This tutorial provides an overview of the content available in the InfoAble Portal. This tutorial is approximately 5 minutes long.

The InfoAble Portal helps you quickly access quality health information that is freely available from the National Library of Medicine and the Center for Disability Resources (CDR) Library.

The Center for Disability Resources Library is part of the University of South Carolina School of Medicine Library. The library is free to use; anyone in the U.S. can submit information requests and check out materials.

You can even use the library remotely! You can email/call the librarian, and the materials can be mailed directly to your home (or office). If you are the parent/primary caregiver of a child with special needs, a postage paid mailer is included so you can return the items for free!

The InfoAble Portal is a mobile-friendly site that is available at <https://uscmed.sc.libguides.com/infoableportal>.

The goal of the InfoAble Portal web site is to pull together quality disability and health information resources to help parents/caregivers quickly access the information they need.

First, you will want to look at the Topics section to see if your specific topic is covered.

If it is not listed, then you can use some of the links like “Health Information” and “Books and Videos” to search for your topic.

**Select the Topics link** to the left.

The Topics page includes a list of topics, such as asthma and Down syndrome. These topics are based on Family Connection top diagnoses/concerns.

Selecting Autism...

Each topic contains deep links within these resources to topic specific content. (Basically, it saves you time from running a search in these individual resources).

Let’s take a look at some of the links to demonstrate the kind of content available.

Selecting Explore health information...

This takes us directly to the MedlinePlus health topic page for autism spectrum disorder.

What is MedlinePlus? MedlinePlus is a freely available web site from the National Library of Medicine. It can be a great starting point to learn about a condition or health topic.

About MedlinePlus

- Offers authoritative, reviewed, up-to-date health information

- Information is easy to read/understand

- No advertising, no commercial endorsements

- Updated daily

- Quality control standards

MedlinePlus Content

- Over 900 health topic pages (over 700 in Spanish)

- Illustrated medical encyclopedia

- Latest health news

- Information from over 1,350 organizations

A health topic page is an organized list of free, authoritative resources. Let’s take a look at some of the available content on the Autism health topic page.

You can use these links to jump to a particular area of interest.

This page includes organized links to content from the Autism Society, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and the National Institutes of Health.

Let’s take a look at some examples of the content.

An overview of autism for teens (from the Nemours Foundation)

Diagnosis information from the Autism Society

Early intervention information from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

Treatment information from the National Institutes of Health (NIH)

Let’s return to the InfoAble Portal.

Now let’s take a look at the “Books and videos” feature.

Selecting Books and Videos...

It automatically searches the CDR Library collection and gives you a list of autism books and videos available to check out.

Now let’s use the “PubMed research articles” feature.

Selecting PubMed research articles...

It automatically runs a search in PubMed on your topic.

What is PubMed? PubMed is a database maintained by the National Library of Medicine. You can use it to find medical journal articles on a topic.

This is a basic search to help you get started finding relevant journal articles. The PubMed research article links are not meant to be comprehensive literature searches.

If you click on a title of an article...

It will take you to the abstract (if available) of the article. An abstract is a short summary of the article/study.

A few of the articles will have links to access the full text for free.

You can use the PMC free full text button to access this article.

Here’s the full text.

Although some parents/caregivers may never seek medical journal articles, other parents are not intimidated by the high reading level and medical terminology.

In cases of rare conditions, parents/caregivers may want to search PubMed because they are having trouble locating ANY information on a condition.

Now let’s take a look at the “Clinical trials” link.

Selecting Clinical trials...

It automatically searches the Clinical Trials web site and gives you a list of autism-related clinical trials. ClinicalTrials.gov is another resource maintained by the National Library of Medicine.

Here are some of the search results for autistic disorder.

Clinical trials are medical research studies involving human volunteers. Clinical trials look at ways to prevent, diagnose, and treat diseases and other health conditions.

People may choose to participate in clinical trials in order to receive the newest treatments available. This database will list where the studies are taking place.

We’ve looked at some examples of how the “deep links” work on the “Topics” page.

Let’s return to the home page.

Selecting Home...

Back on the InfoAble Portal home page, let’s take a look at some of the other links.

If your topic is not listed on the “Topics” page, “Health Information” is a good place to start. **Select Health Information.**

This page describes the MedlinePlus web site. It includes links to access MedlinePlus, or you can use the MedlinePlus search box.

Selecting MedlinePlus...

The MedlinePlus home page appears.

Let’s take a look at the “Books and Videos” option. **Select Books and Videos.**

This page describes some of the materials available to check out from the Center for Disability Resources Library.

This page includes a link to search the catalog for items.

Selecting Search the Catalog...

The “Search the Catalog” page for the Center for Disability Resources Library appears.

On this page, you’ll find search tips for finding books as well as a link to the online catalog.

Back on the InfoAble Portal home page, let’s look at the “research articles” section.

**Select Research Articles.**

This page describes the PubMed database and includes links to access PubMed.

Selecting Search PubMed...

The PubMed home page appears. PubMed is a good resource to use if you are looking for journal articles.

Now **select Clinical Trials.**

This page describes the clinical trials database and includes links to access it.

Selecting Search ClinicalTrials.gov...

The ClinicalTrials.gov web site appears.

If you are interested in participating in a clinical trial, you can search this database to find trials in your area.

You can learn more about clinical trials by visiting the “About Studies” section.

Now let’s take a look at the “Ask A Librarian” feature. **Select Ask A Librarian.**

Looking for a book? Have a question? Simply fill out the form.

During this tutorial, we have explored some of the content available through the InfoAble Portal. We hope it helps you access quality health information quickly.

[Tutorial evaluation link](https://uscm.libwizard.com/f/infoableportaltutorialevaluation)

If you have any questions or comments, please contact:

Roz McConnaughy

Assistant Director for Education & Outreach

Roz.McConnaughy@uscmed.sc.edu

(803) 216-3214

Steven Wilson

Coordinator, CDR Library

Steve.Wilson@uscmed.sc.edu

(803) 216-3206