

DRUG INFORMATION RESOURCES:

- Textbooks, newsletters, journals,
- Newsletters, microfiche reader,
- Optical discs,
- Computer systems
- Tertiary resources >>>Secondary resources >>>Primary resources

Sources of Information

The various sources of drug information can be **broadly** classified in

Primary

Secondary

Tertiary

Primary Source

✓ It include unpublished studies, original articles published in reputed peer-reviewed journals reporting original research, ideas or opinions.

✓ It consists of clinical research studies and reports, both published and unpublished.

✓ Journals that publish primary literatures include Annals of Internal Medicine, Clinical Pharmacology and Therapeutics etc.

Primary resources:

- Primary literature describes unique experiences which change the world in terms of available knowledge.
- They are the foundation on which all other drug information is based. These include journal publications on drug-related subjects, such as reports of clinical drug trials, case reports, and pharmacological research. Evaluating primary literature is difficult.
- The most reliable evidence comes from reports on randomized controlled trials. Proper evaluation of these trials requires considerable experience, and systematic reviews of combined trials (meta-analyses) may be necessary.

Sources:

1. **Medical and therapeutics Journal:**
 - Annals of internal medicine,
 - British medical journal,
 - Journal of the medical association,
 - New England Journal of Medicine.
2. **Pharmacy journals:**
 - American Journal of Hospital Pharmacy.
 - Clinical Pharmacy.
 - DICP-Annals of pharmacotherapy.
 - Journal of Clinical and Hospital Pharmacy.
3. **Drug and Toxicology Information and Pharmacology Journal.**
 - British Journal of Clinical Pharmacology.
 - Human and Experimental Toxicology.

Secondary sources:

Secondary sources consist of reviews of primary reports. These provide a personal perspective of the literature and can include comments on how the author might apply the information in practice.

- Medline
- International Pharmaceutical Abstracts
- Chemical Abstract
- IOWA drug Information Service
- DRUGDEX
- Martindale
- POISINDEX

Tertiary Source

✓ It summarizes data from the primary and secondary literature and they include reference books, essential drugs list, treatment guidelines, drug formularies, drug bulletins and pharmacopoeias.

✓ It includes textbooks and references like American Hospital Formulary Services, Martindale the Complete Drug reference, Meyer's side effects of drugs, Remington's Pharmaceutical Sciences and United States Pharmacopoeia Drug Information.

Tertiary resources:

Tertiary resources are summaries of the primary and secondary published literature. Printed textbooks are the main example and these are characterised by a slow rate of revision compared to secondary sources.

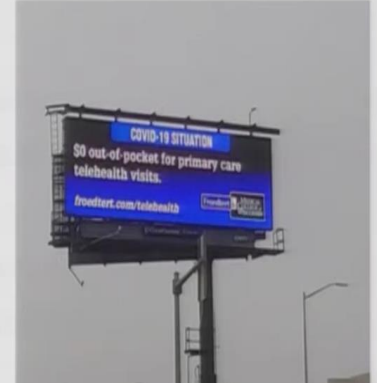
- AHFS-Drug information Book, Australian Medicine Handbook, Meyler's side effect of drugs
- Avery's Drug Treatment
- Basic skills in interpreting Lab data
- Drug information handbook
- Drug interactions Stockley/ Facts and comparison
- Handbook of injectables
- Harrison's Principles of Internal Medicine
- Martindale, Pharmacopoeias, Physicians desk ref
- Merck index, Merck manual,
- BNF, USP, Australian formulary

Alternative other resources:

- Local drug lists
- National formulary
- Hospital formulary
- Phone calls to manufacturer, medical shops, government and national organisations, drug information centres
- Internet, Medscape
- Cochrane meta analysis

Electronic Bulletin Board

- ✓ Electronic bulletin boards are local bulletin boards, which are posted through a server and can be used with the help of a computer and a modem
- ✓ The healthcare industry is increasingly turning to billboard advertising to promote various medical services



Other sources of Information

- ✓ They primarily include local and national webpage's, professionals and government organizations and pharmaceutical manufacturers.
- ✓ The ability to use the quality of information obtained from the web is increasingly important for pharmacists for the benefit of patients as well as of their own.

Internet Web Sources

Some Useful Internet Web Resources World Health

Organization:

1. <http://www.who.int>
2. Australian Prescriber: <http://www.australianprescriber.com>
3. British Medical Journal: <http://www.bmj.com>
4. The Free Medical Journal <http://www.freemedicaljournals.com>

Computerized Services

1. **Access Medicine:** Medical reference books including Harrison's Online; Goodman and Gilman's Pharmacology, Current Medical Diagnosis and Treatment etc.
2. **Cochrane Library:** The Cochrane Library provides reliable and up-to-date information on the effects of interventions in health care.
3. **Micromedex:** Drug and dosage information, toxicological substances, patient information databases, and other data to support clinical care decisions.

4. Natural Medicines (formerly Natural Standard): Evidence-based information about complementary and alternative therapies.

5. PMC: PubMed Central is a free full-text archive of biomedical and life sciences journal literature at the U.S. National Institutes of Health's National Library of Medicine.

6. PubMed: Scholarly journal articles about health and medicine, nursing, and biology.

7. Scopus: Scholarly journal articles and conference papers on any topic in science, technology, medicine, social sciences, and arts and humanities.

8. TOXNET (Toxicology Data Network): Scientific articles, factual information, and data on toxicology, hazardous chemicals, environmental health, and toxic releases.

9. Lexi-Comp: Drug identification, patient education, drug calculators, toxicology, and IV Compatibility.

Storage and Retrieval of Information

Define:

- ✓ The systematic process of collecting and cataloging data so that they can be located and displayed on request.
- ✓ Computers and data processing techniques have made possible the high-speed, selective retrieval of large amounts of information for government, commercial, and academic purposes.