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New Consumer Health Toolkit Helps Libraries Serve the Public

Finding useful and timely health information in California's public libraries just got easier, thanks to a new online resource that helps librarians tap into reliable, high-quality health information sources.

Finding Health and Wellness @ the Library: A Consumer Health Toolkit for Library Staff is designed to help librarians and library staff build competencies in providing health information services to library users. The online Toolkit links to hundreds of websites, audio and video files, printed resources, and online training materials, with a focus on prevention, wellness, and healthy living.

This professional development Toolkit is divided into six sections: Core Competencies, Health Resources, Consumer Health Information Services, Technology & Health 2.0, Workplace Wellness, and Resources for Health Care Professionals. When downloaded to a computer or used online, the Toolkit includes interactive elements to make it easy to navigate. It can also be used as a printed reference document, with additional features to help readers find information quickly. Spanish language and multilingual resources are included.

The California State Library, in partnership with the National Network of Libraries of Medicine, Pacific Southwest Region, developed the Toolkit over the past year with input and guidance from an advisory committee of public librarians, health educators, and healthcare professionals. Funding for creating the Toolkit came from the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services under provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act, administered in California by the California State Library.

The Toolkit is now online at: <http://www.library.ca.gov/lds/docs/HealthToolkit.pdf>. A free introductory webinar is available at http://www.infopeople.org/training/webcasts/webcast_data/414/index.html. For additional information, please contact principal author and editor Kelli Ham at kkham@library.ucla.edu.

About the California State Library: Founded in 1850, the California State Library is celebrating its 160th anniversary as the central reference and research library for the Governor's office, legislature, state employees, and the general public. The State Library administers federal and state grants for programs in historical preservation, library construction, civil liberties education, literacy, volunteering, and broadband connectivity in public libraries. For more information, please visit www.library.ca.gov

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