Through learning, minds change.
We believe by changing minds, we can change the world.

Finding Additional Help

Phone an ICC Reference Desk:
Downtown Campus ~ 999-4610
East Peoria Campus ~ 694-5355
North Campus ~ 690-6837

Email a Reference Librarian at the Downtown Campus:
Sue Franzen ~ susan.franzen@icc.edu
(Laura) Jane Bradbury ~ laura.bradbury@icc.edu
Angela Hardi ~ angela.hardi@icc.edu

Visit the ICC Library web pages

URAC Directory of Accredited Health Web Sites @

Check out Consumer Reports Web Watch @
www.consumerwebwatch.org

HON Code of Conduct for Health Sites @
www.hon.ch/HONcode/Conduct.html

Stanford University & Consumer Reports Web Watch Research Project

Consumer Reports “Web Watch” conducted a study in collaboration with Stanford University’s Persuasive Technology Lab contrasting how experts evaluated “health” web sites compared to the public. The study found that the public relies heavily on the ‘professional appearance’ whereas experts look at affiliation and author expertise.

Quality Health Information Online
Evaluating Internet Information

Authority
What authority does the author of the page or article possess on the subject matter? What are his/her credentials? Is he/she affiliated with any medical or educational institutions or search related research? Has the author held any position that reveals a level of expertise?

Reliability
Does the information/conclusion offered correspond with that of other resources? Are there cited sources or has the material been referenced by an authority? Are there any obvious inaccuracies or errors?

Purpose
What was the purpose of publishing the information? Is the author attempting to inform, persuade, explain, or even sell? Who is the intended audience? Patients? Customers? Professionals? The general public? Does the tone or writing style reveal anything about the purpose?

Web Site Standard
Has the site been updated recently? Are there signs of neglect, like dead links? Is there contact information, as well as a physical address? Are advertisements clearly delineated from other content? Do you agree with the privacy policy?

Uncle Sam’s Contribution
Your tax dollars help fund government agencies, like the Center for Disease Control (CDC) and the National Institutes of Health (NIH). These and other agencies are designed to oversee the nation’s health and conduct a vast amount of research, while promoting health education and guiding public policy. They are prolific publishers of health information. To access the wealth of authoritative information these agencies provide, limit the domain of an internet search to .gov.

Limiting the Domain of Your Internet Search

The easiest way to find authoritative, reliable, health information online is to search within the site of an authoritative institution.

National Library of Medicine Databases

MedlinePlus
consumer-oriented health information
www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus

PubMed
Health/medical bibliographic information with abstracts, links to full-text journal quality articles
www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed

www.healthfinder.gov
U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services Guide to Health Information

Medical Professionals
www.clinicaltrials.gov
Search for clinical trials by condition, medication, location, etc.

Recommended
mayoclinic.org
medicinenet.com
rxlist.com
KidsHealth.org

Look for the search engine’s Advanced Search option

Look for Symbols of Certification or Accreditation
HONcode – TRUSTe – URAC

Enter .gov in the “search within” text box
(Also try .edu, but be aware you may access a student page)