

Strategies to Access Library Resources

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Background

Local and tribal health departments (LTHD) are expected to implement and encourage use of evidence-based public health practices and interventions. Although some open, online resources and portals exist such as the *County Health Rankings and Roadmaps*, *Informed Caring*, *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly*, *PubMed Central* and *What Works for Health*, LTHD are challenged with being able to access current library resources and having the necessary skills to navigate electronic library systems. In addition, LTHD professionals without joint appointments with colleges, universities, or healthcare systems/medical centers have historically been unable to remotely access library resources due to licensing agreements. It is estimated that 69.4% of Wisconsin Public Health Research Network members currently have remote library access. WPHRN's [strategic plan](#) includes exploration of library access for members to increase dissemination of research findings (Goal Two). In addition, the WPHRN encourages primary investigators conducting studies in collaboration with WPHRN to provide library access to LTHD professionals that assist with research studies (e.g. serving as study advisory team members), as allowed by their institution. This document provides strategies and resources to consider when attempting to access library resources.

Resources

- **BadgerLink:** Wisconsin residents can access health databases such as Ebsco's Health Source. Find a good concentration of nursing and allied health resources. A local public library card may be required to access some resources.
- **Google Scholar:** Abstracts and limited free full text articles are available. Also provides additional such as email alerts and citations.
- **Open Access Journals:** Free full text articles from high-quality open access journals can use the 'free full text' filter after conducting a PubMed search to access free full text articles from open access journals (e.g. [Frontiers in Public Health Services and Systems Research](#), [Emerging Infectious Diseases](#), and [Preventing Chronic Disease](#)). Repositories such as [BioMed Central](#) and [PubMed Central](#) are additional ways to search open access journals. Investigate open access journals and repositories prior to use to assure credibility.
- **Your local libraries:** Don't know where to start? Libraries associated with the [University of Wisconsin](#), [Medical College of Wisconsin](#) and [healthcare system/medical centers](#) throughout the state offer outreach services. Interlibrary loan and assisting with literature searches may be offered. Contact local libraries near you to find out what resources and services are offered.
- Wisconsin Division of Public Health staff has access to training and library resources through Public Health Information Access (PHIA). This project of the National Network of Libraries of Medicine is funded through 2015. For more information about the project contact Michelle Bailey (michelle.bailey@dhs.wisconsin.gov).

*Many of these resources have been modified from [Keeping Current & Accessing Library Resources Handy References \(2014\)](#).

Strategies to obtain journal articles

- Search and obtain articles using a variety of online sources such as: BadgerLink, Google Scholar, or open access journals
- Visit in-person or contact the University of Wisconsin libraries, Medical College of Wisconsin libraries, or healthcare system/medical center in your area to ask for assistance
- Obtain materials via interlibrary loan for a fee
- Wisconsin Division of Public Health staff currently has access to journal articles through Public Health Information Access. For more information contact: Michelle Bailey/
(michelle.bailey@dhs.wisconsin.gov)

Navigating electronic library systems

- Visit in-person or call the University of Wisconsin libraries, Medical College of Wisconsin libraries, or healthcare system/medical center in your area to ask for assistance
- Learn more by viewing a webinar: [Keeping Current & Accessing Library Resources](#)

Additional Online Resources and Portals

- [County Health Rankings and Roadmaps](#)
- [Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report](#)
- [Informed Caring](#)
- [What Works for Health](#)

**WPHRN Members
Estimated to have Remote Library
Access
(8/25/2015)**

