



## BRITISH HOMEOPATHIC LIBRARY

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### Factsheet 1 - Guide to Library Resources

British Homeopathic Library  
Glasgow Homeopathic Hospital  
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Glasgow G12 0XQ

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URL: [www.hom-inform.org](http://www.hom-inform.org)

# Library Overview

The library holds a comprehensive collection of books and journals on homeopathy and complementary medicine. IT includes three user networked computers, scanner and printer. Access to the internet is provided along with access to the NHS Scotland Elibrary which includes a substantial collection of ejournals. The British Homeopathic Library holds a unique collection of homeopathic literature.

The library is open Monday to Friday 9.00am to 5.-00pm

The library contains a large number of books and journals on homeopathy and complementary medicine. Some books and journals date from 1840, but there is a policy of buying the latest homeopathic books also. A list of journal holdings and a list of audio tapes are available.

Books, journals and audio tapes are available for loan free of charge. If you wish to borrow items please ask the librarian and your details will be added to the library borrower's database, and loans logged electronically. Loans are usually for six weeks, but we ask all students to return borrowed books before they finish their placement.

The library also runs the hom-inform information service at <http://www.hom-inform.org> The library has developed its own database of indexed references to books and articles on homeopathy – this is freely available to search from the library's website simply follow the 'search the database' link.

If you have difficulty locating the information you need, or are not sure what resources to consult, PLEASE ASK!

## How to use the library

### Books

Books are classified according to a modification of the U.D.C. (Universal Decimal Classification) which is used in many academic libraries, and may therefore be familiar to library users. Books are arranged on the shelves by classification number, and most books have the classification number on the spine. After the classification number the books are arranged alphabetically by author.

The fastest way to find a specific book is to consult the library catalogue. If you prefer browsing the collection is small enough to scan quickly, and the books are arranged by topic according to the classification system.

- All books may be borrowed unless marked otherwise.
- There are a small number of frequently used reference books which may not be borrowed.
- Most of the books in the locked cupboards may be borrowed – ask a member of staff.

### Journals

- Journals are arranged alphabetically by title, then in date order on the shelves.
- The current issue of each journal is on the display rack behind the door.
- Journals may not be borrowed but may be photocopied. Please see Carol for photocopier code.
- Requests for the library to obtain other journal articles are welcome.
- The printed index to the British Homeopathic Journal 1911-90 can be used to help identify articles as well as the Hom-Inform and Amed databases.

### Off prints.

Off prints of articles on homeopathy from journals not subscribed to are held by the library. These are included in the hom-inform database and are accessed by searching the database. There are around 1300 articles.

### Audio tapes

Audio tapes are mostly recordings of courses and seminars held at the Glasgow Homeopathic Hospital, and there is a complete list available of library tapes. If you wish to borrow a tape, please ask the librarian. Unfortunately there are no audio facilities for listening to tapes in the hospital.

### Computing facilities

There are three computers in the library for library users, of differing ages and therefore speed. There is internet access, computerised repertories, various CD-ROMs and databases on complementary medicine and homeopathy. Please ask if you are not sure which resources to consult.

## Searching the catalogue

Library users can either search the catalogue online at [www.hom-inform.org](http://www.hom-inform.org) or in the library. Searching the catalogue in either of these ways uses the same principles; the only difference is the searching interface i.e. the way the search page looks. The online database has a help menu if you need assistance.

Identify you're the key words you want to find. Type your search query into a field on the library database. The types of searches you can perform are:

Search Type	Method
Word or phrase search	Type the word or phrase in a word indexed field, or paste from the Word Index
Term search	Type the term preceded by = (e.g. '=Barry M'), or paste from the Term index
Truncation search	Type * at the end of the Word, Phrase or Term to find text that begins with the specified characters (e.g. 'Bar*' finds Barry M)
Comparison and range search	Use the comparison and range operators: = > < >= <= : (e.g. '<1965' finds dates before 1965, '100:300' finds values between 100 and 300 inclusive)
Proximity search	Use the proximity operators: W# (within # words of a word) P# (preceding a word by # words) (e.g. 'red w3 boat' finds red within 3 words of boat, 'red p3 boat' finds red preceding boat by 3 words or less.)
Boolean search	Use Boolean operators between search items in a box: & (AND) / (OR) ! (NOT) (e.g. 'cars & boats' in the title box finds records with both words in the title, 'cars ! boats' finds records that contain cars but not boats.) Use the Boolean buttons between boxes (AND, OR, NOT) to combine multiple requests (e.g. title 'cars' AND date '<1965').

# Borrowing conditions

1. Books and tapes may only be borrowed by Faculty of Homeopathy Members and Associates, Glasgow Homeopathic Hospital staff, and placement or SSM students.
2. Books may be borrowed for 6 weeks and renewed after that if not required by anyone else. No more than 3 books may be borrowed at one time.
3. Journals may not be borrowed.
4. Audio tapes 6 tapes may be borrowed at a time, for 6 weeks.
5. Please ask the librarian if you wish to borrow a book, and they will assign it to you.
6. A fine of £1.50 may be charged for each book overdue by more than 4 weeks without it having been renewed.

# Hom-Inform information service

Hom-Inform information service is run by the British Homeopathic Library at the Glasgow Homeopathic Hospital. It is an information service for practitioners, researchers and students of homeopathy rather than for the general public.

On request we will search for articles and books on any subject related to homeopathy. A list of references is supplied. As part of the service the most suitable articles from the list can be selected by library staff and also supplied.

The Hom-Inform information service uses the Hom-Inform database for its searches. This database has been created here in the library and now contains over 25,500 indexed references to journal articles and books. The indexing system is derived from MeSH and uses the British Library's Amed/Cats thesaurus and the ECH Homeopathic thesaurus of key words. The database is available to search from the library's website at <http://www.hom-inform.org>