NICHSR
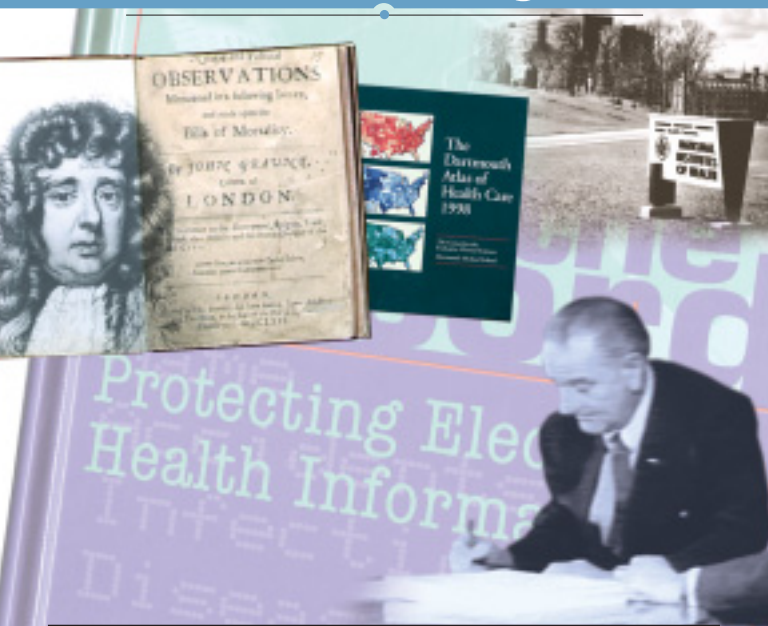
Health Services Research Information Program

www.nlm.nih.gov/nichsr

Program Objectives In 1993, Congress created the National Information Center on Health Services Research and Health Care Technology (NICHSR) at the National Library of Medicine® (NLM®) to improve " ...collection, storage, analysis, retrieval, and dissemination of information on health services research, clinical practice guidelines, and on health care technology..." NICHSR coordinates NLM's Health Services Research Information Program, which is designed to:

- Make the results of health services research readily available to health services researchers, practitioners, administrators, policy makers, payers, and the information professionals who work with these groups;

- Improve access to data and information needed by the creators of health services research; and

- Contribute to the information infrastructure needed to foster patient records that can produce useful health services research data as a by-product of providing health care.

What Is Health Services Research?

Health services research (HSR) is the multidisciplinary field of scientific investigation that studies how social factors, financing systems, organizational structure and processes, health technologies, and personal behaviors affect access to health care, the quality and costs of health care, and ultimately our health and well-being. Its research domains are individuals, families, organizations, institutions, communities, and populations.

HSR Products and Services

NLM provides HSR information (including health policy and public health information) through a variety of products and services. Foremost are databases on: literature in bibliographic format and full text, citations to research in progress, and information on health services and sciences research resources (datasets, instruments, and analytical software). Other products and services include preformulated search strategies on selected topics; special web-texts and bibliographies on issues ranging from basic health literacy, to HSR collection development and information resources, to health informatics; print, video, and audio historical materials; outreach and training on the web and in conjunction with the National Network of Libraries of Medicine® (NN/LM®); access to information for public health practitioners; support for research and development in HSR information infrastructure; and links to web-sites with health services research information at NLM and beyond.

To access the resources and staff of the HSR Information Program, visit NICHSR at www.nlm.nih.gov/nichsr/