://www.aidsinfo.nih.gov>.

BBC. Offers a number of useful websites dealing with health. Its “BBC Schools: Learning Resources for Home and School” along with other topics, provides useful health and socially related information associated with the British national curriculum (<http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools>). An abundance of Health information is found throughout its postings, including “BBC Health” (<http://www.bbc.co.uk/health>.)

Child Advocate Homepage. Child Advocate and Child Mental Health. Stated by the publisher, “ChildAdvocate.net serves the needs of children, families and professionals while addressing mental health, medical, educational, legal and legislative issues.” Provides references to health sources (<http://www.childadvocate.net/>).

Cool Nurse. Living Healthy Inc. Offers more topics than many other websites. Topics include prescription drug abuse, a condom tutorial, depression, diets, tattoos and body art, and anorexia and bulimia. It presents the tough topics on the homepage, addresses them head on. One section is for women and one for men, offers quizzes, a place to ask questions, and hotline numbers (www.coolnurse.com).

GlobalHealthGuideInfo. Offers a user-friendly approach to a wide range of preselected consumer information topics (<http://globalhealthguide.info>).

Health Information for Teens. United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Provides a serious approach to health issues of interests to adolescents.

Information provided includes drug and alcohol use and abuse, birth control methods, and information on disease that often affect teens such as mononucleosis (www.fda.gov/oc/opacom/kids/html/7teens.htm).

Kid's Home Page. United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

Especially designed for children, offers information on animals, news items, medical and drug vocabulary, fun quizzes, medicines in the home, wearing of braces, links to other children sites, feature item "Yorick, the Bionic Skelton," and a "parent corner" (<http://www.fda.gov/oc/opacom/kids/default.htm>).

Let's Face It. (Newsletter). University of Michigan School of Dentistry , Dentistry Library Provides information and resources, including reviews of materials especially useful for dental and teeth care. Updated frequently (<http://www.dent.umich.edu/faceit/organizations>).

MedlinePlus.

Medical Library Association. Concerned with making health care information accessible to medical professionals as well as to the general public for over 100 years, this Association's publication programs include a variety of pamphlet materials aimed at the health information consumer. CAPHIS is the Consumer and Patient Health Information Section of the Medical Library Association (<http://www.mlanet.org>).

National Library of Medicine Databases (NLM). Provides useful electronic databases offering extensive and freely accessible medical information throughout the world. The services include MEDLINE, MedlinePlus and PubMed. MedMed offer additional information than MEDLINE (the primary citation database) including, including links to consumer health information. MedlinePlus is designed to be of use to the general public

and it has features that are user friendly and that have subject approaches that have been preformulated with MEDLINE. All of these databases are described by NLM at <http://www.nlm.nih.gov>.

Native Health Databases. University of New Mexico Health Sciences Library and Information Center. “Contains bibliographic information and abstracts of health-related articles, reports, surveys, and other resource documents pertaining to the health and health care of American Indians, Alaska Natives, and Canadian First Nations (<http://hsc.unm.edu/library/nhd/index.cfm>).

Project Inform. An American national, community-based organization that provides people living with HIV, their caregivers, and health care providers reliable and up-to-date information on treatments and HIV disease monitoring. In addition to providing information, it advocates for better services, and encourages people to make informed health-care decisions (<http://www.projinf.org.html>).

TeenGrowth. KG Investments, LLC. Provides real-world answers and options including birth control, pregnancy, and personal hygiene Includes fun trivia and quizzes where teens can test their knowledge of pregnancy and sex (www.teengrowth.com).

TeensHealth. Nemours Foundation. Provides subject categories such as body, sexual health, drugs and alcohol with links to featured articles, hot topics, expert answers, journals, etc. Offers clear and concise answers to health related topics, in language the teens can understand. The website is also available in Spanish (www.kidshealth.org/teen).

Teenage Health Freak. Teen Age Health Websites. Provides information written in dairy and cartoon form which is a visually interesting approach to health information of Internet to teens. Information is often given in diary or

conservational form and includes information on sexually transmitted infections, smoking, weight and body images, moods, and cold scores (www.teenagehealthfreak.org/homepage/index.asp).

United States Food and Drug Administration. *Homepage*. Offers links on the central homepage for the FDA to an abundance of information concerned with its governmental mission and mandates. Included here are a wide varies of health information, such as food safety and regulations, drugs, medical devices, biologics, cosmetics, and radiation safety and issues (<http://www.fda.gov/default.htm>).

French Language Resources include:

In France

- Health resources in France include government ministries and organizations that advocate for good health. Among these is Foundation Hôpitaux de Paris-Hôpitaux de France. This foundation is concerned with various aspects of health and in this role undertakes projects for children and adolescents who are ill and need health care (http://www.fondation-wyeth.org/rss_view.aspx?id=74).
- The French Ministry of Health provides information on research and health services at its official website <http://www.sante.gouv.fr/drees/index.html>. The Ministry also addresses the needs of families, including health needs of children at <http://www.famille.gouv.fr>.

In Canada:

-
- Canadian sources include the “Le Portail Canadien sur la Santé—Santé des Jeunes,” operated by the Canadian government. This site, available in both French and English, provides information on various health conditions affecting children (http://chp-pcs.gc.ca/CHP/index_f.jsp/pageid/4005/odp/Top/Health/Children).
 - “CUSMeF-Patients Santé de l’enfant et de l’adolescent” operated by CHU Hôpitaux de Rouen publishes the “Catalogue et Index des Sites Médicaux Francophones” which list many French language health resources throughout the world (<http://www.chu-rouen.fr/ssf/patient/santedelenfantetdeladolescent.html> and <http://www.cismef.org>).
 - French Language Health Services of the Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care also provides access to French language materials (http://www.health.gov.on.ca/english/public/program/flhs/flhs_mn.html).
 - The Société Canadienne de Pédiatrie is a professional association of pediatricians organized in 1922 to address the health needs of children. Its publication program provides useful information for persons who need help in meeting the medical needs of children (<http://www.cps.ca/Francais/defensedinterets/autochtones.htm>).

