

WEBLIOGRAPHICAL GUIDE;

For writing in a medical journal.

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ABSTRACT... Objective: To search for the websites available on the World-Wide-Web that contain resources for scientific medical writing including medical writing advices, online biomedical journals, reference and citation guidelines and biostatistics webpages. **Methods:** Yahoo, Google scholar and Scirus search engines were used by entering the search terms “medical writing resources”, “biostatistics” and “citation guidelines” during the **Period:** June 2008 to December 2008. **Results:** Many websites were found containing instructions to authors in health sciences (<http://www.icmje.org/>, <http://mulford.meduohio.edu/instr/>, <http://amwadvc.org/>, <http://www.councilscience-editors.org/>, <http://www.medweb.emory.edu/>, <http://www.writerswrite.com/medical/>, <http://gateway.nlm.nih.gov/>, <http://www.au-thoraid.info/>, <http://www.equator-network.org/>), resources for online biomedical journals (www.pakmedinet.com, [FreeMedicalJournals.com](http://www.FreeMedicalJournals.com), [PubMedECntal.com](http://www.PubMedECntal.com), [findarticle.com](http://www.findarticle.com)) biostatistics information (<http://www.interstat.statjournals.net>, www.bmj.com/statbk/, <http://www.statpages.org/>, www.quantitativeskills.com/sisa) and reference guidelines (www.apastyle.org, <http://library.duke.edu/research/citing/>, <http://www.library.ualberta.ca/guides/citation/index.cfm>, <http://www.osu.edu/>). **Conclusions:** With the recent advancements in online availability of biomedical resources, internet may help a lot in putting up a research work into an article form and getting it published.

Key words: World Wide Web, medical journals, bibliography, biostatistics, scientific writing.

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INTRODUCTION

Physicians' use of internet to gather medical information has increased in the recent years¹. A growing number of websites offer resources and tools to assist physicians and scientists in preparing materials for their publications. They are intended to facilitate the publishing careers of physician writers. The purpose of this webliographical guide is to assist the doctors and medical students in writing for a medical journal as it includes the websites containing information regarding medical writing, biostatistics and citation guidelines.

METHOD

A search of the World Wide Web was carried out looking for the websites which may help researchers in putting up their research work and innovative ideas on paper. Yahoo, Google scholar and Scirus search engines were used by entering the search terms “medical writing resources”, “biostatistics” and “citation guidelines” during the period of June 2008 to December 2008.

RESULTS

(1) Portals for medical writing advices

Following is a list of websites found which are either solely dedicated to medical writing or contain pages that may help in scientific writing;

(2) Resources for medical journals

Reading journals is the first step towards writing in a medical journal. Pakmedinet (<http://www.pakmedinet.com>) is the Pakistan's first largest indexed database of medical journals of Pakistan⁵. Pakistan Medical Journals Association website (<http://www.pmja.com>) provides directory of medical journals approved by PMDC. This website aims at improving the quality and practice of medical journalism and relationship between journalists and medical professionals.

A complete list of international medical journals available online is well beyond the scope of this article but few of them are; FreeMedicalJournals.com for direct access to current issues of 1400 free, full text

Website Name	URL	Remarks
Medical College of Ohio's Mulford Library's website	http://mulford.meduohio.edu/instr/	There is an alphabetical list of links to Web sites that give instructions to authors.
American Medical Writers Association Delaware Valley chapter	http://amwa-dvc.org/	This web page provides many useful resources for scientific medical writing.
Purdue University's online writing lab	http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/	Many writing advices, referrals to other information, and downloadable handouts are available on this website.
International committee of Medical Journal Editors (ICMJE)	http://www.icmje.org/	This site is a detailed guide to the uniform format required for manuscripts submitted to biomedical journals. According to the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (ICMJE) "a small group of editors of general medical journals [subsequently known as Vancouver group] met informally in Vancouver, British Columbia, in 1978 to establish guidelines for the format of manuscripts submitted to their journals. Its requirements for manuscripts including formats for bibliographic references developed by the National Library of Medicine were first published in 1979" ² . The current guidelines have been updated on October 2008.
Council of scientific editors	http://www.councilscienceeditors.org/	It is the largest professional body of editors, publishers and writers in life sciences. Many informative resources are available on the site.
Medweb@Emory University	http://www.medweb.emory.edu/	Med web is a catalogue of biomedical and health sites maintained by the staff of Emory university's health sciences library. On the homepage, enter your search term and it will give any website containing that search term very quickly.
Writerswrite.com	http://www.writerswrite.com/medical/	Resources for medical writers including medical terms search, medical news, medical writing books and other medical writing links are available on this website.
National Library of Medicine	http://gateway.nlm.nih.gov/	Many of the National Library of Medicines (NLM) information resources are available on this gateway. Pub med is a database of NLM. It was developed by National Centre for Biotechnology information (NCBI) located at the U.S. National Institute of Health (NIH). PubMed is a place where millions of research article are present and can be reviewed at any time ³
European Medical Writers Association	http://www.emwa.org/	European Medical Writers Association supports medical writers and medical editors through training and networking opportunities. It is a great place to pick up the skills needed to broaden your horizons as a medical writer ⁴

