A SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY OF GERONTOLOGY AND GERIATRICS INFORMATION SOURCES

Submitted as a Course Requirement for
LIS 612 - Science and Technology Information Sources
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By

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A SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY OF GERONTOLOGY AND GERIATRICS INFORMATION SOURCES

Introduction

The first use of the term “gerontology” is attributed to I.L. Metchnikoff at the Pasteur Institute in Paris in 1903. Derived from the Greek roots of “gerontos” (old man) and “logos” (knowledge), gerontology may be simply defined as the study of aging. This study, however, draws upon research and information from several disciplines including biology, physiology, genetics, medicine, psychology, sociology, economics, technology, architecture, and political science. “Geriatrics,” sometimes called “geriatric medicine,” is the branch of medicine that concerns itself with the clinical aspects of aging. This neologism was coined by J. L. Nascher of New York in 1909. This selective bibliography will concentrate on and identify sources of information that relate to the biological, physiological, and medical aspects of aging, and, therefore, will not consider sources which primarily deal with the social or psychological aspects of the topic.

Jackson Library at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro and Belk Library at Appalachian State University are the repositories for the sources included in this bibliography. For sources that were accessed online, the bibliographic citation will note which of the two libraries’ electronic resources was used. Unless otherwise specifically noted, all items have the endorsement of location.

Currency of information is of paramount importance in the selection of useful sources for gerontology and geriatrics investigation. Ongoing research and advances in the practice of
gerontology and geriatric medicine demand that year of publication be carefully considered when choosing sources for this topic. The majority of the sources included in this bibliography have been published since 1990. To work within the limits (holdings) of the domain specified above, several entries published before 1990 were included due to their historical significance in this subject area, or the information they contained was considered reliable enough for current use. If more than two comparable sources were available for a given form (category), the most recent sources were selected. Likewise, when more than one edition of a specific title was available, the most recent edition was selected.

Citations for the sources have been formatted in accordance with Turabian’s *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations, 6th edition* (1996), which is based upon *The Chicago Manual of Style*.

While looking for information sources pertinent to gerontology/geriatrics, it was not always possible to locate two that were specific to one or both of these areas. This was handled by looking at the subject area more broadly, e.g., as allied health or biological sciences. Therefore, a few sources have been included which do not deal exclusively with gerontology or geriatrics, but treat these subjects within the context of a broader discipline. It should also be noted that gerontology/geriatrics-related sources could not be identified through searches of union catalogs and indexes for these categories: field guides, almanacs, preprints, taxonomic literature, and other primary sources. It is reasonable to conclude that these formats are either not applicable to the study of gerontology/geriatrics or else availability is limited to practitioners in the field. Though no sources were identified for these formats, appropriate page entries have been included in the bibliography to indicate this.
Finally, the rationale for selecting this topic merits a brief explanation. From a personal perspective as a middle-aged person who relates with the elderly in my extended family, church, and community, it is obvious that advancing age brings with it a host of health-related conditions and concerns that must be reckoned with on a daily basis. Therefore, it behooves me to anticipate and to seek fuller understanding of how these physiological changes may potentially affect my ability to function in a normal, independent fashion. From a vocational standpoint, demographic trends clearly point to an aging population. Even within my work setting with its traditional-aged student body (18-25 years of age), it is prudent to expect an increased demand for information relating to the characteristics and needs of the elderly as the university’s curricula and the expectations of society at large respond to these population changes. Familiarity and experience with up-to-date aging-related information sources will certainly have its place in the information commons of the 21st century.
Searching for and Retrieving Gerontology/Geriatrics Sources

A Sampling of Key Words/Phrases for Locating Information on This Topic

- aged
- aging
- elderly
- geriatrics
- geriatric medicine
- geriatric nutrition
- geriatric nursing
- geriatric pharmacology
- geriatric psychiatry
- geriatric sleep disorders
- gerontology
- old age
- older person
- old-old
- oldest-old
- senescence

Common Classification Numbers for Gerontology/Geriatrics Sources

<table>
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<th>Library of Congress (LC)</th>
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<tr>
<td>HQ 1060 - HQ 1064  Gerontology</td>
<td>HE 20.3851 - HE 20.3869  Nat’l Inst. on Aging</td>
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<tr>
<td>RC 451.4 .A5 Geriatric Psychiatry</td>
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Indexes


*Cumulated Index Medicus* is an annual cumulation of the National Library of Medicine’s print *Index Medicus*, a monthly bibliography of biomedical journal literature. *CIM* is a multi-volume set. A review of the citations in the 1999 *CIM* under “geriatrics” revealed several listed under this general heading. Other listings were noted for the “geriatrics” sub-topics, i.e., economics, education, history, instrumentation, legislation & jurisprudence, methods, organization & administration, standards, statistics & numerical data, and trends.

