addresses are sorely missed in the current edition. Nevertheless, EHIS will be a valuable addition to libraries, both as a collection development and reference and referral resource. Unfortunately, the value of EHIS is clearly reflected by its price.

In contrast to EHIS, the Healthcare Resource and Reference Guide aims at providing sufficient information to answer many of the questions about a topic, in addition to listing relevant information sources. Drawn from the questions frequently asked at the AMA’s reference and referral center, the topics covered and information provided in the Guide are aimed primarily at physicians. Indications of this are entries on “Locating a Medical Assistant” (p. 149–50), “What Happens When a [Malpractice] Suit is Filed” (p. 223–4), and “Selling a Medical Practice” (p. 259–60). In its entries, the Guide draws overwhelmingly from AMA publications.

A strength of the Guide is its coverage of state organizations, such as the statewide cancer societies, AIDS/HIV hotlines, and state licensing offices. Another strength is its reprinting of relevant articles from JAMA. Obituaries from JAMA of the Mayo brothers (p. 146–8) serve as valuable entries in the Guide. Less appropriate for a reference book was the editors’ decision to reprint five poems.

The Guide’s shortcomings are notable. Its overwhelming reliance on JAMA and other AMA publications is a significant limitation. As source material for all entries, the Guide draws on sixty AMA publications. Five government documents are the only non-AMA publications utilized. The Guide’s AMA bias becomes even clearer at the end of the book, where fifty-eight pages are devoted to the history, organization, and administration of the AMA.

Another shortcoming of the Guide is its organization. Arranged alphabetically, titles of entries are often questionable. Information about malpractice suits, for example, is found under “Professional Liability.” No cross-references are present in the body of the work, forcing the reader to rely heavily on the Guide’s index. Finally, the number of typographical errors is a disturbing feature of the Guide.

Both EHIS and the Guide attempt to provide health-related reference assistance. Covering more than fifteen types of information sources for more than 350 topics, Rees’s Encyclopedia of Health Information Sources succeeds admirably. Relying almost exclusively on articles from one journal and in-house publications from a single organization, Healthcare Resource and Reference Guide does not.

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References


Self-empowerment, one of the buzzwords of the nineties, includes the vital area of personal health. Americans are increasingly bombarded by the press and television with the promotion of health, the prevention of disease, new medical breakthroughs, and the issues of national health insurance. In order to make informed and intelligent decisions, the public needs to have medical material written in plain English that they can understand.

Personal Health Reporter (PHR) arrives in this health-conscious climate with a large 8½-by-11-inch book of 627 pages of medical information couched in everyday language.

Rees and Willey, through computer searches of MEDLINE and other medical, health, nursing, and nutrition databases, have selected excerpts on 148 medical conditions and treatments and other health issues (p. iii). Professional medical, nursing, and health journals and other sources have supplied the material, which ranges from roughly 1985 to 1991, with the majority from 1989 to 1991.

PHR is suitable for audiences of both lay readers and health professionals. With the public increasingly requesting medical information from public, medical, health, and hospital libraries, this book would be invaluable in meeting these demands.

PHR covers a variety of medical interests and includes some associated areas that would allow easy retrieval by librarians, such as nursing homes, choosing a physician, health insurance, quackery, medical malpractice, and others.

The 148 topics are listed alphabetically in the table of contents and throughout the book from acne to yeast infections (vaginitis), with a twenty-nine-page index at the end. The preface lists the fourteen broad topics from alternative medicine to substance abuse and the sources used from professional medical journals to government publications.

Each topic is two to four pages long and divided into pertinent headings. Based on the page size (8½ by 11 inches), the topic coverage is considerable. Topics start with definition (if appropriate), then overview, and end with re-
The following books are easy to read and somewhat comparable to PHR. All sell for less than $50.00.

The American Medical Association Encyclopedia of Medicine, which its dust jacket describes as an A–Z reference guide to more than 5,000 medical terms including symptoms, diseases, drugs, and treatments. PHR has more extensive coverage on the 148 topics that it treats [1].

The Johns Hopkins Medical Handbook, the 100 major medical disorders of people older than age fifty [2]. Unlike PHR, this handbook’s coverage is restricted by age.

The Wellness Encyclopedia, a comprehensive family resource for safeguarding health and preventing illness [3]. Here, the focus is on the various aspects of wellness.

All of the above books plus PHR are authoritative and readable. However, their scopes differ. For well-rounded coverage, librarians should choose the assortment that best serves their library users within the confines of their budgets.

Public Health Reporter, while relatively expensive, fills the important need for organized and lengthy coverage in one volume and includes specialized medical issues, impeccable sources, and a resources section for further research. This new Gale publication has a sturdy, handsome hardcover and large clear pages. A first edition, it would be a valuable and useful addition to consumer medical collections in any type of library.

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References
2. The Johns Hopkins medical hand-


Doody’s Health Sciences Book Review Journal seeks to provide “comprehensive, authoritative, easily accessible, and timely bibliographic, quantitative, and critical information about newly published health sciences books” (p. i). The review of each title includes a bibliographic citation indicating author affiliation, a physical description, primary and secondary audience information, and, in many cases, a critical review. Of the 250 titles listed in the first issue, 134 titles were critically reviewed. All reviewers are subject specialists, the majority of whom are affiliated with academic medical centers. Most reviews include a numerical rating based on a 100-point scale, which is calculated from a fifteen-point questionnaire submitted by the reviewer. A title-author index is included at the end of the issue. There are more than sixty categories of reviews. In addition, a list called “Other Titles of Interest” follows each category, suggesting related books reviewed in other categories. Book reviews appear in Doody’s Journal two to six months after publication of the title.

Since the demise of the Technical Book Review Index in 1988, professional health sciences journals have been the only consistent source of reviews of new health sciences publications. A resource that brings together information about new releases has been long overdue. Doody’s Journal provides this infor-