NATIONAL LIBRARY OF MEDICINE

Discovering the History of Medicine at NLM

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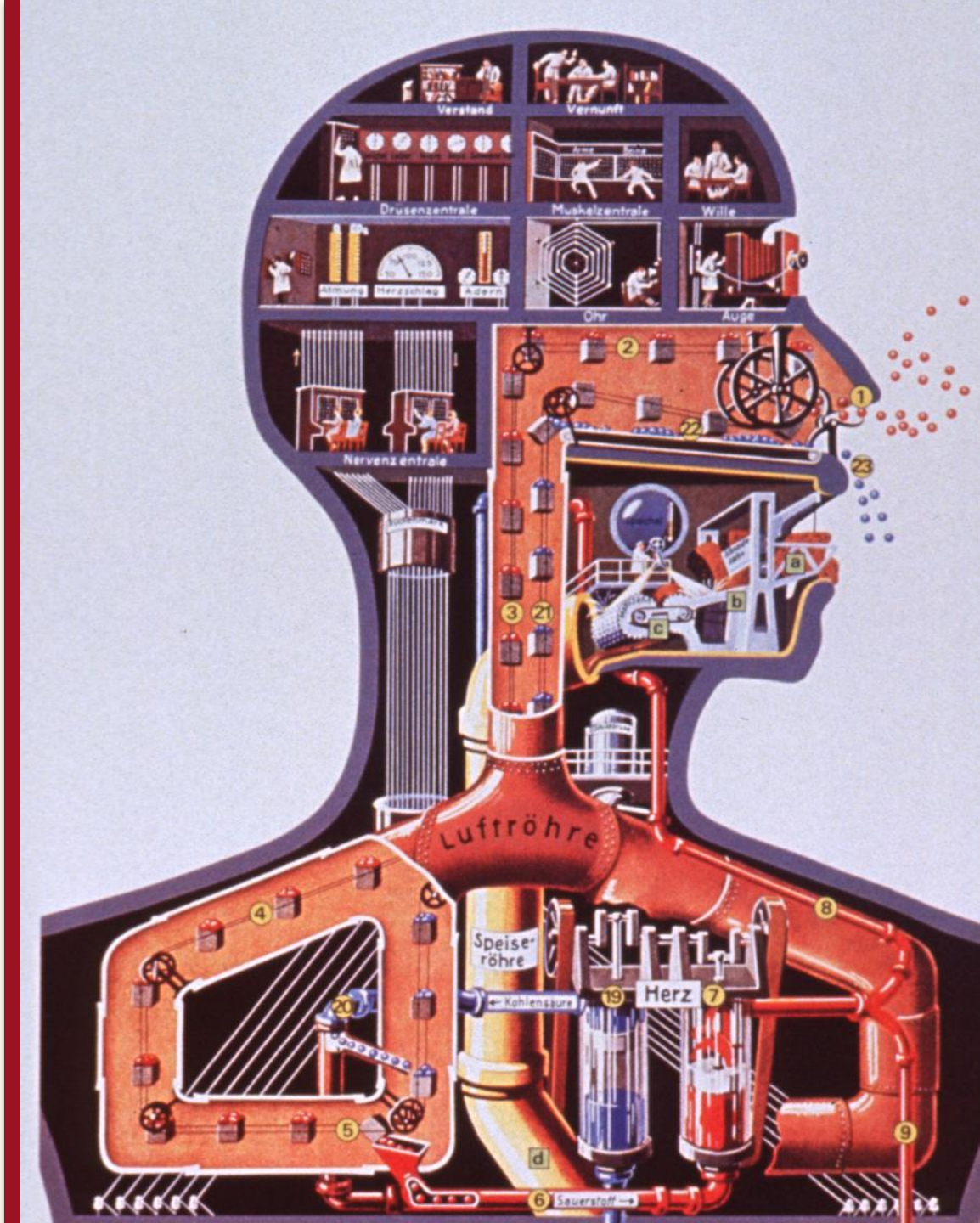
nlm.nih.gov/hmd



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What we'll explore

DISCOVER

Key historical collections and resources

SELECT

The right discovery tool for the question

APPLY

Resources to reference, research, instruction, and outreach

A practical tour: not "every database," but how the pieces fit together.

