



Websites about Plain Language and Health Literacy

Academic

Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health: Health Literacy Studies Web Site

www.hsph.harvard.edu/healthliteracy

This site has information for researchers and practitioners in public health, and adult education. An introduction to health literacy with PowerPoint overview, previews of videos, research reports, innovative health education materials, how to create and evaluate plain language handouts, curricula, literature review, annotated bibliography, and links to easy-to-read health information sites is included. This site also has a copy of the out of print classic book *Teaching Patients with Low Literacy Skills*, by Doak, Doak, and Root (1996).

Health Research for Action—UC Berkeley

www.healthresearchforaction.org

Health Research for Action, a center in UC Berkeley's School of Public Health conducts research and translates findings into innovative policies, tools, and programs. Their goal is to change lives by reducing health disparities and building healthier communities.

National Academy of Sciences

www.nap.edu/catalog.php?record_id=10883

The health literacy section of this website contains a brief report on the April 2004 publication, "Health Literacy: A Prescription to End Confusion," and information on how to order the book. If you enter **Health Literacy** in the search box, you will find many other valuable health literacy resources.

OSU /AHEC Clear Health Communication Program

<http://medicine.osu.edu/orgs/ahec/CHCP>

The AHEC program at The Ohio State University College of Medicine – Office of Outreach and Engagement supports a health literacy program that includes modules for health professionals and consultative services.

Commercial

Clear Language Group

www.clearlanguagegroup.com

The site contains detailed explanations of plain language as a movement and as a method. Also on the website are descriptions of the services, which include consulting, coaching, writing, editing,

presenting, training, assessing materials and audiences, communicating across cultures, and producing multimedia.

Health Literacy Consulting

<http://healthliteracy.com>

Health Literacy Consulting, created by Helen Osborne, has many articles and tips on health literacy, written by her. She provides a consulting, training, advocating, coaching, and writing/editing service and podcasts on this topic. She is the founder of the National Health Literacy Month, celebrated in October each year.

Pfizer Clear Health Communication Initiative

www.pfizer.com/health/literacy

Learn more about health literacy and ways in which your organization can address this issue. Download Pfizer's **Principles for Clear Health Communication Handbook** and health literacy fact sheets. Hover over **Health** to locate the health literacy resources.

Plain Language at Work Newsletter

www.impact-information.com

William DuBay provides many articles and research reports on plain language. Included are links to plain language websites and archives of the Plain Language at Work Newsletter.

Plain Language Online Training

www.plainlanguagenetwork.org/plaintrain

Plain Train assists the health care professional in creating plain language handouts. Topics that are covered include your reader and purpose, organizing ideas, appropriate words, simple sentences, effective paragraphs, design and testing.

Plain Language Service

www.cpha.ca/en/pls.aspx

This website provides information for health care providers explaining what plain language is and how to write health information at the 4th to 6th grade level. A plain language service, from the Canadian Public Health Service, takes difficult patient handouts and revises them into plain language for a fee.

Plain Language Wizardry

www.plainlanguage.com

Plain Language Wizardry publishes a variety of excellent publications. Cheryl Stephens is a leader in the field of plain language communications, and a dynamic and vibrant speaker. After six years of practicing law in the 80s, Cheryl found her calling as an educator, trainer, and consultant in communication, social marketing, and plain language. For more than twenty years, she has been writing, speaking, and teaching about plain language and clear understandings, helping clients to become better communicators following her research-based advice.

Government

Agency for Health Research & Quality

www.ahrq.gov

This government agency has a number of reports and documents on Health Literacy, to locate them type Health Literacy in the search box. Among them is the January 2004 evidence-based report on **Literacy and Health Outcomes**. To find this report click on **Research Tools and Data, EPC Evidence-Based Reports, Search All EPC Reports**, click to expand all years, click to expand all documents for 2004, click on **January 2004**.

Center for Disease Control

www.cdc.gov/healthliteracy

This website has materials for patients/clients, reports for professionals, and a guide (*Simply Put*) with tips for putting information in readable, plain language. For *Simply Put* click or go to this link www.cdc.gov/healthliteracy/pdf/Simply_Put.pdf. A training program called Health Literacy for Public Health Professionals can be found by clicking on the **Find Training** tab.

Health Resources & Services Administration, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

www.hrsa.gov/publichealth/healthliteracy

www.hrsa.gov/culturalcompetence

This website provides a number of useful resources on health literacy and addressing those issues across the cultural spectrum.

LINCS Literacy Information and Communication System

<https://lincs.ed.gov>

LINCS is a national leadership initiative of the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Career, Technical, and Adult Education (OCTAE) to expand evidence-based practice in the field of adult education.

LINCS demonstrates OCTAE's commitment to delivering high quality, on-demand educational opportunities to practitioners of adult education, so those practitioners can help adult learners successfully transition to postsecondary education and 21st century jobs.

LINCS is comprised of: 1) the LINCS Resource Collection 2) Regional Professional Development Centers 3) the LINCS Community, an online community of practice and 4) the Learning Portal. These components provide adult educators with the information, resources, professional development activities, and online network they need to enhance their practice and ensure their adult students receive high-quality learning opportunities.

National Assessment of Adult Literacy (NAAL)

<http://nces.ed.gov/naal>

The 2003 NAAL is a nationally representative assessment of literacy among adults residing in households and prisons in the U.S. It was conducted by the National Center for Education Statistics. There is a health literacy component to the survey.

Government

National Cancer Institute

www.cancer.gov/publications/health-communication

This website provides two useful Health Communication resources you can print from this site:

- **Making Health Communication Programs Work**
A guide to communication program planning that includes strategy development, testing concepts and materials, implementing programs, and more.
- **Making Data Talk: A Workbook**
This workbook provides key information, practical suggestions, and examples on how to communicate effectively health-related scientific data to the public, policy makers, and the media.

National Institutes of Health Clear Communication

www.nih.gov/institutes-nih/nih-office-director/office-communications-public-liaison/clear-communication

This website provides a wide range of learning tools and opportunities to expand your background in health literacy and plain language. It also provides an updated version of Clear & Simple for contemporary use that outlines a process for developing communication materials for people with limited-literacy skills.

PLAIN

www.plainlanguage.gov

The Plain Language Action and Information Network (PLAIN) is a group of federal employees from many different agencies and specialties who support the use of clear communication in government writing.

Organizations

Center for Health Care Strategies Resource Center

www.chcs.org

The Center has developed a series of Fact Sheets on all aspects of health literacy. Enter Health Literacy in the search box to find more information on this topic.

CPHA Health Literacy Portal

www.cpha.ca/en/programs/literacy.aspx

The Health Literacy Portal developed by the Canadian Public Health Association, is geared toward identifying the need to provide health information in an easy-to-read format, and to maintain and improve personal and community health. They provide resources that help health care professionals to create easy-to-read publications with their Plain Language Service, and national literacy and health program projects.

Organizations

Educational Testing Services – Policy Information Report

www.ets.org/Media/Research/pdf/PICHEATH.pdf

This site provides a 52 page document (April 2004) from the Educational Testing Services on Literacy and Health in America.

Institute for Healthcare Advancement (IHA)

www.ih4health.org

IHA offers health literacy training materials along with links to other online resources.

National Patient Safety Foundation

<http://www.npsf.org/askme3>

A new program, called Ask Me3, is a solution-based initiative to improve health communication between patients and providers.

Plain Language Association International

www.plainlanguagenetwork.org

Formed in 1993, Plain Language Association International is a volunteer, nonprofit organization of plain-language advocates, professionals and organizations committed to plain language. This site contains many links to articles and resources from experts in the field.