

How to Access Health Information for School Nurses

The Health Sciences Library (HSL) at the University of Washington is the first resource that comes to mind for many of us when we want health information. However, many of the resources of the HSL are restricted to current UW faculty, staff and students. There are other options, however! The HSL has a web page that lists a great number of options for health-related web resources that are **available to the public**:

http://healthlinks.washington.edu/howto/life_after_u.html

One of these resources is **HEAL-WA**, the Health Evidence Resource for Washington State. This website is a portal to many on-line databases and other resources for health professionals. The site is accessible to 13 groups of health care practitioners licensed to practice in Washington State, including Registered Nurses. Part of the licensing fees of these 13 professions goes to maintaining the HEAL-WA website. You can learn more about this resource and **create a log-in** for yourself by visiting: <http://heal-wa.org>. On the right side of the home page under the 'Access' heading, is a 'Getting Started' section which explains how to set up a **free** access code and password for HEAL-WA. It can take up to a day for your access code to be recognized by HEAL-WA, but once this occurs, you can log in any time to search for information.

By clicking on the 'Toolkits' tab at the top of the Home page, you can find a toolkit for Registered Nurses. This is a good place to begin, though you may access the toolkits for any of the other professions as well.

If you need further information about the Health Sciences Library or the HEAL-WA website, you may contact Janet Schnall, Information Management Librarian at the HSL, by email at schnall@u.washington.edu or by phone at 206 543 9267.