

What is HEAL-WA?

HEAL-WA (Health Electronic Resource for Washington) is the evidence-based health sciences information portal being developed by the University of Washington Health Sciences Libraries in response to Sections 11 and 12 of Senate Bill 5930, which was signed into law in May 2007.

Where did the idea for HEAL-WA come from?

Improving health professionals' access to information state-wide was one of the guiding visions of Governor Gregoire's Blue Ribbon Commission on Health Care Costs and Access. This legislation encourages practitioners to rely on evidence-based information to deliver health care. The HEAL-WA site will provide electronic access to information for many practitioners who do not currently have access to resources through the services of a health sciences library.

Who will have access to the site?

All professionals licensed by Washington State who are members of one of the named professions will be able to use the resources in the web site. Professions named in the legislation are registered nurses, physicians, physician assistants, osteopathic physicians, osteopathic physicians' assistants, massage therapists, naturopaths, podiatrists, chiropractors, psychologists, optometrists, mental health counselors, clinical social workers, and acupuncturists.

How will the site be funded?

The site will be funded by an add-on to the license fees of the named practitioners.

When will the site be available?

The site is scheduled to go live by January 1, 2009. You can expect to be able to use a limited number of resources beginning in Fall 2008, as we begin adding resources to the site and making free trials available. We will also be inviting user feedback at that time.

Will health practitioners across the state have access to the UW Health Sciences Library?

Although there may be some overlap between the resources in HEAL-WA and the University of Washington Health Sciences Library web site, HEAL-WA will be completely separate from the services provided to University of Washington faculty, staff, and students. Access to HEAL-WA will **not** include access to all of the resources available in the UW Health Sciences Library website.

What *will* be included in HEAL-WA, then?

The HEAL-WA web site will be aimed at giving practitioners in each of the named professions access to timely, evidence-based resources that can help them answer patient care questions, and will contain a variety of resources including:

- online databases
- electronic journals and full text articles
- electronic textbooks

If you would like to make suggestions for resources you wish to see included, or offer feedback on this project, please contact Valerie Lawrence, MLS, Acting HEAL-WA Resource Coordinator, at (206) 221-2452 or by e-mail at vjlawren@u.washington.edu.