Intended Users: Consumers | Healthcare Providers | Information Professionals | Researchers

**U.S. National Library of Medicine Digital Collections**

**Description:** Digital Collections provides access to the National Library of Medicine’s distinctive digital content in the areas of biomedicine, health care, and the history of medicine. The content in Digital Collections is freely available and, unless otherwise indicated, in the public domain. In addition to born digital resources (which are materials that are created in a digital format), this collection provides access to historical manuscripts, images, film, software, digitized media, and cartographic records, from as far back as the 1400s.

**Popular uses of this product:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Consumers</th>
<th>Healthcare Providers</th>
<th>Information Professionals</th>
<th>Researchers</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Explore the history of medicine and learn about prominent scientists in medical research.</td>
<td>• Find reports and briefs about current issues in medicine.</td>
<td>• Search archival records and personal papers collections.</td>
<td>• Explore historical archives and medical documents.</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Find images about medicine and history that are in the public domain and free to use.</td>
<td>• Find grey literature and government publications regarding healthcare in the U.S.</td>
<td>• Search the “Index Catalogue” to find journals, monographs, and dissertations.</td>
<td>• Review U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) notices of judgment and evidence files for federally prosecuted manufacturers.</td>
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<td>• Find information about out-of-date medical practices that may be currently impacting a patient.</td>
<td>• Help patrons find primary resources on healthcare and history.</td>
<td>• Find grey literature and government publications regarding healthcare in the United States.</td>
</tr>
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</table>

**Key Points:**

1. Digital Collections is a repository of medically, and culturally significant, digitized resources that span several centuries.
2. Unless otherwise stated, all resources are in the public domain and can be reused.

**Potential Predicaments:**

1. A few of the images are under copyright restrictions so people should check for any restrictions.
2. Much of the medical information on this site is of historical value rather than current, standard practice. Consumers should be directed to other resources if they are looking for current medical information.

**Teaching Examples:**

1. Explore the “Health Policy and Services Research” collection. Find a Practice Guideline (use the Genre filter) that was published in the last 3 years (use the Publication Year filter).
2. Explore the collection “Tropical Disease Motion Pictures” and find a film about disease control and prevention.

**Real Life Examples:**

1. A student uses Digital Collections to look up personal narratives from World War 1 medics as a primary resource for a history project.
2. A researcher is conducting preliminary research on a topic and wants to find grey literature on the history of the U.S. healthcare systems.

Updated: 7/5/2022; Contact katie.pierce-farrier@unthsc.edu for more information about product guide.

Content contributed and edited by National Library of Medicine and University of North Texas Health Science Center Lewis Library
More Information:
Overview and Help Documentation  Introductory Video

Commercial Equivalents and Other Resources:
Many universities and community organizations have historical medical archives that include local history.