**Cumulative Index to Nursing and Allied Health Literature.** Glendale, CA: Cinahl Information Systems. Quarterly

This print index provides authoritative coverage of the literature in nursing and allied health. Over 1200 journals are reviewed and indexed. Many nursing and allied health disciplines are given comprehensive coverage; publications for gerontology are indexed selectively. All materials are indexed according to the CINAHL Subject Heading List, which is designed specifically for nursing and allied health and based upon the National Library of Medicine’s MeSH. A key component of this index is the *CINAHL Subject Headings* (part A or the “yellow pages”) which includes all valid subject headings and cross-references arranged in alphabetic, tree structure, and permuted formats. *CINAHL* is also available in electronic format. Published quarterly with the fourth quarter issued as a cumulative bound volume.
Abstracts


The Biological Abstracts (BA) database is produced by BIOSIS, the world’s largest life sciences indexing and abstracting service. BA indexes articles from more than 4000 biological and medical research journals. A search for BA for the current year (2001) yielded more than 1600 hits for “geriatrics” and nearly 500 for “gerontology.” A comprehensive source for abstracts of research findings for geriatrics/gerontology topics. The electronic version of BA is updated quarterly.

Excerpta Medica - Gerontology & Geriatrics (Section 20). Amsterdam, Netherlands: Elsevier Science. 10 issues per year.

Elsevier is one of world leaders in the provision of biomedical information. Excerpta Medica is a highly regarded abstracting service which produces a separate publication (section) for each subject area. Gerontology & Geriatrics is published as 10 issues per annual volume, with the final issue having cumulative contents and subject indexes for the entire volume. Gerontology & Geriatrics organizes its entries through 20 sub-topical areas which relate to primary research foci and major systems of the human body. The scholarly abstracts provide a descriptive summary of the research study. The format for the content of most abstracts includes the objective of the study, identification of the study subjects, design or methods, a discussion of results, and conclusion or summary statements.
Thesauri


This thesaurus is a controlled vocabulary of subject terms used to index journal articles, books, book chapters, and videos cited in the AgeLine database. The sixth edition of the Thesaurus contains 2030 main terms. The Thesaurus is divided into three sections: Relational Terms, which indicate all levels of relationship among Thesaurus terms, e.g., UF (used for), BT (broader term), NT (narrower term), and RT (related term); Rotated Terms, which provides an alphabetized columnar listing of all words found within Thesaurus terms: and, Geographical Terms, which provides a ready reference list of state, province, country, regional, and continent names searchable as descriptors. Also helpful feature is the Scope Notes (SN), which define the term and/or how AgeLine uses the term. For some terms, the SN will suggest a search strategy. This source is designed and arranged for use by laypersons. Readability is enhanced through the use of bold type, large fonts, and generous white space on the pages.


*MeSH (Medical Subject Headings)* is the National Library of Medicine’s controlled vocabulary of technical terms. *MeSH* is the current authority for the subject descriptors appearing in *Index Medicus*. *MeSH* provides the subject headings used for grouping citations in *IM*, serves as the basis for search formulations in retrieval of bibliographic citations stored in the NLM databases, and is the standard subject heading list for the cataloging of books, audiovisuals, and electronic resources in the Library. *MeSH* consists of an alphabetic list of headings as well as hierarchical tree structures. The print *MeSH* is published as a supplement to the January issue of *IM*, and it is also reproduced in its entirety in *CIM*. *MeSH Browser*, an online vocabulary look-up aid is available at: [http://www.nlm.nih.gov/mesh/](http://www.nlm.nih.gov/mesh/)

A search of *MeSH* and *MeSH Browser* revealed that the terms “Aged” and “Geriatrics” are included as major headings, whereas “Gerontology” yields a “see Geriatrics” entry.
Guides to the Literature


This well-written guide to gerontology literature was primarily designed for use by information specialists seeking sources of information dealing with the aged and with aging. Though the year of publication limits the book’s coverage of some prominent online sources, it otherwise provides an excellent introduction to the basic principles for searching the gerontology literature. Simple diagrams and tables are used effectively to illustrate key concepts. Several of the main classes of literature sources are discussed with references made to specific titles for each class. Another feature is the coverage given to agencies and organizations that supply information in the area of gerontology and geriatrics. One rather lengthy appendix is devoted to a subject-arranged reading list on the topic.


The preface identifies library school students and practicing librarians as the target audience for this guide to the literature. The purpose of the book is “to discuss various types of reference and information sources and their use in reference work in the health sciences, regardless of format.” “Bibliographic Sources” is one of the two primary sections of the text. This section gives gives chapter-length treatment to bibliographic sources for monographs and periodicals; indexing and abstracting services; electronic bibliographic databases; U.S. government documents and technical reports; and, conferences, reviews, and translations. Similarly, a second section provides chapters addressing terminology; handbooks and manuals; drug information sources; audiovisual, microcomputer, and multimedia reference sources; medical and health statistics; directories and biographical sources; history sources; and, grant sources. This guide provides the reader with a concise general introduction to each type of source, and then lists (cites) one or more key sources for each category. Following this listing, an informative description of each source details its most important features.
Bibliographies


Though more accurately an encyclopedia of aging-related topics than an almanac, this work has a number of features which make it appealing and useful. While covering a broad range of topics, the *Almanac* attempts to place information in a meaningful context to alert readers that many subjects in aging are dynamic. It is also interesting that this volume represents the collaboration of aging experts, librarians, and older adults. The *Almanac* has been included here as a bibliographic source because many of its chapters have extensive citations to journal articles and specialized monographs to point the reader to additional information. A general bibliography is also included to provide an alphabetical listing of classic literature in the field of aging. Annotations are not provided since they are not within the scope and purpose of this text.