The Weill Cornell Medical Library (Cornell University) published an

extensive list of foreign language consumer health materials available throughout the world in 2001. One feature of this listing is its introduction, which gives details on how to locate and evaluate foreign language materials (<http://library.med.cornell.edu/Library/PDF/forlangcons.pdf>).

The Montgomery County (Maryland) Public Library produced *Foreign Language and Low-Literacy Materials* in 2004. Most of its citations are American sources (<http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/libtmpl.asp?url=/content/libraries/HealthInfo/fllm.asp>). The Medical Health Library at George Washington University maintains *Publicaciones en Español de la Administración de Drogas y Alimentos de los Estados Unidos* that list a great many American government publications in Spanish (<http://www.fda.gov/oc/spanis>).

Cultural and religious considerations are also important. In addition to language, materials that recognize the importance of culture and religion, some health care informational materials address those issues as well. For a listing of such materials consult *Health Materials in Languages other than English* by Jacquelyn Coughlan (2006) available through the website of the State University of New York Institute of Technology (<http://culturedmed.sunyit.edu/foreign/index.html>).

Commercial Electronic Sources

Alt HealthWatch. EBSCO. "... [I]ndexes over 140 full-text journals concerning complementary, holistic or alternative healthcare and wellness. 28 of these journals are peer reviewed.... In addition, the database includes full-text pamphlets and reports" (<http://library.boisestate.edu/reference/help/althealthwatch.htm>).

*Consumer Health Complete*TM. EBSCO. Provides "content covering all areas of

health and wellness from mainstream medicine to the many perspectives of complementary, holistic, and integrated medicine.” The publisher adds, “. . . [T]he single most comprehensive resource for consumer-oriented health content. . . . This full-text database covers topics such as aging, cancer, diabetes, drugs & alcohol, fitness, nutrition & dietetics, men’s & women’s health, and children’s health”

(http://www.ebsco.com/home/whatsnew/consumer_health.asp).

eLibrary® Curriculum Edition. ProQuest. Contains reference materials, periodical, and digital items and includes health and medical information, and a knowledge base of educational standards A curriculum and reference resource for grades K-12.

http://www.proquestk12.com/productinfo/elibrary_ce.shtml).

Facts On File's Health Reference Center. Facts on File Inc. “[A] comprehensive encyclopedic database containing thousands of hyperlinked entries organized into four major categories: conditions and diseases, mental health, health and wellness, and body systems. It provides clear information on the causes, cures, key research, medical terms, symptoms, treatments and trends, and organizations in each field of study. Each content area is searchable by keyword and [an index].” list of links also allows the user to easily find more focused topics within each of the content areas”

(<http://www.factsonfile.com>).

GrolierOnline®. Grolier Inc. Constructed around the company’s seven encyclopedia databases, this online system contains “age appropriate” information and resources, including health information. Although the description is often hard to obtain electronically, visit

http://auth.grolier.com/login/go_login.html for more information.

Health and Wellness Center (Thomson Gale). “Provides reference material as well as full text periodicals and pamphlets from a wide variety of authoritative medical sources” (<http://www.gale.com/HealthRC>).

Health Library®. EBSCO. “Offers a Web-based resource for their patrons to examine a comprehensive coverage of health, wellness, and other medical-related topics presented in an easy-to-understand manner” (<http://www.epnet.com/thisTopic.php?topicID=81&marketID=6>).

Health Source—Consumer Edition. EBSCO “...Provides access to the full-text of over 190 journals covering authoritative health information for consumers. Several health books and over 1000 health-related pamphlets are also available.” Information about this source is available through the EBSCO Student Research Center at <http://www.epnet.com/thisTopic.php?marketID=6&topicID=13>

Natural & Alternative Treatments. EBSCO, NAT. Offers a complementary and alternative medicine database designed specifically for the consumer health researcher. Updated weekly (<http://www.epnet.com/thisTopic.php?marketID=15&topicID=114>).

NetWellness®: Consumer Health Information. This is “a nonprofit site that offers high quality health information and educational services created and evaluated” by the faculty of three major universities: University of Cincinnati, Case Western Reserve University, and The Ohio State University.” The site gives comprehensive information on selected health topics. In addition, it offers information on health centers and provides access to an online reference collection. Experts are also available to answer questions from site users (<http://www.netwellness.com/default.cfm>).

Teen Health & Wellness: Real Life, Real Answers, Rosen Publishing Online.

Based on the extensive line of health books for teens in the publisher's *Coping* series, this interactive database "provides students with comprehensive curricular support and self-help tools on topics including diseases, drugs, alcohol, nutrition, fitness, mental health, diversity, family life, and more." *Library Journal* said this about the A one-stop self-help resource and fully interactive online community center for teen health and wellness . . . authoritative." The site offers an interactive hotline service available only by subscription.

(<http://www.thwrlra.com/static/publicabout>).

Sources of Pamphlets and Brochures

The *Vertical File Index* published by the H. W. Wilson Co. is also a source for finding such materials. Another good source for pamphlet materials is ETR Associates. This is a nonprofit organization founded in 1981 whose mission is to improve the health of families and individuals. Its publication program includes over 1,000 pamphlets, books, and posters.

