

# Consumer Health Information Online



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[www.bellevillelibrary.com](http://www.bellevillelibrary.com)

## Introduction & Review of Internet terms

- Browser
- Address or URL
- Domain – common names include .com (commercial sites), .edu (educational institutions), .gov (US government), .gc.ca (Canadian government), .org (organizations), .biz (business/commercial)
- Database: organized collection of related information (either free or fee-based) available through the Internet.
- Hyperlink (LINK) – a connection to a different website

## Information Literacy

“Information Literacy is the set of skills needed to find, retrieve, analyze, and use information (American Library Association). “ Computer literacy is only a part of the overall picture. We must use a variety of resources in our quest to find the information we need.



### Health on the Net (<http://www.hon.ch/>)

Health On the Net Foundation is the leading organization promoting and guiding the deployment of useful and reliable online medical and health information, and its appropriate and efficient use. Created in 1995, HON is a non-profit, non-governmental organization, accredited to the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations

## HON Code of Conduct for health information you can trust - (<http://www.hon.ch/HONcode/Plugin/Plugins.html>)

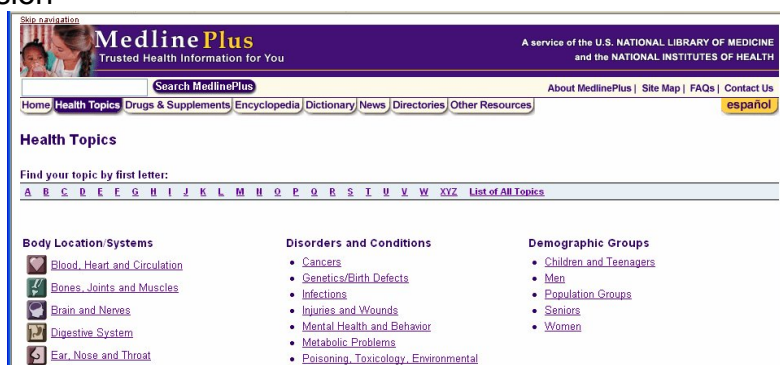
- **Authoritative** – qualifications of the authors
- **Complementarity** – supports not replaces doctor/patient relationship
- **Privacy** – personal data
- **Attribution** - cite source's of published information, dates, etc.
- **Justifiability** – back up claims with evidence
- **Transparency** – accessible presentation, email contact
- **Financial disclosure** – identify any funding sources
- **Advertising policy** – distinguish advertising from editorial content  
(Useful for both consumers and developers of websites)

This link is to a tutorial about what to look for in an online resource:

<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/webeval/webeval.html>

# REVIEW OF SEARCH STRATEGIES

1. **Guided Search:** Browse the resources available on a site and select one. Then, go to the topic that interests you. Some sites break down the information on a topic e.g. Eyes and Vision



➔ Glaucoma



**Glaucoma**

Glaucoma damages the eye's optic nerve. It is a leading cause of [blindness](#) in the United States. It usually happens when the fluid pressure inside the eyes slowly rises, damaging the optic nerve. Often there are no symptoms at first, but a comprehensive eye exam can detect it.

People at risk should get eye exams at least every two years. They include

- African Americans over age 40
- People over age 60, especially Mexican Americans
- People with a family history of glaucoma

Early treatment can help protect your eyes against vision loss. Treatments usually include prescription eyedrops and/or surgery.

National Eye Institute

**Start Here**

- [Glaucoma NIH Senior Health](#) (National Institute on Aging)
- [Glaucoma NIH](#) (National Eye Institute)

Also available in [Spanish](#)

- [Glaucoma Interactive Tutorial](#) (Patient Education Institute) - Requires Flash Player

Also available in [Spanish](#)

Basics	Learn More	Multimedia & Cool Tools
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Overviews</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Latest News</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Diagnosis/Symptoms</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Treatment</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Prevention/Screening</a></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Alternative Therapy</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Specific Conditions</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Related Issues</a></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Pictures &amp; Photographs</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Health Check Tools</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Tutorials</a></li> </ul>

➔

Printer-friendly version | E-mail to a friend

**Related Topics**

- [Eye Diseases](#)
- [Eyes and Vision](#)
- [Seniors](#)

**Go Local**

Services and providers for **Glaucoma** in the U.S.

