



Public Libraries-The Consumer Health Information Connection for Utah Helping Patients, Patrons and Providers Access “Healthy” Information

By Sally M. Patrick, MLS, Outreach Librarian, Spencer S. Eccles Health Sciences Library, University of Utah

Consumer health information is becoming “cool” at public libraries throughout Utah and you need to be ready!

Very soon on local television stations you will see Dr. Sarah Woolsey, a physician at the Association for Utah Community Health, outside a local public library. As a health care provider she will be encouraging her colleagues and indeed all Utahns to turn to their public library as a reliable resource for vetted consumer health information. The TV spot will show how all our public libraries have free computer access and there are friendly, knowledgeable librarians there to help everyone find health information. This is the *Good Health Information @ Your Library* “apple campaign”. You are now part of a developing statewide effort to partner health clinics with public libraries in order to provide evidence-based health information for patients, patrons and providers throughout Utah.

Good Health Information @ Your Library in Utah

*also an ALA/National Library of Medicine initiative launched at ALA, 2009

Who: UWIN Clinic/Public Library Partnership: A partnership of community clinics and public libraries statewide. Information about the project, a training toolkit, consumer health online & book resources and other developing materials can be found @

http://womenshealthuwin.utah.edu/uwin_projects_chcpl.php#about

Also check out and bookmark Pioneer: Utah’s Online Library for a new direct link to reliable consumer health links: <http://pioneer.utah.gov/research/goodhealth.html>

What: A UWIN project funded by the HHS Office on Women’s Health

The University of Utah’s Center of Excellence (CoE) in Women’s Health, including the Spencer S. Eccles Health Sciences Library, has partnered with the Utah Department of Health, Association of Utah Community Health (AUCH) and Utah Navajo Health Systems, Inc to build a women’s health information infrastructure in Utah during the 3 year grant period. The project, entitled the *Utah Women’s Health Information Network (UWIN)* <http://womenshealthuwin.utah.edu>, provides a platform to increase education and improve health care, focusing on diabetes as an increasing disease occurrence statewide. The project and its partners have created a sustainable and fluid statewide infrastructure for the dissemination of health information, highlighting clinical projects for primary, secondary and tertiary disease prevention.

Public Libraries Partner with Community Health Centers: Assistance with reliable health information has never been more critical. Our society is experiencing an

increasing flood of health information on the internet and in the press, but discerning which of numerous websites is authoritative remains a challenge for health professionals as well as the lay public. Many times, clinics want to provide patients with good follow-up information about a health condition but lack time and knowledge of reliable consumer focused resources. Here's where the outreach mission of public libraries comes in. By partnering clinics with their community public libraries, patients as well as their health care providers can take advantage of librarians who are trained to provide effective access to appropriate consumer health information statewide.

Where: Public libraries statewide are encouraged to reach out to the community health clinics in their neighborhoods. Market your services and offer assistance and resources to providers and patients who have not thought of their public library as a reliable resource for patient education. We will help you with materials, training and resources.

When: The Clinic/Public Library partnership has been an integral part of the UWIN project from its inception. The *Good Health Information @ Your Library* training toolkit for public librarians, bookmarks and public relations campaign was developed this summer and an UPLIFT class was offered in August. The project will continue developing and growing with your outreach and promotion.

How it works: Reach out to your health clinics. Soon maps of your county showing the community clinics will be provided on the website but don't wait if you know of health facilities in your area. In turn, clinics will be provided with maps of where they can find your libraries. Use the online training toolkit to brush up on your health information reference skills or we'll come and train your staff. Request *Good Health Information @ Your Library* bookmarks to take to your clinics or have in your libraries highlighting reliable online health links and an Information Rx to go to your library.

Why: Research has shown that women are the health information gatekeepers for their families. The UWIN Clinic/Public Library project aims to improve access to reliable health information for patients and providers, improving the health care for Utah women and thus all Utah residents and their families. These are shared goals for health care providers as well as librarians statewide-a true win/win.

HELP-You, your patrons & providers can always find free, health information help

	<p>Ask A Medical Librarian <i>Contact a trusted librarian directly</i> Spencer S. Eccles Health Sciences Library http://library.med.utah.edu/or/asklibrarian.php 801-581-5534 or Toll Free 866-581-5534</p>
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Community Health Centers + local public libraries
= Better health information in the community

Contact: Sally Patrick, Outreach Librarian at the Eccles Library for information, to order bookmarks or schedule in person training
sally.patrick@utah.edu 801-581-6979 or in-state toll free 866-581-5534