“This bibliography consists of 302 entries that represent the work of North American scholars published from 1990 through 1998.” The bibliographic entries are divided among six topical categories relating to the study of chronic pain in older adults. “Each entry describing empirical studies includes a statement of the study’s purpose, sample, procedures, major findings, and conclusions and implications related to chronic pain. For overview or conceptual articles, each entry includes a statement of the author’s overall purpose for the article, key concepts and conclusions and implications concerning chronic pain in later life.” The detailed annotations offer substantial information regarding the research that has already been undertaken in this area and the “Introduction” section has conclusion statements that should prove helpful to the potential researcher as well.
**Translations**


Bertolini states in his preface the necessity “to define on a biological level the manner in which normal cells, tissues, and organs age, with the functional adjustment consequent with this process.” He further describes this treatise as “only an unpretentious collection of data from a wide range of publications” which was primarily intended for physicians who had an interest in gerontology. Bertolini’s far-ranging examination of the effects of aging covers everything from a general discussion of senescence to the detrimental changes which occur in human tissue and organs. Though much of the information presented in this work has been superseded by the knowledge gained from research and practice over the past three decades, it provides valuable insight on what was known about the biochemistry of aging as of the 1960's.


This historical work was first published in Rome, Italy, in 1489, and it has been described as the “first practical manual on the problems of old age.” The author is characterized as “one of the most remarkable medical men and anatomists of his time” and his *Gerontocomia* provides intriguing insight into his observations regarding the various periods of old age and prognostication of longevity. Zerbi also addresses issues relating to the preservation of old age and its mental and physical resources. The translator notes that Zerbi “employs the ancient system of humors, complexions, powers, qualities, operations, and spirits then in general use by all who dealt with the human body and based upon the writings of Aristotle and Galen.” Zerbi devotes one chapter to detail the choice of a caregiver (gerontocomos).
Dictionaries


The preface indicates a twofold purpose for this dictionary: “(1) to further the development of a specialized gerontological terminology; and (2), ...to assist students, scholars, researchers, and practitioners in the field in understanding the terminology that is used in the various disciplines that gerontology encompasses.” A distinctive feature of this dictionary is the inclusion of bibliographic references for each term immediately following its definition. Terms used in a definition that are themselves defined elsewhere in this work are noted with an asterisk, and related or relevant terms are listed at the end of many entries. The author notes that an effort was made to define the terms “as clearly and concisely as possible with the minimum amount of jargon.” Following the dictionary proper, a name index has been included to identify the page numbers for information on prominent persons associated with this field.


This handy work is a “collection of common terms used by gerontologists but with an emphasis on health and research.” It was written “for a broad audience - older persons and their families, students of aging, librarians, medical writers, allied health professionals, and others with a special interest in the field.” The words (terms) are arranged under nine subject categories. A pronunciation and explanatory definition is given for each entry. An index follows the glossary proper to provide another means of looking up terms. Though the year of publication might suggest the material is somewhat dated, this volume’s compact layout and searcher-friendly features make it one of the best dictionary sources available for this subject.
Encyclopedias


The preface states that the purpose of this encyclopedia is to “assemble the expanding knowledge [of aging] and make it easily accessible.” Use of this two-volume work is enhanced through a well-organized “contents” section (printed in both volumes) and a subject index at the end of the second volume. “Articles have been chosen to reflect major disciplines in the study of gerontology and adult development and aging, common topics of research by professionals in this realm, and areas of public interest and concern.” These articles serve as a “comprehensive overview of a given area, providing both breadth of coverage for students and depth of coverage for research professionals.” Each article has an outline, a glossary, cross references, and a bibliography to enhance reader comprehension and application of the contents. Many of the user aids are explained in a “How to Use the Encyclopedia” page which appears at the beginning of each volume.


The aim of this two-volume reference work is to provide an “authoritative, comprehensive, multidisciplinary, and readable introduction to gerontology and geriatrics.” Indeed, the list of entries requires six full pages and reveals an impressive breadth of coverage of aging-related topics. Two prominent features which attest to the scholarly nature of this encyclopedia are its comprehensive index (included in both volumes) and extensive cross-referencing within the text. The lengthy reference list at the end of Volume 2 offers a current overview of the literature in gerontology and geriatrics since 1995. Currency of the information and the extent of coverage qualify this encyclopedia as a highly recommended source for the layperson seeking authoritative introductory material for this field.
Handbooks


This ready reference source is a handbook designed for the needs of geriatrics practitioners, physicians-in-training, physician assistants, nurse practitioners, and teachers of health care for the elderly. Its chapters are filled with facts, tables, flow sheets, and clinically applicable data. Following a general overview chapter on aging and the elderly patient, most of the subsequent chapters cover the effects of aging on the major organs and body systems. Other chapter-length topics include oncologic problems, nutrition, infectious diseases, neurological problems, and preventive health care. Judicious use of bold type, outline formatting, lists, and tables facilitates quick retrieval of information. This volume’s compact size and sturdy wire binding are additional features which contribute to its worthiness as a “pocket” resource.


