



Website review

ProCOR

Website: <http://www.procor.org>

Email: info@procor.org

What is it?

ProCOR is an email based health communication resource for exchanging information on the prevention and treatment of cardiovascular disease. Its website is an alternative way for users to access the communication archives.



Who is it for?

ProCOR focuses on developing countries, especially for those who do not have internet access. You only require an email address to access the resources.

What information is contained?

Prevention and treatment of cardiovascular diseases are their major topics. Subscribers can share experiences, questions, challenges and successes with others through ProCOR's Global Dialogue. The ProCOR website archives all emailed communications with access to the public.

How do I access it?

Register by sending an email to procor-join@healthnet.org to become a subscriber of ProCOR and you will be able to receive news/discussions and submit your own comments. The communications are monitored and filtered, so no spam or bulk email will be sent out to subscribers. You can also go to the ProCOR website where all archived emails can be accessed for free, and registration is not required. You can also use the quick search function to locate topics that are of interest.

My recommendation:

This is a well organized user led communication site, and its popular topics always meet most subscribers' interests. Accessing the archives on the website could be made a little easier, and a text version website would certainly be helpful for those in developing countries without fast internet access. Join the ProCOR community and raise your own topic to discuss with other subscribers today. You will likely get a satisfactory response.

PubMed**Website:** <http://www.pubmed.gov/>**Email:** pubmednew@ncbi.nlm.nih.gov**What is it?**

PubMed is a free, no registration required online literature search service from the United States National Library of Medicine (NLM), the largest medical library in the world.

Who is it for?

Public health and medical researchers who require a biomedical literature search.

What information is contained?

PubMed includes over 15 million citations for biomedical articles dating back to the 1950's. These citations are from Medline and additional life science journals. It also includes links to many sites providing full text articles and other related resources.

How do I access it?

Similar to Medline, using PubMed to search articles is easy: just enter the keyword(s) in the query box and press the Enter key or click Go. The results will display on your browser in a few seconds. The Features bar directly beneath the query box provides access to additional search options. You can limit your search results by clicking on **Limit**, and you can also combine searches or add additional keyword(s) to an existing search by using the **History** feature. You can print, save and email the search results, an abstract, or even the full text of the article (free or for a fee depending on the provider; follow the links).

PubMed's design is quite user friendly. Even the first time user can retrieve the information easily, but you can always look at their Help/FAQ and Tutorial pages if you want to learn more.

A text version of PubMed is also available for users who require special adaptive equipment to access the Web. **PubMed for Handhelds** (<http://pubmedhh.nlm.nih.gov/indexw.html>) is suitable for mobile phones with WAP browsers, and **PubMed on Tap** (<http://archive.nlm.nih.gov/proj/pmot/pmot.php>) which runs on the Palm operating system is another product being evaluated. Both are free.

My recommendation:

A very powerful literature search tool on the internet, PubMed is even better than Medline. The full text linkout function is the one that I like most, as many journals provide full text articles for free after a fixed time lapse. This function will save a lot of your time going after desired articles. Next time when you do a literature search, give PubMed a try.

Hongbo Liang
Ottawa, CANADA
E-mail address: hliang@uottawa.ca

Available online at www.sciencedirect.com

SCIENCE @ DIRECT®