What’s in NLM’s historical collections?

Rare Books & Journals

Books published before 1914; journal issues published before 1871; manuscripts produced before 1601; and many later materials that are historically significant, scarce, or unique

Archives & Manuscripts

Personal papers, organizational records, correspondence

Still Images

Portraits, photographs, posters, and graphic art

Historic Audiovisuals

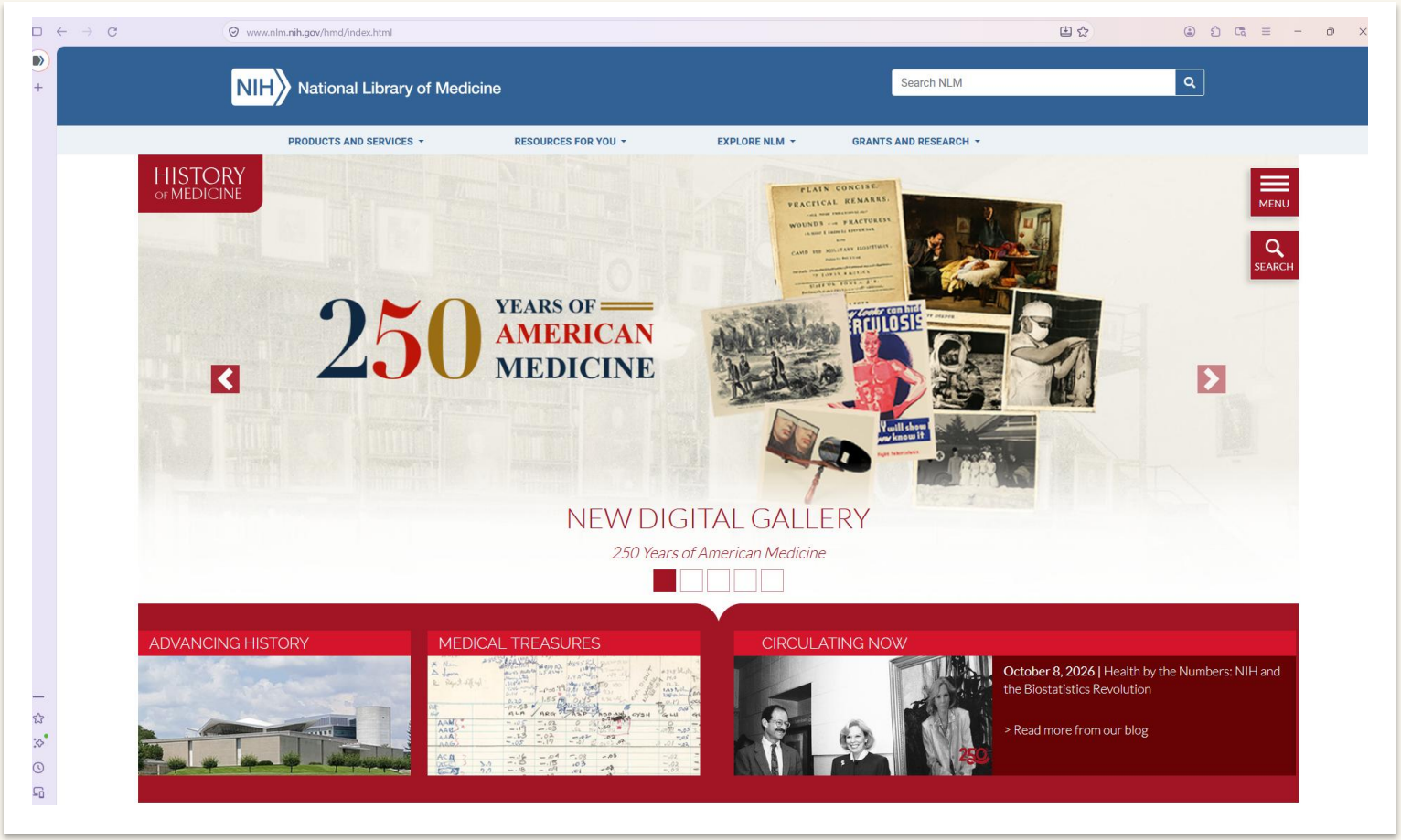
Films, videos, and audio recordings

Digitized & Born-Digital Items

Digitized materials, born-digital collections, and web archives

START HERE

The History of Medicine website



Collections

What does NLM hold?

Research Tools

Where should I search?

