

National Library of Medicine Databases: *PubMed Central*

<http://www.pubmedcentral.nih.gov/index.html>

PubMed Central (PMC) is the National Institute of Health's archive of digitized full-text articles from health journals that the public can access free.

You will see a basic search box at the top of the screen. You'll also find "Advanced Search" help about searching by topic, author, and journal title. "Advanced Search" lets you access an A-Z list of journal titles that are included in *PMC*. You'll additionally see a "Browse PMC Journals" list broken into sections, another link to the full A-Z list, and a list of journal titles new to *PMC*.

You can get notices of journal coverage new to *PMC* and other news about *PMC* sent to your computer by signing up for their mailing list or RSS feeds on this web page.

There are some advanced services, accessed through a *Utilities* link, that you probably won't use often, but include such services as accessing the XML versions of the full text of some articles, scripting advanced searches, and linking to specific articles on *PMC*.

PMC is the tool to access NIH-funded research articles via the "NIH Public Access policy". Those articles that have already gone through the process of peer review have a note stating "Peer Reviewed" before the title. Each article has an "Abstract," "Full Text," PDF version with the size of the file noted, "Supplementary Material" if any, and on the right side of the screen, "Links" that links to related articles and other online resources from various NIH databases.

Librarians will want to read the "General Interest FAQs" that you'll find in the link on the right side of screen titled "Get answers to other questions about PubMed Central".

Most of the articles in *PMC* are core medical research articles that aren't easily read and understood by the public. But there will always be articles that the public can read, understand, and use to help them take charge of their own healthcare. Here are some titles that could be used in any library for any library customer:

- "Perceived Likelihood of Developing Diabetes Among High-Risk Oregonians"
- "Lifetime Medical Costs of Obesity: Prevention No Cure for Increasing Health Expenditure"
- "Soft Drinks, Fructose Consumption, and the Risk of Gout in Men"
- "The Effect of Long Term Combined Yoga Practice on the Basal Metabolic Rate of Healthy Adults"

S. Belevu, Oklahoma Department of Libraries, September 23, 2008