Author AID	http://www.authoraaid.info/	Author AID is a global research community that provides networking, mentoring, resources and training for researchers in developing countries. This website also has a resource library containing power point presentations and pdf file on many informative topics e.g. how to prepare poster and oral presentations, citing references, writing grant proposals and CVs and publishing a journal article.
CCONSORT(Consolidated Standards of Reporting Trials) Statement Website	www.consort-statement.org/	CONSORT Statement, is an evidence-based, minimum set of recommendations for reporting randomized controlled trials (RCTs). It offers a standard way for authors to prepare reports of trial findings, facilitating their complete and transparent reporting, and aiding their critical appraisal and interpretation.
STROBE(STrengthening the Reporting of OBservational studies in Epidemiology)	http://www.strobe-statement.org/	The epidemiological studies should follow STROBE guidelines. STROBE stands for an international, collaborative initiative of epidemiologists, methodologists, statisticians, researchers and journal editors involved in the conduct and dissemination of observational studies, with the common aim of Strengthening the Reporting of Observational studies in Epidemiology.
Equator Network	http://www.equator-network.org/	This is website has a library which contains comprehensive lists of available reporting guidelines, listed by study type, including guidelines for experimental studies(CONSORT statement and its extensions like CONSORT harms), observational studies(STROBE,STREGA,ORION), Diagnostic accuracy studies (STARD) and many more. Links to the websites of all these guidelines are also available. Many resources for the authors of research reports, journal editors and peer reviewers and developers of the reporting guidelines are also available on this website.

medical journals; PubMedCentral.com a National Library of Medicine’s free database of full text articles, findarticle.com a search engine for finding articles.

(3) Style guide for bibliography and citing electronic resources

The reference list of a journal submission can provide a fascinating insight into the work ethics, experience and personality of an author. There are several reasons for using citations. One of the most important uses of references is to show the pathway to a discovery that

led to a specific research finding or opinion. References also should be used to validate and confirm hypotheses and statements in the narrative of the manuscript. The reference list should include works that enable a reader to find similar, as well as different, discoveries and opinions. On the whole, the number of citations and the criteria used to select citations are good reflections of scientific rigor, but they also may suggest an author’s personal agenda. There are many formats for bibliographical references;

Website Name	URL	Remarks
Vancouver style	http://www.lib.murdoch.edu.au/find/citation/vancouver.htm	The Vancouver style was first defined by a meeting of medical journal editors in Vancouver, Canada, in 1978. These guidelines follow the principles given in the Uniform Requirements for Manuscripts Submitted to Biomedical Journals: Writing and editing for biomedical publication published by the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (ICMJE) in 2004 and the American Medical Association Manual of Style, 9th edition, 1998. Vancouver Style uses a notational method of referencing when referring to a source of information within the text of a document. In its simplest form, a citation consists of a number in superscript format or enclosed by round brackets.
American psychological Association website	www.apastyle.org	American psychological Association has established a website (www.apastyle.org) exclusively elaborating APA style.
Duke University Libraries Citing Sources	URL: http://library.duke.edu/research/citing/	This link provides resources for different style formats including APA style, MLA style and Chicago manual of style.
University of Alberta`s website	URL: http://www.library.ualberta.ca/guides/citation/index.cfm	This link provides information about citing electronic sources in an article provided by the library of University of Alberta. Different types of electronic resources include World Wide Web sites, FTP sites, Synchronous Communications sites (MOOs, MUDs, Chats), Listservs, Newsgroups, E-Mail, Databases, CD-ROMs, diskettes, magnetic tapes and other portable computer databases.
Ohio State University's website	http://www.osu.edu/	The council of scientific editors citation guide based on the scientific style and format; The CSE manual for authors, editors and publishers 7th edition 2006 is available on The Ohio State University's website. It provides the examples of reference styles for a book, book chapter, journal article, dissertation/thesis, conference paper, conference abstract, technical report, electronic article etc.

(4) Learning statistics online

Statistics form an essential part of the medical literature. A basic understanding of statistics is vital for deciding the right research methods and analyzing results. Some of the useful biostatistics websites are as follows;

CONCLUSIONS

The Internet is rapidly evolving from a resource used primarily by the research community to a true global information network offering a wide range of databases and services. This evolution presents many opportunities for improved access to biomedical information¹. Nowadays the need for obtaining updated medical information is essential to doctors in

Website Name	URL	Remarks
statjournals	http://interstat.statjournals.net	It is the location on internet where one can publish or read about any aspect of statistical research or innovative method.
British medical journal website	www.bmj.com/statbk/	It is the web version of the introductory statistics textbook and is very useful for a beginner.
Statistics pages	http://statpages.org/	This link provides WebPages that cover almost every aspect of statistics. It also provides links to online statistics books, tutorials, downloadable software and related resources.
Simple Interactive Statistical Analysis(SISA)	www.quantitativeskills.com/sisa	SISA allows you to do statistical analysis directly on the Internet. All the statistical procedures are given on this website. One has to fill the form and analysis will be performed there and then.
Bibliographic software(Endnote, RefWorks,Zotero)	Zotero is can be downloaded for free from homepage http://www.zotero.org/ . A trial version of Endnote can be downloaded from http://www.endnote.com/endemo.asp for a period of thirty days after filling a simple form.RefWorks can be downloaded from the link http://linux.wareseeker.com/free-refworks-bibliography/ .	Endnote is excellent for organizing citations for papers and theses. It is the best option for major research projects, because it offers the most options for customization and formatting. Refworks allows users to share citations and is good for organizing citations for papers. Zotero is good for managing a variety of formats, including WebPages and offers most functionality in a free, open-source product.

practice as well as in research and the Internet, being the most easily accessible and affordable tool for extracting information, should be our first priority for this purpose. The websites referenced above will be of great help to medical students, clinicians and researchers in solving their problems faced while converting their thoughts and research work into an article on paper.

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