Curated Resources

How are collections interpreted?

DON'T KNOW WHERE TO START? → SEARCH NLM

GO FURTHER

Match the discovery task to the right tool

Explore NLM holdings	**Catalog / LocatorPlus**
View digitized sources	**Digital Collections**
Discover historical literature	**IndexCat**
Explore archival material	**Finding Aids**
Explore web & born-digital records	**Web Archives / Finding Aids**
Find context & teaching resources	**Exhibitions / Featured Collections / NLM History Talks / *Circulating Now***

START WITH THE QUESTION — THEN CHOOSE THE TOOL(S)

Digital Collections

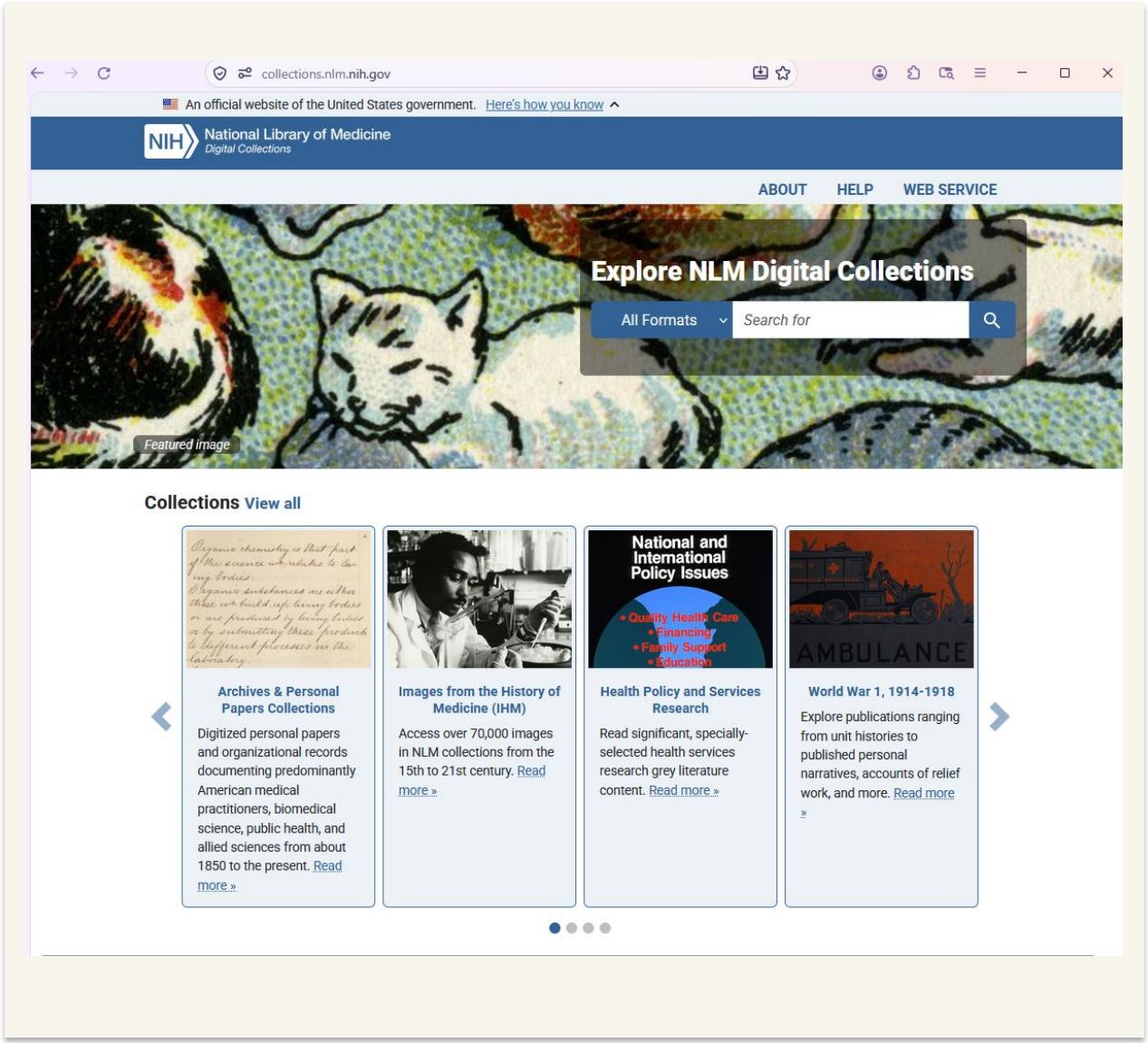
Search, browse, view, and download digitized historical materials.

