titled *The Diabetes Sourcebook*, by Diana and Richard Guthrie, certified diabetes educators, published in 1992 (although it is not clear if this is a wholly new revision of a 1990 edition) [5]. In addition, *The Joslin Guide to Diabetes*, published in 1995, deserves mention [6]. These two volumes provide a comprehensive overview similar to Bellenir’s *Sourcebook*, but, because they are not compilations, they are not disjointed or repetitious, and the tone is consistently geared toward the layperson.

The three books vary in the amount of information that they contain on certain topics. For example, Bellenir’s *Sourcebook* contains much more information than the other two on gestational diabetes, *The Joslin Guide* and the Guthries’ book have more information on exercise, *The Joslin Guide* contains the least information on pancreatic transplant research, and *The Joslin Guide* and the Guthries’ book do not contain the statistical data and specific information pertaining to various ethnic groups that is available in Bellenir’s *Sourcebook*.

Because of its more recent publication date, *The Joslin Guide* refers to the new ADA nutrition guidelines, which are lacking in the other two volumes. Like Bellenir’s *Sourcebook*, *The Joslin Guide* and Guthries’ *Sourcebook* do not inform readers of alternative therapies such as the Circulator Boot for preventing amputation. All three books seem to consider prevention of diabetes to be out of scope, and do not have prevention as an index entry, even for preventing complications. Overall, *The Joslin Guide* and Guthries’ *Sourcebook* have index entries with more useful breakdowns than Bellenir’s *Sourcebook*.

Another point worth mentioning is that in the case of *The Joslin Guide* and Guthries’ *Sourcebook*, the reader is aware of the authors’ credentials. The reader does not know, however, what qualifications Bellenir or Dresser may have.

Bellenir’s *Sourcebook* is convenient for having the NIH and statistical information compiled in one source, cautioning that the data may not be the most up to date. It provides a comprehensive overview for laypersons who want a general understanding of the disease or who want to focus on various aspects of the disease, again cautioning that it omits certain important information. I would hope a newer edition would compile and cite more recent resources, including the new ADA guidelines; would include a broader spectrum of research studies; and would place a greater emphasis on preventive care.

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**References**


*AIDS Sourcebook* is a compendium of government documents produced in the early to mid-1990s on a myriad of AIDS-related topics. Most of the seventy-six chapters are short (fewer than ten pages), and the emphasis is on practical information for people living with AIDS and for their caregivers.

Made up of seven main parts, the book begins with a segment on historical and statistical topics. It is much heavier on the statistical side, documenting how the disease is affecting adolescents, health care workers, and U.S. residents of many races. Part 2 includes several reports from the National Commission on AIDS, covering the nation’s response to the epidemic and the government’s response in particular.

Medical information geared toward AIDS patients is the topic of the third section, and a good share of its nineteen chapters covers common secondary infections, such as tuberculosis and Kaposí’s sarcoma. Others focus on the basics of how the immune system works and the pros and cons of becoming involved in clinical trials. Part 4 covers strategies for coping with the related social, legal, and psychological challenges of the disease, both for the patients and caregivers. These practical chapters address such areas as health insurance, social security, and defensive eating.

AIDS prevention is covered in part 5, and AIDS research is the topic of part 6. The last section is entitled “Additional Resources” and mainly gives guidance in locating additional information on AIDS-related subjects.

One strength of this book is its practical emphasis. With few exceptions, the intended audience for
the documents is those without medical training, whether they are patients, loved ones, or employers. Many chapters end with an 800 number to call for more information or advice about where else to check for additional resources. With the exception of this contact information, there is not as much redundancy as one might expect from the seventy-six chapters, which were originally written as separate documents.

*AIDS Sourcebook* is the fourth volume in Ommiographics’ Health Reference Series. Volume 3 is *Diabetes Sourcebook*, which is also reviewed in this issue. All volumes in the series appear to be made up of government documents, which has its good and bad points. In times of shrinking budgets, it may seem foolish to spend $80.00 on a book whose contents are available free of charge for any citizen. It looks even worse when many of the documents are currently held by one’s own institution. A quick check of titles in the online public access catalog at the University of Minnesota, which is a full government depository, yielded twenty-seven of the seventy-six documents. I suspect a trip across the river to the government documents library would turn up several more. As of three months following the publication of the book, only one of the twenty-seven documents in our catalog had been superseded by a newer version, but that is another concern when thinking about purchasing the volume. Almost all of the documents are dated 1993 or earlier.

On the other hand, someone else has sorted through many more than seventy-six documents and selected them on the basis of their usefulness and relevancy to the topic. I have been saved that trip across the river and so have my clients. The mix of topics is a good one. Useful but obscure documents such as “A Guide to Locating Information about Condom Efficacy and Use” and “HIV/AIDS and Sports” will probably be seen by a broader audience because of their reprinting in this book.

There are a few points about this book that perhaps only a librarian would make. The index seems thorough, but the abbreviations used to describe the original documents are almost never defined. Would the typical user have any idea what “NIAID,” “MMWR,” or “AHCPR” stand for? Several chapters note that the information is adapted or taken from a named document, but the medical qualifications of the person doing the adapting, presumably one of the editors, are never addressed.

*AIDS Sourcebook* is not a comprehensive textbook on AIDS, such as *The AIDS Knowledge Base* [2]. The intended audience is the lay reader, so it may also be useful as an educational tool for health care providers who work with AIDS patients. It is recommended for public libraries as well as hospital or academic libraries that collect consumer materials.

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**References**


*Designing Archival Programs to Advance Knowledge in the Health Fields* is a landmark text for archives and manuscript collections in the health sciences. For many years, Overmier and Lerner’s chapter in *Hospital Library Management*, “Archival Services in Hospital Libraries,” was the sole publication addressing this topic in the health sciences [1]. Last year, Joan Kristo’s book, *Documentation Planning for the U.S. Health Care System*, appeared, outlining for the neophyte and the experienced alike the parameters and players in the health care sphere, information vital for understanding its organization and operation [2]. This presentation of functional analysis sets the stage for archival planning in the health sciences.

General books on archival management and those that deal particularly with academic collections lack the context and perspective needed by individuals responsible for academic health sciences records. Nancy McCall, archivist, and Lisa Mix, processing coordinator, of the Alan Mason Chesney Medical Archives, Johns Hopkins Medical Institutions, have put together a book that fills this gap and responds to a perceived “need for both inter-institutional and intra-institutional collaboration in the selection and preservation of critical contemporary documentation, as well as a shift in archival theory to accommodate the base size and the complexity of the contemporary documentation base” (p. xx). They also emphasize a growing trend in information management: the collection and retention of scientific data for future use.

New collection curators need counsel, and the current fiscal climate in academe calls for some drastic reevaluation of existing archival programs; this book will provide reliable and creative guidance for both. With several exceptions (primarily in part 1), many contributors are Johns Hopkins personnel associated with the Chesney archives, who bring expertise in their individual areas.