The preface for this handbook states that the aims of this source are “to provide an encyclopedic coverage of currently available data and knowledge regarding physiologic changes occurring with age from young adulthood on to and through senescence” and to provide “bibliographic documentation ... for all such data and knowledge.” The information provided in this book is organized and displayed in tables to facilitate ready reference use. Subject coverage includes organ systems plus other topics which transcend these systems such as body composition, exercise, and thermal regulation. Given the technical nature of the data, this handbook would be most useful to medical researchers and practitioners. The date of publication compromises this otherwise handy reference source.
Manuals and Guides


This manual is a comprehensive source of information relating to the health problems and concerns associated with aging. While primarily written to provide clinically relevant material for trained health care professionals, many sections would be readable and informative for the layperson as well. Manuscripts from more than 125 experts in geriatrics were reviewed in compiling the content of this volume. In the preface, the editors point out the close relationship of this source with the familiar Merck Manual of Diagnosis and Therapy, but are careful to emphasize that this source offers “longer discussions to explain the differences between normal and abnormal changes and to describe the multidisciplinary approach and the many complications, nuances, and differences in caring for older persons.” Introductions to many of the major sections give pertinent background material. The user friendly “contents” format facilitates efficient retrieval of needed information. An online version of this source is now available at: http://www.merck.com/pubs/mm_geriatrics/


“This manual is intended to be a concise guide for all clinicians involved in the care of elderly patients.” Major areas of coverage include: functional syndromes and organ system abnormalities; medical therapeutics; health maintenance issues; long-term care and rehabilitation issues; and, primary socioeconomic issues such as self-care, living wills, and elderly abuse. Tables and illustrations are used extensively to simplify complex issues and the arrangement of content through an outline format enhances accessibility of the information. Helpful appendices provide the practitioner with several of the most commonly used formulae, assessment instruments, forms, scales, etc. The compact size and durable spiral wire binding also contribute to the practical nature of this “pocket” manual.
Textbooks


Now available in the 6th edition (1998), this textbook is a comprehensive treatment of all of the medical aspects of old age. The material has primarily been written for use by medical students or practitioners in the medicine of old age. The content relies heavily on medical terminology and concepts, which precludes general use by most laypersons. The material is presented in three main sections: gerontology, geriatric medicine and services for the old. Further investigation of the topic is aided by extensive reference lists at the end of each chapter. Procedures for diagnosis and treatment of age-related disease and disorders are succinctly prescribed. Graphics are used sparingly and are not a prominent feature of this text.


In the preface, the author states that this textbook is “designed to provide the nutrition professional with the knowledge necessary to make appropriate decisions regarding the specific food and nutrition needs of older people and provide helpful advice to the client and caregiver regarding food selection.” An overview of the elderly population and their social, economic, and health characteristics is presented in the opening chapters. Next, the middle chapters focus on current research that evaluates the older population’s requirements for nutrients, vitamins, and minerals. The final chapters focus on the application of principles in nutrition practice. This text provides good coverage of the key topics associated with the nutritional aspects of aging. Teaching aids include learning objectives (listed at the beginning of each chapter), review questions, suggested learning activities, key words, and a glossary.
Monographs


This monograph is divided into two major sections with the first “devoted to the description of the causes and the mechanisms that cause aging” and the second examining several of the significant factors affecting the prolongation of life. The latter section includes chapters which discuss topics such as the role of diet in longevity, life styles, substitution of endogenous compounds and hormones, and medications and alternative medicine. Though the text is best-suited for those having some knowledge of the field, many chapters offer “stand-alone” coverage of specific aspects of aging, which makes this monograph useful for those with a more limited interest in particular aging-related topics. Two helpful features for the reader are a glossary that defines words appearing in boldface type in the text, and a list of suggested readings on aging. Each entry in the list has a brief annotation and a code to indicate whether it is more suitable for the scientifically knowledgeable reader or the layperson.


“Physicians, nurses, administrators, and staff in long-term care and other geriatric care settings” are the target audience for this monograph. Its purpose is to provide “an understanding of the extent and consequences of falls, the numerous factors involved in fall causation, and the management strategies available to prevent falls.” Chapter 1 is an overview of the problem (falling) and subsequent chapters discuss the complications and causes of falling, and fall and injury risk. Several categories of strategies for reducing fall risk are given chapter-length treatment. The final chapter is a review of mechanical restraints. Extensive referencing to research studies and literature document the scholarly basis for this writing. Chapter introductions are helpful for identifying key concepts and patient cases are used throughout the book to illustrate the discussion.
Histories


The primary focus of this history of gerontology is on twentieth-century developments in this field in the United States, but the book also traces the precursors of the scientific study of aging back several centuries. The book explores how old age became a “problem” meriting investigation and how a multidisciplinary orientation developed. The role of institutions of higher education and the federal government in establishing formal programs of study and research are documented as are the contributions of individuals who are significant in the field’s growth and prominence. The formation of the Gerontological Society and the Gerontology Research Center are discussed. The beginnings and evolution of the professional journals for this field are also covered. This text represents the first book-length study of the history of gerontology.