DISCOVER Books, still images, moving images, and selected archival materials

VIEW Open digitized primary sources directly online

USE Support reference, research, instruction, exhibits, and presentations

COMPUTE Access collection data through web services/API for digital scholarship and reuse.



VISUAL EVIDENCE

Images from the History of Medicine

Portraits, photographs, posters, engravings, and graphic art become support for research, teaching, and storytelling.



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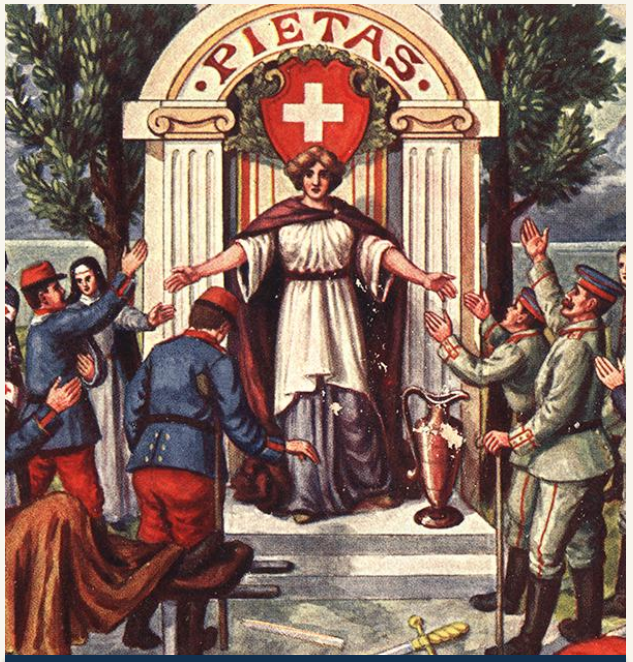

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70,000+ images • 15th–21st century

Check item-level rights information before reuse.

Finding collection items

CATALOG / LOCATORPLUS

“Does NLM have it?”

Search holdings and collection records.