Select Location

Select from map

**National Institutes of Health**

The primary NIH organization for

Check out Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's) and other Quick Search links for easy access to information.

2. **A-Z List Subject Index:** An A-Z Subject Index gives you quick access to hundreds of topics. Just click the first letter to view the list of resources available about that topic e.g. clicking on the G will give you a list of diseases beginning with G. Then, just click on Glaucoma to go to the same pages that you found on the Guided Search.



3. **Keyword Search:** If you know the correct term, using it may give you direct access to the resources you are looking for. Put the word in the Search Box and press Enter. Most sites give some instructions on searching using Boolean Searching, i.e. combining topics and finding the format you want, i.e. full text or a citation.

### Basics of Boolean Searching

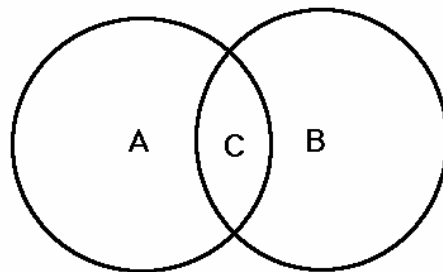
**Boolean Searching** refers to how multiple terms are combined in a search.

- and** requires that both terms be found.
- or** lets either term be found
- not** means any record containing the second term will be excluded
- ( )** means the Boolean operators can be nested using parentheses
- +** is equivalent to AND, requiring the term; the + should be placed directly in front of the search term
- is equivalent to NOT and means to exclude the term; the - should be placed directly in front of the search term

Operators can be entered in the case shown by the example.

**Examples:**

```
{salad and (lime or kiwi)} not nuts
+salad -nuts lime kiwi
```



## WEBSITES

### Searching by subject:

<a href="http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/index-eng.php">http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/index-eng.php</a>	Public Health Canada
<a href="http://medlineplus.gov/">http://medlineplus.gov/</a>	U.S. National Library of Medicine/Institutes of Health
<a href="http://www.mayoclinic.com/">http://www.mayoclinic.com/</a>	Mayo Clinic
<a href="http://www.healthfinder.gov/">http://www.healthfinder.gov/</a>	U.S. Department of Health and Human Services/Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion
<a href="http://www.cdc.gov/">http://www.cdc.gov/</a>	U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
<a href="http://www.medem.com/">http://www.medem.com/</a>	Information partnership of medical societies

(Recommended by the Medical Library Association)

### At Belleville Public Library:



### Ontario sites:

<a href="http://www.hpechu.on.ca/">http://www.hpechu.on.ca/</a>	Hastings and Prince Edward Counties Health Unit
<a href="http://www.health.gov.on.ca/english/hlinks/hlinks_mn.html">http://www.health.gov.on.ca/english/hlinks/hlinks_mn.html</a>	Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care
<a href="http://www.torontopubliclibrary.ca/uni_chi_index.jsp">http://www.torontopubliclibrary.ca/uni_chi_index.jsp</a>	Toronto Public Library/Consumer Health Information Service

### Recommended specific disease related sites/organizations

#### AIDS

<http://hivinsite.ucsf.edu/>

#### Cancer

<http://www.cancer.gov/>

<http://www.oncolink.com/>

#### Children

<http://www.kidshealth.org/>

#### Women's Health

<http://www.womenshealthmatters.ca/index.cfm> - Canadian

<http://www.4women.gov/> - US

#### OTHER: Travel

<http://www.mdtravelhealth.com/>

<http://news.gc.ca/cfmx/view/en/index.jsp?categoryid=2&category=Warnings%2FAdvisories>

<http://www.cdc.gov/travel/>

To access more recommended health sites go to [www.bellevillelibrary.com](http://www.bellevillelibrary.com) and scroll down to Internet Search and click on the [Health](#) link at the bottom of the page.