This article is an overview of the evolution of geriatrics as a separate and recognizable field of study and medical practice. Though the roots of geriatric medicine can be traced to classical Greece, it was well into the twentieth century before programs of research and clinical practice were initiated to define this medical specialty. From the point of view of this British author, the American initiative with geriatric medicine was more focused on research and less upon integration of services into the mainstream of health care, while the opposite is true for the United Kingdom. Offers brief historical references to some of the key people and events which led to wider acceptance of geriatrics practice and research by the medical community.
Treatises


Bertolini states in his preface the necessity “to define on a biological level the manner in which normal cells, tissues, and organs age, with the functional adjustment consequent with this process.” He further describes this treatise as “only an unpretentious collection of data from a wide range of publications” which was primarily intended for physicians who had an interest in gerontology. Bertolini’s far-ranging examination of the effects of aging covers everything from a general discussion of senescence to the detrimental changes which occur in human tissue and organs. Though much of the information presented in this work has been superseded by the knowledge gained research and practice over the past three decades, it provides valuable insight on what was known about the biochemistry of aging as of the 1960's.


The preface of this treatise declares that it provides a “comprehensive picture of what is already known” about the challenges, i.e., limited physical capacity, increased risks of falls and injuries, ability to restore function and independence, etc., to the general well-being of older adults. It also claims to present a “state-of-the-art knowledge base for health professionals and organizations” dealing with these problems. In addition to the overview chapter, other chapters address frailty epidemiology and risk factors, geriatric assessment, and interventions to increase physical capacities and optimize health behaviors and living environments. Conclusion statements and reference lists at the end of the chapters enhance comprehension and point the reader to other sources of information. Well-spaced text and readable fonts will appeal to the user. Helpful for the layperson and others interested in this subject.
Reviews of the Literature


This prestigious annual “examines and appraises current progress in research, clinical practice, and program development across disciplines.” Each annual volume has a focus or theme with Volume 20 (2000) being a review of “The End of Life: Scientific and Social Issues.” The editor acknowledges that this topic is relatively new and broad in scope, but the intention of this volume is to “help shape the topic and contribute to structuring its components so that more exact study can be applied...” Though many of the chapters are primarily concerned with social aspects of end of life issues, two others “Comfort in Older Adults at the End of Life” and “Clinical Aspects of End-of-Life Care” deal with some of the medical considerations of this topic. With much of the content deriving from reviews of research and scientific studies, the material would likely be of more interest to researchers, medical professionals, or students in this field than to laypersons. Most chapters are rather lengthy and include a section for a summary or conclusion statements and a well-developed list of references.


“This review explores existing literature in the area of stair negotiation by older persons in an effort to define the key factors associated with difficulty and safety on stairs and to interpret these findings in the light of possible interventions that could increase stair safety.” Statistics clearly document the risk of serious injury or even death posed by the elderly’s use of stairs. Among the intrinsic factors discussed are vision, cardiovascular status, musculoskeletal health, cognition, and neurological status. Extrinsic factors include stair design and maintenance, footwear and clothing, distracting events, and lighting. Both the intrinsic and extrinsic factors are reviewed in light of the findings and reports of other researchers. A number of interventions are suggested for amelioration of the risk factors. A glossary is included which defines many of the less familiar terms.
Annuals and Yearbooks


This prestigious annual “examines and appraises current progress in research, clinical practice, and program development across disciplines.” Each annual volume has a focus or theme with Volume 20 (2000) being a review of “The End of Life: Scientific and Social Issues.” The editor acknowledges that this topic is relatively new and broad in scope, but the intention of this volume is to “help shape the topic and contribute to structuring its components so that more exact study can be applied...” Though many of the chapters are primarily concerned with social aspects of end of life issues, two others “Comfort in Older Adults at the End of Life” and “Clinical Aspects of End-of-Life Care” deal with some of the medical considerations of this topic. With much of the content deriving from reviews of research and scientific studies, the material would likely be of more interest to researchers, medical professionals, or students in this field than to laypersons. Most chapters are rather lengthy and include a section for a summary or conclusion statements and a well-developed list of references.


This volume has seven sections (chapters) which cover primary research areas in gerontology, e.g., nutrition and aging. Each section opens with one or more full-length research articles which are followed by a “News in ...” sub-section which provides abstracts of other representative articles for the subject. The final entry in each section is a “Selection of Literature” sub-divided subject bibliography of journal citations on the topic. Gerontological research in Finland, Japan, and the United Kingdom are given special attention in the final section. Overall, the content is research-oriented making it more appropriate for practitioners or those engaged in professional study. This work is useful for gaining an international perspective of the developments and trends in gerontological research.
Field Guides

No field guides were identified for gerontology/geriatrics.
No almanacs were identified for gerontology/geriatrics.
**Compendia and Anthologies**


The preface to this compendium distinguishes its purpose as a publication that is intended to focus on some important areas of geriatric medicine rather than providing a comprehensive text on all aspects of the subject. Further, the preface indicates that the topics have been selected with regard to “gaps in knowledge concerning the care of the elderly found in junior and senior medical staff.” In addition to physicians, the potential audience includes “medical students, graduate nurses and those in the remedial professions...” Among the topics covered are respiratory diseases, endocrinology, nutrition and malnutrition, anaemia, continence and incontinence, and surgical management of the very old. The subject index is helpful for locating topics with a more limited focus. The main shortcoming of this text is the datedness of the information.