DIGITAL COLLECTIONS

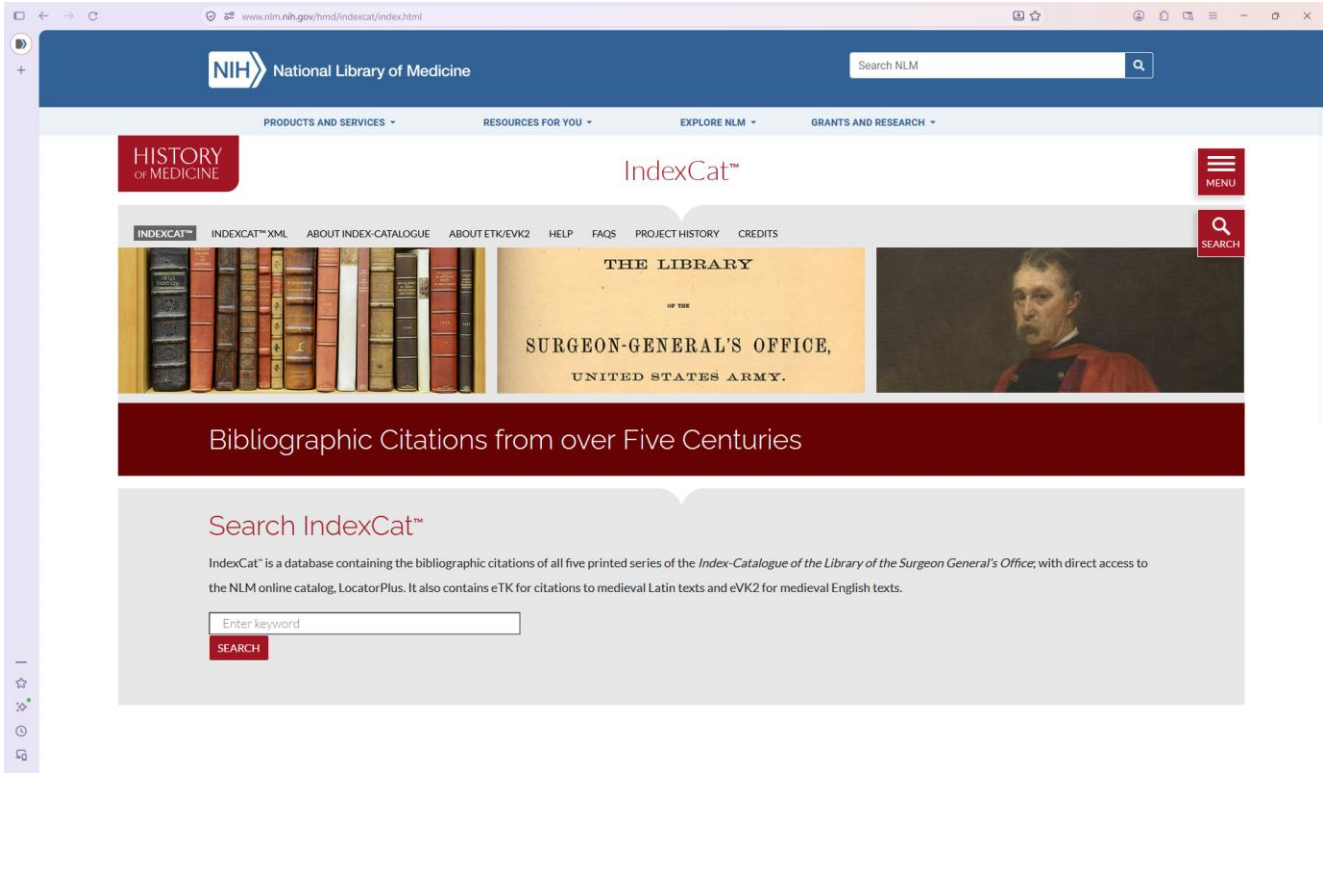
“Can I view it online?”

Access digitized collection materials.

