Complementary and Alternative Medicine (CAM)

Where Do Health Professionals Get There Information?
David J. Owen
Min-Lin Fang
Gail Persily
Integrative Medicine

• **Alternative**
  – used instead of conventional Western medical treatments

• **Complementary**
  – used with conventional Western medical treatments

• **Integrative**
  – incorporated into conventional Western medical treatments
Integrative Medicine Project

- Response to questions about CAM from faculty and students
- Part of the “revolution” in consumer health
- Lack of established CAM literature in US
- Few quality resources available
- Build online collection of resources
- Osher Center for Integrative Medicine
User Survey and Needs Assessment

- Identify CAM information resources
- Web-based online questionnaire
- Response rate of around 28%
Complementary and Alternative Medicine (CAM) Information Needs Assessment Survey

The Library and CKM at UCSF is developing a new service to help UCSF faculty and personnel locate information resources on CAM. Your input and comments will help us gain a better understanding of your information needs. It would be greatly appreciated if you would take a few minutes to complete this survey. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact us at altmed-info@library.ucsf.edu.

NOTE: Your responses to this survey will remain confidential.

1. What areas of complementary and alternative medicine (CAM) are applicable to your work? (Choose all that apply)

- ☐ Acupuncture
- ☐ Biofeedback
- ☐ Chiropractic
- ☐ Diet (Pritikin, Ornish, Macrobiotic, etc.)
- ☐ Guided Imagery/Visualization
- ☐ Herbal medicine
- ☐ Homeopathic medicine
- ☐ Massage therapy/Body Work
Which Areas of CAM?

- Herbal Medicine: 68%
- Relaxation Exercises: 52%
- Acupuncture: 48%
- Diet: 44%
- Guided Imagery: 41%
How Is It Used?

- Preparation of an Article, Book: 65%
- Teaching: 51%
- Research: 44%
- Grants Proposal: 39%
- Other: 32%
- Clinical Application: 13%
Which Resources Are Useful?

- Colleagues: 48%
- Web Resources: 46%
- Journals: 40%
- Databases: 34%
- News, Media: 28%
- Textbooks: 22%
- Librarians: 11%
Which Databases Aware Of?

- MEDLINE: 87%
- BIOSIS: 22%
- CAM: 15%
- AMED: 13%
- EMBASE: 12%
- Other: 10%
- NAPRA ALERT: 9%
Which Databases Used?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Database</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MEDLINE</td>
<td>76%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOSIS</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CAM</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EMBASE</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AMED</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Speciality?

- Internal Med: 21%
- Behavioural: 18%
- Family Practice: 10%
- Obs & Gyn: 4%
- Pediatrics: 3%
Did You Find the Information?

• When seeking CAM information only 19% thought searches were successful
Journals

- Journals – widely scattered
  - *JAMA, BMJ* (1%)
  - In own discipline *Brain Behavior and Immunity*
  - Few used specialized: *HerbalGram*
Monographs

• Only 25% answered question
• Only two texts mentioned more than once
  – *PDR for Herbal Medicine*
• 10% for information on herbs
Integrative Medicine Reference Suite

A pilot project to build a suite of online reference resources for the area of Integrative Medicine. Integrative medicine seeks to combine the best of both traditional "western medicine" and non-traditional "alternative medicine" approaches and techniques to address the biological, psychological, social and spiritual aspects of health and illness. The first phase of this project is to build a collection of quality resources, beginning with Herbal Medicine.

CAM Information Needs Assessment Survey UCSF Only

Selected Web Sites for Herbal Information

General Information

- Adverse Reactions
- CAM Bibliographic Databases
- Chemistry of Herbal Compounds
- Chinese Herbs
- Consumer Protection
- Electronic Discussion Groups

By Disease, Condition or Specialty

- Addiction
- Aging
- AIDS/HIV
- Asthma, Allergy and Immunology
- Cancer Treatment and Prevention