This volume has seven sections (chapters) which cover primary research areas in gerontology, e.g., nutrition and aging. Each section opens with one or more full-length research articles which are followed by a “News in...” sub-section which provides abstracts of other representative articles for the subject. The final entry in each section is a “Selection of Literature” sub-divided subject bibliography of journal citations on the topic. Gerontological research in Finland, Japan, and the United Kingdom are given special attention in the final section. Overall, the content is research-oriented making it more appropriate for practitioners or those engaged in professional study. This work is useful for gaining an international perspective of the developments and trends in gerontological research.
Periodicals


Published by one of the major organizations in the gerontology/geriatrics field, this journal is primarily research oriented. The Biological Sciences section of the journal contains articles on the biological aspects of aging in areas such as biochemistry, cellular and molecular biology, exercise science, genetics, immunology, physiology, etc. The Medical Sciences section has articles representing the full range of medical sciences pertaining to aging from areas such as basic medical services, clinical epidemiology, clinical research, and health services research. Given the focus on reporting research, the target audience for this journal would be researchers and practitioners from the various gerontology-related disciplines.


This monthly journal is primarily intended for physicians who care for the elderly. Its goal is to publish peer-reviewed articles that are relevant to the clinical care of this population. The “sections” of this journal represent categories of articles. For the October, 2001, issue, “Clinical Investigations” has several articles reporting investigator-initiated research, and the “Brief Reports” section included two articles which are clinical-investigation or clinical-experience reports whose findings are somewhat preliminary. Other prominent sections include “Geriatric Literature” which reviews articles from other journals, “Editorials,” and “Letters to the Editor.” Colorful pharmaceutical advertising at the beginning and classified ads at the end make this predominately research-focused publication a bit more interesting.
Conference Proceedings


This book records the proceedings of the Second Conference on the Epidemiology of Aging held March 28-29, 1977, at the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, Maryland. The purpose of this conference was to review the state of the art in order to identify the needs in the epidemiology of aging. Program themes (sessions) addressed the following: definitions of aging; biomedical correlates of aging; social, psychological and functional correlates of aging, demographic trends and health care implications; and, a summary session to review what the conference had covered and to identify major gaps in existing knowledge of the problems of the aged. A broad range of aging-related issues are covered by the topical presentations and discussions recorded in this volume. Though the material would now be regarded as dated with respect to what has been learned during the intervening years, it does offer a useful perspective on current knowledge and trends at that time (1977).


This volume presents “the edited proceedings of a conference held at the Pennsylvania State University, October 22-24, 1989” that was sponsored by the Penn State Gerontology Center. The purpose of this publication is “to highlight the interface between social structures and the behavioral and biological processes of the human aging process specifically as they affect health behaviors and health outcomes in older persons.” The content is intended to “reflect the past progress, the current problems, and the future promise of efforts to understand the role of psychosocial factors in aging and health.” The primary emphases are: social stratification of age and health; reporting of results from a major epidemiological study; and, “specific exemplars of the relation between aging, social factors, and health outcomes for the topics of cancer and depression.” Researchers and practitioners would be the target audience for this publication.

This study “focuses on the functional status of the elderly and ways in which technology can assist them to maintain their independence and enhance their quality of life.” More specifically, this report “discusses five chronic conditions, their impact on the lives of those afflicted, potential health improvements from behaviors that may delay onset of chronic diseases, the need for increased biomedical research, and how telecommunications can foster self-health care.” This is a comprehensive study of the relationship between technology and aging which incorporates several key issues including health promotion/disease prevention, nutrition, medications, health care costs, housing, and the living environment of the elderly. While the document in its entirety is rather broad, Chapter 1 is an executive summary which outlines and discusses the primary issues. Appended are a glossary and sections providing “up-to-date” information on aging-related cell biology, nutrition, biotechnology, and statistical data regarding workplace technology and the employment of older adults. Given the year of publication, this source must be used with caution, but it does offer perspective on many of the most important challenges affecting the elderly.


This report examines two key issues related to the provision of life-sustaining technologies to the elderly: financial access and the right to choose. Chapter 1 gives a summary of the report and policy options for lawmakers. Next, Chapter 2 presents an overview of the major historical and sociological events, i.e., the context, that influenced the call for this assessment. Legal and ethical issues affecting decisions about the use of life-sustaining technologies are covered in Chapters 3 and 4. Selected life-sustaining technologies are individually considered in the next five chapters and include detailed information describing the technology and its application, and indicating what is known about current utilization, costs of care, and the clinical outcomes. These reviews of the particular technologies draw upon true case examples which present the experiences of individual patients and their families. The final chapter, Chapter 10, is concerned with “issues related to the supply and the professional preparation of the many professional caregivers involved in life-sustaining treatments for elderly people.” Though some of the content has likely been superseded by advances in medical technology and practice since the year of publication, this document, nonetheless, presents a comprehensive examination of many critical decisions impacting the care of the elderly today.
Dissertations


This dissertation was based upon a study that was conducted to show how antioxidants bear upon the aging process. Through experiments performed with elderly human subjects and mice, it was demonstrated that antioxidant nutritional supplements produce beneficial effects in decreasing the amount of plasma melandialdehyde and one parameter of lipid peroxidation and improving the amount of IL-2 produced. The technical content of this document limits its usefulness to medical researchers and others with a working knowledge of the subject area.