Historical searching may require

author • title • subject • date • format • variant terminology

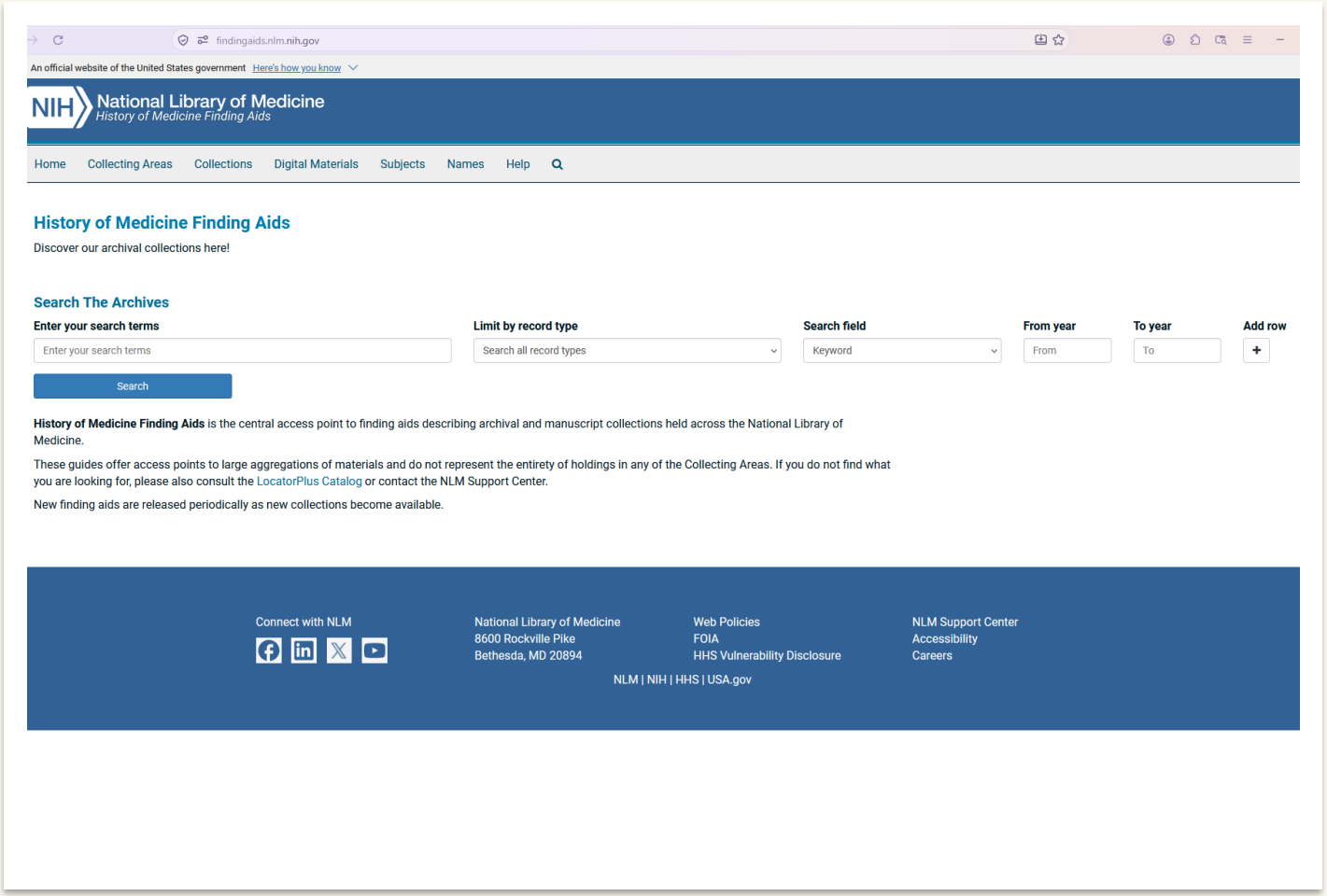
IndexCat

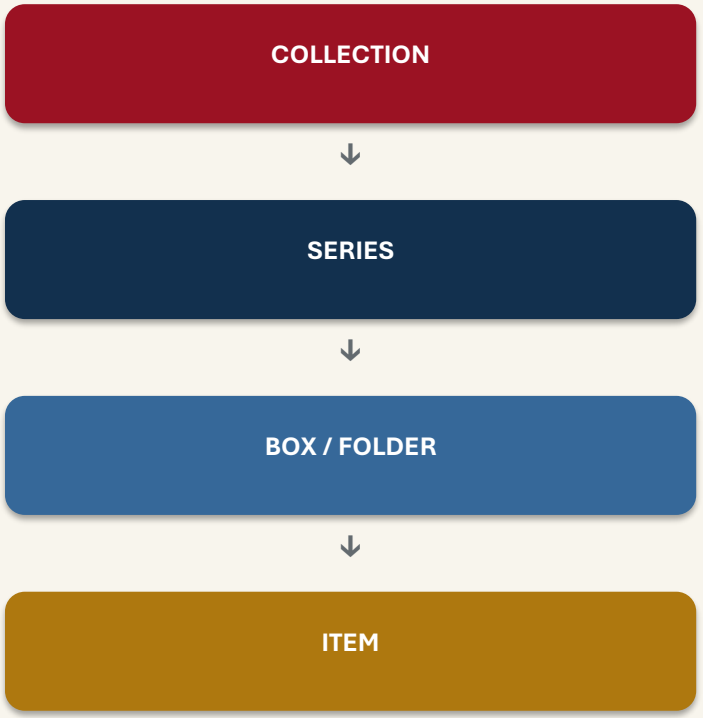


Looking for medical literature from before PubMed?

- **Database of historical bibliographic citations from the Antiquity to 1950**
- **Digital version of the *Index-Catalogue of the Library of the Surgeon-General's Office***
- **Useful for identifying older books, articles, reports, dissertations, and other literature**

Finding Aids





CURATED RESOURCES

Explore, interpret, and engage with the collections

Profiles in Science

PEOPLE + PAPERS

Medicine on Screen

MOVING IMAGES + CONTEXT

Featured Collections

FOCUSED PATHWAYS

Exhibitions

CURATED HISTORICAL STORIES

Circulating Now

STORIES FROM THE COLLECTIONS

NLM History Talks

SCHOLARSHIP + CONVERSATION

Digital Humanities

COLLECTIONS AS DATA

CURATED RESOURCES ADD SELECTION, CONTEXT, INTERPRETATION, AND NEW WAYS TO ENGAGE.

REFERENCE SCENARIO

A medical librarian gets a question...

I’m preparing a lecture on the history of yellow fever in the United States. I need historical medical literature, primary-source images, and materials I can use in my class. Can you help?

Where would you start?

- Historical literature
- Primary sources
- Images
- Educational resources

FOLLOW THE EVIDENCE

One question, multiple NLM resources

IndexCat

historical literature

Images from the History of Medicine

visual evidence

YELLOW FEVER

Digital Collections

digitized primary sources

Finding Aids

archival evidence

Exhibitions

context & teaching

FROM DISCOVERY TO ACCESS

