



The Healthy People
Library Project
provides resources
to meet the public's
demand for
high quality health
information.

An Informed, Healthier Public

Consumer demand for health information has skyrocketed over the past decade. Public, medical, and university libraries are flooded with requests for health information resources. Research conducted by the Comer Health Library at the Delaware Academy of Medicine shows that consumers who use the library as a health resource bring new information to their healthcare providers, make lifestyle changes, ask additional questions, and reduce their anxiety levels.

The American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) is pleased to join the community of libraries and other organizations that help librarians respond to this need. We want to help librarians inform the public about advances in health and medical research so they can make better choices about managing their health. Our goal is to provide librarians with the resources to help them better serve the public's need for health information.



AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE
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report, or for more information,
visit www.healthlit.org.

1200 New York Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20005
202-326-6670 • www.aaas.org

About AAAS

Founded in 1848, the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) is the world's largest federation of scientific and engineering societies, with over 270 affiliated organizations. AAAS members include more than 138,000 scientists, engineers, science educators, policymakers, and interested citizens.

The Directorate for Education and Human Resources (EHR) seeks to:

- Improve education in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.
- Foster equal access to these fields for racial/ethnic minorities, women, and persons with disabilities.
- Enhance the public understanding of science and technology.

Its many initiatives and projects include:

- School reform in science, mathematics, and technology.
- Education research on schools, colleges, universities, and human resources.
- Informal science and mathematics education with community-based organizations.
- Libraries, science museums, and technology centers.

ADVANCING SCIENCE ■ SERVING SOCIETY

HEALTHY PEOPLE LIBRARY PROJECT:



Your Guide



to Health Resources



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Librarians have had limited success in convincing members of minority groups to use their public libraries as health information resources.

Working for *Everyone's* Health

African-Americans and Hispanic-Americans are important audiences for health information centers in public libraries. A recent report from the Institute of Medicine, entitled *Unequal Treatment—Confronting Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Health Care*, points out that minorities often experience a lower quality of health services and, as a result, have higher mortality rates. Improved management of chronic conditions can help them live longer and better lives.

Many minority consumers, however, are unaware of the health information services that their public libraries provide. Some are unaware that many materials are available in multiple languages. Librarians try to conduct outreach to members of minority groups in their communities and inform them of this valuable resource, but they have had limited success. Our project will make a special effort to help connect libraries to minority consumers in their communities.



High-quality medical information about chronic illnesses and disease management techniques can help people lead healthier, more robust lives.

The Science Inside

The AAAS is developing a variety of useful health-related materials as part of our Healthy People Library Project. Seven plain language booklets about the science behind common chronic illnesses — such as asthma and allergies, diabetes, and hypertension — will be available in print and online. These booklets focus on the science behind the diseases, their causes, possible cures, treatments, promising research, and other pertinent issues. These booklets should appeal to people who have not had the opportunity to study the scientific basis for their illnesses, and can help them better understand the advice they receive in consumer-oriented materials. The following seven publications will be featured:

- *The Science Inside: Asthma and Allergies*
- *The Science Inside: Biomedical Research*
- *The Science Inside: Diabetes*
- *The Science Inside: Fitness and Nutrition*
- *The Science Inside: Having Healthy Babies*
- *The Science Inside: High Blood Pressure*
- *The Science Inside: HIV and AIDS*



The Web site,
www.healthlit.org,
provides current
research results,
a vehicle for sharing
ideas and solutions,
and links to
medical information
Web sites.

A Free Library Resource

The Healthy People Library Project has a Web site, www.healthlit.org that posts current research results from the Project; links to evidence-based medical information Web sites; and electronic versions of all project materials.

The Web site will be a vehicle for sharing ideas and solutions among librarians. It will provide a “tool kit” with outreach materials and ideas for successful implementation. It will help librarians and members of community groups promote Consumer Health Information Centers to their target audiences. Project materials will be pilot tested in public libraries that serve diverse audiences, and then they will be distributed nationally.