As the title and date of publication attest, this thesis has historical value as being among the earliest of formal documents in this country to focus on the infirmities of old age. The author, probably in keeping with the thinking and accepted practice of his era, proposes that circulation of the blood is the primary means of conveyance since “the fluids of the human body are sources of many disorders.” A case is developed for eliminating the accumulating “excess mass” from the bloodstream through the process of blood letting. In his concluding statements, Scudder maintains “that numerous diseases of this period of life [old age] are relieved by it [blood letting], and therefore we have no hesitation in recommending it.” Though the thinking and methods advocated by this thesis seem crude, they reflect what was known about the conditions associated with aging at that time. Thus, this document affords a useful perspective on how dramatically conventional wisdom and methodology have changed over the past two centuries.
Tables


This compilation of statistical data was produced to facilitate researchers’ retrieval of relevant information on aging Americans. Most of the information was extracted from government sources and, generally, the tables and charts are reproduced as they appeared in their original sources. A “List of Tables and Charts” section arranges the included data elements under 6 main categories: demographics, social characteristics, health status, employment, economic conditions, and expenditures for the elderly. At the beginning of each main category (section), an overview and summary statements are used to provide an overall picture of the contents. The sources consulted for each of the tables and charts are listed in the back of this volume. Two other handy features are the glossary and a guide which provides contact information for other aging-related organizations and agencies. Included in the latter feature is a reproduced list of telephone contacts for data users of the U.S. Bureau of the Census, which gives the direct telephone numbers for specific offices within the Bureau.


This report presents the latest statistics on older Americans using narrative and statistical tables. Key data relating to the demographics, living arrangements, income levels, housing, employment, education, health and health care, etc., are among the 12 subject areas covered. From this data, narrative statements, charts, and tables are used to provide a profile of the most important characteristics of the elderly. An excellent source for up-to-date information presented in a logical, concise format.
Patents


This patent is for a nutritional supplement for physiologically and biochemically enhancing mitochondrial function in cells. It is widely accepted that mitochondrial function and energy production decline with cellular degeneration associated with the normal aging process. This supplement will counteract some of the biochemical processes accompanying cellular degradation, and it would be administered on a daily basis as an orally ingested tablet or liquid. Both the abstract and the description are replete with technical language and medical terminology.


This patent covers a method for retarding the aging process and improving the symptoms of human age-related disease conditions resulting from diminished pineal melatonin functions and reduced serotonin neurotransmission. The procedure involves administering to the human subject a composition which increases serotonin neurotransmission followed by an application to the subject’s brain an AC pulsed magnetic field. While the method per se seems a bit far-fetched, some interesting background information is shared regarding the role of melatonin as a “master hormone” which functions as a regulator of the body’s biological cycles. For the most part, however, the reading of this material would be limited to those with a medical background or some knowledge of the subject.
Standards


This position statement opens with a cogent presentation of patient care needs that calls for a standard and professional approach to care for those who are dying. Two key terms are defined and discussed as used in the context of this paper. The remainder of the article is a statement of the primary issues in four areas: patient care, health care delivery, education, and research. For each of these areas, key points are stated separately and followed by a rationale which elaborates the thought underlying the point. The purpose of this document is to promote a uniform approach to the care of the dying by identifying and enumerating the basic principles that should be followed in providing professional services. This concise position statement should be helpful to students and practitioners.


“Information that is essential for those responsible for planning, monitoring, or ensuring high-quality meal services for the elderly” is the focus of this menu planning manual. It contains guidelines for providing meals that comply with the revised Recommended Dietary Allowances (RDAs) requirements that were originally established by the Older Americans Act of 1965. This manual is a product of the knowledge and experience of the Gerontological Nutritionists, a practice group of The American Dietetic Association. Federal nutrition standards are covered in chapter 2 and menu specifications/guidelines for Elderly Nutrition Programs (ENPs) are included as Appendix A.5. Another useful element of this text is the food safety and sanitation standards governing the daily tasks of foodservice workers (Chapter 7). Other attractive features are the wire binding which keep the pages flat when the book is open, generous white space in the text, and the use of non-technical language.
Government Publications


This handy work is a “collection of common terms used by gerontologists but with an emphasis on health and research.” It was written “for a broad audience - older persons and their families, students of aging, librarians, medical writers, allied health professionals, and others with a special interest in the field.” The words (terms) are arranged under nine subject categories. A pronunciation and explanatory definition is given for each entry. An index follows the glossary proper to provide another means of looking up terms. Though the year of publication might suggest the material is somewhat dated, this volume’s compact layout and searcher-friendly features make it one of the best dictionary sources available for this subject.