What if it’s not online?

1

Identify

Catalog or finding aid

→

2

Check

Availability & restrictions

→

3

Ask

Research support / reproduction options

→

4

Access

Remote options or onsite consultation

NLM SUPPORT → bridge between discovery and access

Can I use this?



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Before you reuse

- ✓ Check item-level rights information
- ✓ Identify the source and creator
- ✓ Provide appropriate attribution
- ✓ Consider permissions and restrictions
- ✓ Refer to the **Patron Guide to Copyright and Historical Materials** for more information, if needed

ONLINE ≠ AUTOMATICALLY UNRESTRICTED

SAVE THIS SLIDE

Your NLM History of Medicine toolkit

Find a collection item	Catalog / LocatorPlus
Digitized source	Digital Collections
Historical image	Images from the History of Medicine
Older literature	IndexCat
Archives / personal papers	Finding Aids
Scientists & selected papers	Profiles in Science
Historical film / video	Medicine on Screen / NLM YouTube
Context / teaching	Exhibitions / Featured Collections
Learn / stay connected	Circulating Now / NLM History Talks
Not sure	Research Tools / NLM Support

NLM History of Medicine

nlm.nih.gov/hmd

Questions & discussion

What resource was new to you?

How could these resources fit into your library's services?

What historical questions do your users bring you?

nlm.nih.gov/hmd

CONCLUSION

Thank you!

Erika Mills

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KEEP EXPLORING & STAY CONNECTED

EXPLORE

NLM History of Medicine

nlm.nih.gov/hmd

READ

Circulating Now

circulatingnow.nlm.nih.gov/

Have an idea or want to connect? Get in touch.