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Pew Internet Research Report - Online Health Searching by Consumers

From the summary of the report by the Pew Research Center:

“Eighty percent of American internet users, or some 113 million adults, have searched for information on at least one of seventeen health topics. Most internet users start at a general search engine when researching health and medical advice online. Just 15% of health seekers say they “always” check the source and date of the health information they find online, while another 10% say they do so “most of the time.” Fully three-quarters of health seekers say they check the source and date “only sometimes,” “hardly ever,” or “never,” which translates to about 85 million Americans gathering health advice online without consistently examining the quality indicators of the information they find. Most health seekers are pleased about what they find online, but some are frustrated or confused.”

This story illustrates the importance of the librarian/info professional as a teacher/educator in the Information Age, especially when it comes to health information – librarians and information professionals are needed to assist end users with discerning the currency and authority of information found on the Internet.

Full Text of the Study Available at : http://www.pewinternet.org/pdfs/PIP_Online_Health_2006.pdf

Pew Internet Research Report - The Internet as a Resource for News and Information about Science

From the Summary of the Report:

“The Pew Internet Project and the Exploratorium find that the internet is a pervasive research tool for science news and information Use of online science resources is linked to better attitudes about science. The internet is used as a research tool by nearly 90% of adult internet users and as a primary source for science news and information for 40 million Americans.”

The Press Release about the Report from Pew - http://www.pewinternet.org/PPF/r/133/press_release.asp

Full Text of Document Available at: http://www.pewinternet.org/pdfs/PIP_Exploratorium_Science.pdf

Deloitte & Touche Reports on Health Information Exchanges

Two separate papers from Deloitte & Touche report that our nation's clinicians lack access to critical information at the point of care that could help them reduce medical errors, improve patient safety, and reduce costs.

One possible solution, according to D&T, is the creation of Health Information Exchanges (HIEs), which offer the potential to bridge this information gap by enabling the secure exchange of patient data among industry stakeholders.

The Press Release of about the Report is here:

http://www.deloitte.com/dtt/press_release/0,1014,sid%253D2283%2526cid%253D136069,00.html

The full text of the reports are available here::

[The Promise and Challenge of Health Information Exchanges](#)

[States' Roles in Health Information Exchanges](#)

Literacy and Misunderstanding Prescription Drug Labels

This new study published in the Annals of Internal Medicine asserts that persons with low literacy levels have a greater likelihood of medical and drug non-adherence to instructions on drug labels.

The full text of the free article is available here : <http://www.annals.org/cgi/content/full/0000605-200612190-00144v1>

New Internet Resource: Healia.com

Healia is a consumer health search engine for finding high quality and personalized health information on the Web. It serves as an independent, unbiased gateway to the highest quality health information resources. Based on several searches I have conducted on the site, The results that are returned by the search engine contain solid information from respected authorities, and the search engine also filters out information emanating from suspect commercial sites.

Healia's homepage is located here: <http://www.healia.com/healia/>

New Resource from MedlinePlus- Interactive Health Tutorials

These newly created and easy to understand tutorials from the National Library of Medicine, use animated graphics to explain a either a procedure or condition. Each tutorial also has a companion audio file, and requires the installation of a free downloadable Flash plug-in. These tutorials cover a variety of topics including Diseases and Conditions, Tests and Diagnostic Procedures, Surgery and Treatment Procedures, and Prevention/Wellness.

Available at : <http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/tutorials.html>