Intended Users:				

U.S. National Library of Medicine
Digital Collections

NLM 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:

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 • Find grey literature and government publications regarding healthcare in the U.S. • Find information about out-of-date medical practices that may be currently impacting a patient.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

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 Government Regulation (use the Subject filter) Guideline (use the Genre filter) to explore various healthcare guidance for industry and government.
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.

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.

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Content contributed and edited by National Library of Medicine and University of North Texas Health Science Center Lewis Library