This publication is a compilation of 45 of the National Institute on Aging’s *Age Pages* fact sheets which are “based upon current scientific information from researchers at universities and medical centers throughout the country.” These fact sheets present practical information on aging-related topics for the layperson. The information is concise and offers simple definitions of medical terms. The text is produced in a large, clear font which facilitates use by the intended audience. The table of contents provides easy identification of the topics covered. Each fact sheet concludes with a “For More Information” section to guide the reader to additional sources.
Taxonomic Literature

No taxonomic literature was identified for gerontology/geriatrics.
Other Primary Sources

No other primary sources were identified for gerontology/geriatrics.
Trade Catalogs and Manufacturers’ Literature


Springer Publishing offers professional books and journals in a number of health science disciplines including gerontology and geriatrics. Among the sections listed in the Gerontology and Geriatrics catalog are “health & biomedical” and “nursing” which have some 40 combined entries. Topics or titles are easily searched through the table of contents or the title index. Most entries have a brief annotation or capsule review along with a listing of contents. Physical data and, of course, prices are given as well. All information is presented in a clear, reader-friendly format. Many entries include a “thumbnail” facsimile of the item’s front cover.


This section of the electronically-accessed catalog lists 51 films in VHS format that address various aspects of aging including the aging process, healthy aging, grief and healing, and caregiving. This company offers more than 7000 video, CD-ROM, and videodisc programs that cover a broad range of subject areas relevant for schools, colleges, and public libraries. Importance of the subject, quality of the production, and relevance as an instructional aid are three of the criteria used by the editorial board in selecting programs (films) for distribution and sale.
Directories


This comprehensive guide “to resources for and about older people in the United States” is intended for the information needs of “seniors, students, educators, social service providers, and other interested individuals.” The five main categories (sections) for organizing the contents are: U.S. Organizations, Programs and Services, Government Agencies and Programs, Publications, and Other Resources. A user’s guide provides descriptive listings that include the scope, extent of entry, arrangement, source of data, and indexing format for each of the 20 chapters covered by the five main categories. An alphabetical name and subject index also supports efficient retrieval of information. This source rates a “thumbs up” for ease of use and comprehensive coverage.


This directory provides comprehensive coverage of the resources and services for older Americans. It is “intended for a wide audience, including older people and their families, students of aging, health professionals, librarians, legal professionals, providers of social services, and others who have a special interest in the field of aging.” In addition to listing typical directory information, e.g., addresses and telephone numbers, this government source has brief descriptions of the purpose (mission), services provided, and publications of over 200 national organizations. The only shortcomings in this otherwise excellent source are the datedness of the address/telephone number listings and the omission of Web site information. (The year of publication pre-dates the World Wide Web.)
Atlases


An intriguing Web site which provides magnetic resonance (MR) images of the human brain. While most of this site’s content relates to central nervous system-related brain diseases, it also contains images which show the effects of normal aging. The viewer is able to see the changes in the gray matter in the brain of a healthy 76-year-old woman who participated in the research project that produced these MR images.


“This atlas provides color photographs of most disorders found in elderly patients. Includes lab photos, x-rays, and CAT scans of presenting symptoms seen in disorders of the: head, face, neck, brain, chest, abdomen, upper and lower limbs, and skin.”

*This source does not have the endorsement of location. Identified via WorldCat through Belk Library on November 21, 2001, and noted that the only North Carolina collection holding this item is the Mountain Area HEC. The abstract included for this source was found at: http://www.usc.edu/isd/locations/science/gerontology/MLA/mlabib_refG.html
This print document is a union list of the medical journal holdings of 36 information centers located in 17 counties of northwestern North Carolina. The journals represented by this list have been selected to meet the information needs of healthcare professionals, though a few titles would also appeal to the layperson. A review of this list indicates that the following gerontology/geriatrics-related journals are among the Northwest AHEC holdings:

- Aging
- Clinical Geriatrics
- Clinics in Geriatric Medicine
- Geriatric Medicine Today
- Geriatric Nursing
- Geriatrics
- Gerontologist
- Journal of Gerontological Nursing
- Journal(s) of Gerontology
- Journal of the American Geriatrics Society

Western North Carolina Library Network (WNCLN).

This network consists of the libraries at Appalachian State University, the University of North Carolina at Asheville, and Western Carolina University. WNCLN was formed in 1986 for the purpose of acquiring an integrated library system and creating a mechanism for sharing library resources. The shared online catalog has more than 1 million bibliographic records and approximately 2 million item records. A catalog search for “gerontology” yielded 113 subjects with a total of 365 entries; for “geriatrics,” 40 subjects with 171 entries; and, for “aging,” 229 subjects with 1021 entries.
Non-Print Materials


“This program [video] explores the physical changes that result from aging, and some of the diseases associated with the process.” An emphasis of this video is to “distinguish between the changes of normal aging and the diseases to which older people are prone.” The viewer learns that some of these changes can be slowed down or reversed through exercise, monitoring of diet, etc. Several “live” segments demonstrate how aging affects the functioning of body organs and systems. The narration is concise, instructive, and appropriately focused. This video is an effective tool for presenting the basic physiological concepts of human aging.


This wallchart utilizes several variations of color bar graphs to depict significant population trends, particularly as this relates to the elderly. “The statistics ... are intended to highlight the present and future dimensions of population aging in the Americas [Western Hemisphere] ...” Informative summary statements accompany each graph to further elaborate on key observations and implications of these trends. The wallchart includes a section that explains the sources and quality of the data presented in the graphs. This source is accessible online at:
http://www.census.gov/ipc/www/agingam.html