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Websight

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WEBSIGHT

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HEALTHGRADES

http://www.healthgrades.com

HEALTH GRADES is a health information resource for the distribution of provider and plan ratings and information. The database provides ratings of hospitals, physicians, health plans, HMOs, long term care facilities, dentists and other providers based on data from a variety of sources. A disclaimer indicates that HealthGrades is not a medical referral service and does not endorse any provider or service. Each user is required to accept the use agreement as listed.

HOSPITAL REPORT CARDS rate almost every hospital in the United States engaged in the specialties of cardiac surgery, cardiology, orthopedic surgery, neurosciences, pulmonary/respiratory care, vascular surgery and obstetrics. Obstetrics ratings are available for only fifteen states. A five star grade is assigned to the best performing hospitals. Four star facilities are considered very good and perform better than expected, three stars means that the hospitals perform as expected—or average. One and two stars indicate poor performance. To be rated the hospital must have thirty or more patients in each procedure or diagnosis. The data comes from MEDPAR files (except obstetrics) which include all patients over the age of 65 that are enrolled in Medicare. The data includes 100% of all hospitals in the Medicare program. Data is also collected from the states. The data reflects the years 1996-1998 which the site indicates is the most current data available.

To perform a search, select the state (followed by community or hospital name selection) or enter a specific zip code and select the type of procedure/diagnosis desired, then click on GO at the bottom of the page. The information given is the name of the hospital and the city where it is located. The statistical grades and charts follow. Driving directions and hospital profiles are also available. Each hospital has a profile that includes address, telephone number, facility type, ownership type, number of beds, a list of services provided and accreditation.

PHYSICIAN REPORT CARDS categorizes physicians into two groups: "leading physicians" and "other physicians." Not all physicians are listed. A "leading" physician must have been in practice for more than two years beyond residency, be board certified in his/her specialty, have no medicare sanctions in the past three years, no state medical board sanctions in the past three years, and in certain specialties must be affiliated with a hospital that has received a three-star grade or better. The information on each physician includes name, degree, gender, address and telephone number, medical school attended, specialties, board certifications, hospital affiliations, health plan affiliations, states licensed to practice in, years in practice, languages spoken and web site link.

Physician profiles may be accessed on the site by performing searches by city/state, specialty, or physician name. If the physician is not a "leading physician," users click on a tab entitled "other physician." If the desired physician is not included in either list, users can email the site with the name of the desired physician. A HealthGrades staff member will find out why the physician is not in the database and add the physician to the site.

In addition to the profiles and grades of the hospitals and the physicians, the database contains profiles on 60,000 chiropractors, 150,000 dentists, 21,000 assisted living residences, 17,000 nursing homes, 10,000 mammography facilities, and 300 fertility clinics.

CAMBRIDGE HISTORY OF ENGLISH AND AMERICAN LITERATURE

http://www.bartleby.com/cambridge

The Bartleby Project has accomplished a major task. It now has the entire 18 volume set of the CAMBRIDGE HISTORY OF ENGLISH AND AMERICAN LITERATURE ONLINE. Originally published in 1907-1921, there are more than 11,000 pages of information from 171 leading scholars of the early twentieth century. The online version has an index of chapters with hypertext links to each section. Each chapter or section written by a particular author is enumerated with a hypertext link. There is also an index of bibliographic sources. A search engine is inbedded which makes usage of the database much quicker. This site will certainly aid small libraries, which have small materials budgets and need additional scholarly literary information.

HIGHWIRE PRESS INDEX

http://highwire.stanford.edu/lists/freeart.dtl

Stanford University's Highwire Press has created a database of indexed and full-text articles from the science, technology and medical journals that it hosts for free. There are 140,000 full-text articles in the database. There is indexing for 650,000 articles. Stanford claims that this is one of the two largest free full-text science databases in the world. There are four journals with no time restrictions and 48 journals of which the back issues are available usually beginning after one year. There are an additional 38 journals which are available on a trial basis. Searching can be done by author, title, date, and key word in both title and full-text. The list of journals is also divided into four main subject categories: Medicine, Life Sciences, Social Sciences and Physical Sciences. The user must search using these categories of journals or by a single journal title. Indexing and abstracting goes back as far as 1965. Full-text articles can be found back to 1994. †

Dennis Read is President of Read & Associates, Library consultants. In his TCL "Websight" column, Dennis locates and reviews Internet websites which are helpful to Christian librarians in all fields and situations.