HIV Mental Health for the 21st Century

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Appendix B: Resources — Obtaining HIV/AIDS Information Fast

HIV/AIDS information is so easily and inexpensively obtained that there is no excuse for having insufficient information. The best resource is a helpful librarian, who can show you what on-line and off-line data bases are available to you, as well as direct you to books, reports, and journals. If you do not have easy entry to a medical library, your librarian can likely arrange for guest privileges. Also, do not forget the availability of interlibrary loan arrangements. The following are sources of information, with special emphasis on fast retrieval through computers or fax services.

**CDC National AIDS Clearinghouse**

The clearinghouse is the foremost repository of HIV/AIDS-related information. For starters, request the *Catalog of HIV and AIDS Education and Prevention Materials* and the *Guide to Selected HIV/AIDS-Related Internet Resources*. Information can be obtained in several ways:

Phone order for mail delivery of documents and for information about HIV/AIDS-related issues, such as service agencies and organizations and funding: (800) 458-5231. You can then talk to a representative.

Phone order for fax delivery: Call (800) 458-5231 and go through the
telephone tree until you get to the fax service. You'll then have two options. The first is to request a fax of available documents. The second allows you to request documents by code number. In each case, you have to punch in your fax number. The response can be almost immediate.

E-mail order for mail delivery: aidsinfo@cdcnac.aspensys.com.

Information via a website: The CDC National AIDS Clearinghouse Internet Website is an impressive doorway to HIV/AIDS information and can be accessed by keying http://www.cdcnac.org. Its file transfer protocol site provides access to surveillance reports, clinical care guidelines, resource guides, and other information. Its gopher gives access to the AIDS Daily Summary, AIDS-related articles in government publications, statistics, funding, and other information.

The website will link you to many other web and gopher sites, including those of the CDC Division of HIV/AIDS Prevention, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Computerized AIDS Ministries, Food and Drug Administration, HIV/AIDS Ministries Network, the National Foundation for Infectious Diseases, the National Library of Medicine, and the Yahoo Page of AIDS Information Sites, where even more information can be found. The CDC NAC website is where I'd start any information search.

CDC National AIDS Clearinghouse Online, a computerized information network that allows you to obtain computerized access to the clearinghouse and bulletin board services: Set computer software to data bits, 8; parity, none; stop bits, 1, hardware flow control, On; Software flow control, Off; Terminal emulation, VT100 and dial (800) 851-7245. First-time users will get a series of prompts. You can also receive the service's quick reference guide through the Fax service (code 1006).

Other Websites

The *Journal of the American Medical Association* has created an Internet site devoted to AIDS/HIV news, including clinical updates and journal article information. Its address: http://www.ama-assn.org/special/hiv/.

The Center for AIDS Prevention Studies at the University of California at San Francisco has an Internet home page with prevention information: http://www.caps.ucsf.edu/capsweb/
HIV/AIDS Treatment Information Service

This free telephone service for providers and others provides information about the latest federally approved treatment options and research findings. Call (800)-HIV-0440. TTY is (800) 243-7012. Or you can send an e-mail information request to atis@cdcnac.aspensys.com.

Information regarding clinical trials of drugs can be obtained by calling (800)-TRIALS A.

Various HIV/AIDS-Related Electronic Bulletin Boards

Using your computer and modem, you can also receive a wealth of information from electronic bulletin board services (known as BBSs). Note that some, like HandsNet, charge a subscription fee. Others, while free to subscribers, may entail long-distance phone charges. A list of bulletin board services can be obtained by fax from the NAC Fax service by requesting publication 2000.

HandsNet is subscribed to by the editor of this book. It is a gathering of several health and welfare bulletin boards, on topics including AIDS/HIV, substance abuse, legal services, rural issues, health issues, housing/community development, and children, youth, and families. With a subscription, you can modem in and select information from any of the boards. The software is very friendly and allows for key-word searches. The AIDS/HIV bulletin board is weak in reporting breaking news—I find I learn more, faster from the New York Times. But the health issues board and others give me access to much useful and timely information. Because a subscription is costly, you should urge your graduate program or library to subscribe. Contact: HandsNet, 20195 Stevens Creek Blvd., Suite 120, Cupertino, CA 95014. Phone (408) 257-4500.

Computerized AIDS Ministries Resource Network is sponsored by the Health and Welfare Ministries Program, General Board of Global Ministries, United Methodist Church. Content is primarily religious. Data line is (212) 222-2135.

HNS HIV-Net is sponsored by Home Nutrition Services and provides information for health care professionals. To register, modem to (800) 788-4118.

In addition, there are several regional bulletin boards and a network of BBSs called the AIDS Education and Global Information Service, which has many affiliate BBSs in the United States and Canada. For additional
information, order the *Guide to Selected HIV/AIDS-Related Electronic Bulletin Boards* from the CDC National AIDS Clearinghouse.

**Online Databases**

The National Library of Medicine has HIV/AIDS databases that can be accessed by computer, or a caller can speak to a representative. The computer costs are approximately $18 per hour of use. Purchase of Grateful Med software is recommended. For more information on how to access these and other NLM databases, call (800) 638-8480:

- **AIDSLINE**, with more than 100,000 references to books, journals, newsletters, audiovisuals, and abstracts of papers from scientific meetings.
- **AIDSTRIALS** and **AIDSDRUGS**, two databases with information on clinical trials of drugs and vaccines. Information from these databases can be obtained from a person by calling (800) TRIALS-A.
- **HSTAT** (Health Services and Technology Assessment Text) contains texts of official government clinical practice guidelines and other documents useful in health care decision making. This information can be obtained without computer by calling the HIV/AIDS Treatment Information Service, (800) HIV-0440.
- **DIRLINE** is an annotated directory listing 17,000 organizations, including 2,300 that provide nonclinical HIV/AIDS-related services.

**Offline Databases**

Your academic library may have some of the following databases on CD-ROM:

- **AIDS Compact Library**, by MacMillan New Media, which has full-text HIV/AIDS articles from a variety of journals, citations and abstracts from several databases, and two useful newsletters, *AIDS Clinical Care* and *AIDS Newsletter*.
- **Compact Library: AIDS**, by the Medical Publishing Group, contains the text of *AIDS Knowledge Base*, a very helpful source of medical information; 4,000 full-text articles; and the AIDS subset of Medline, a National Library of Medicine database.