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!

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

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.

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.

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Health-Related Databases

Visit [http://www.ptc.edu/library](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 literature 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.

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
- JAMA
- Journal of Gerontological Nursing
- Journal of Professional Nursing
- LPN
- Nation’s Health Nursing
- Nursing Made Incredibly Easy
- Nursing Outlook
- 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.