Welcome to the National Reference Center for Bioethics Literature World Wide Web Home Page.

The National Reference Center for Bioethics Literature (NRCBL), operating on a contract with the National Library of Medicine, National Institutes of Health, is a specialized collection of books, journals, newspaper articles, legal materials, regulations, codes, government publications, and other relevant documents concerned with contemporary biomedical issues in the fields of ethics, philosophy, medicine, science, law, religion, and the social sciences.

The library holdings represent the world's largest collection related to ethical issues in medicine and biomedical research. This collection functions both as a reference library for the public and as an in depth research resource for scholars from the U.S. and abroad.

The National Reference Center works with the Bioethics Information Retrieval Project of the Kennedy Institute of Ethics, which produces BIOETHICSLINE (the online database that is part of the National Library of Medicine's MEDLARS network) and publishes the annual Bibliography of Bioethics.

The National Information Resource on Ethics & Human Genetics, established on September 1, 1994 with the support of the National Center for Human Genome Research, the National Information Resource is affiliated with the National Reference Center for Bioethics Literature (NRCBL). Between 10 to 15 percent of the NRCBL's large collection deals with molecular biology and human genetics.

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- BASIC RESOURCES IN BIOETHICS
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This Web Page Developed and Maintained by the National Reference Center for Bioethics Literature. Please send suggestions and comments to the Center.

Georgetown Home Page

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National Reference Center for Bioethics Literature

Library Collection

Books: More than 21,000 volumes about ethical and bioethical subjects, including access to health care, resource allocation, genetics, human experimentation, reproductive technologies, abortion, and death and dying. Holdings include hearings and reports of the U.S. Congress, as well as reports by international commissions and documents from around the world. These materials can be found in GEORGE, the online catalog for Georgetown University Main Campus Libraries. login: go

Journals: More than 300 periodicals and newsletters on ethical theory and professional ethics in many disciplinary fields.

Articles: Over 115,000 journal and newspaper articles are organized under 22 main categories concerning bioethics and biomedical topics. The files include laws, regulations, and court decisions.

Archives: Correspondence, memoranda and other documents from the U.S. President's Commission on Ethical Problems in Biomedical Research and other official bodies concerned with bioethics. Materials relating to the early history and ongoing ethical and legal aspects of the Human Genome Project are also being collected.

Audiovisuals: A non-circulating collection of 150 audiovisuals which may be viewed at the library. Topical searching is available (ordering/purchase information can be provided) as is a list of the audiovisuals we hold. See also Scope Note #9 "Bioethics Audiovisuals."

Special Collections: Kampelman Collection in Jewish Ethics. A wide-ranging collection not limited to Jewish bioethics. Citations representing the subset of materials on Jewish bioethics are indexed on Bioethicsline.

Shriver Collection in Christian Ethics: You may search for holdings in this collection by connecting to GEORGE and doing a search using Christian Ethics as a subject heading. Then limit by location to Kennedy Institute of Ethics/National Reference Center for Bioethics Literature holdings (KIE Bioethics Stacks).

Bioethicsline

BIOETHICSLINE is a National Library of Medicine (NLM) online bibliographic database with a scope that spans the literature of the health sciences, law, religion, philosophy, social sciences. The database is produced by the Information Retrieval Project at the Kennedy Institute, Georgetown University and supplied to the NLM's MEDLARS system at the National Institutes of Health.

Updated bimonthly, the database grows at the rate of approximately 3600 records each year. About 20% of the citations include abstracts.

BIOETHICSLINE can be accessed by those individuals and organizations having passwords for NLM's MEDLARS system. Users include hospitals, medical schools, universities, government agencies and commercial firms throughout the United States. Tips on search strategy are provided via the toll-free number for those wishing to do searches from personal computers.

Free BIOETHICSLINE Searches are Available upon Request. The National Reference Center for Bioethics Literature provides reference services to the public on topics relating to ethical and public policy issues in medicine and biomedical research. The collection includes material from the fields of medicine, law, philosophy, religion, biology, public policy, sociology, and psychology. Free individual searches of BIOETHICSLINE are available from the NRCBL. The bibliographic citations and abstracts (when available) are printed offline and arrive in the mail in about
one week. References to books, journal articles, court cases, newspaper articles, and audiovisual materials are provided.

Materials in bioethicsline are a subset of materials in the collection of the National Reference Center for Bioethics Literature.

Basic Resources in Bioethics

800-MED-ETHX (800-633-3849) Toll-free telephone number available in the U.S. and Canada for all requests to the National Reference Center for Bioethics Literature, 9 am to 5 pm (Eastern), Monday through Friday. During the academic year, the hours are extended to 8 pm on Tuesdays and from 10 am to 3 pm on Saturdays. Please phone for bioethics information, BIOETHICSLINE searches, reference help, publication orders, search strategies. In the District of Columbia, call 202-687-3885 Requests may also be submitted via email to the Center. Results will be sent via regular mail.

Resources in Ethics and Human Genetics

The National Information Resource on Ethics & Human Genetics [NIREHG] was established on September 1, 1994, with the support of the National Center for Human Genome Research. The NIREHG is affiliated with the National Reference Center for Bioethics Literature, the world's largest collection of material relevant to medical ethics and biomedical research. The NRCBL contains more than 20,000 volumes and 110,000 catalogued articles. Between 10 and 15 percent of the collection deals with molecular biology and human genetics. National Center for Genome Resources in Santa Fe, New Mexico makes resources concerning this material available online.

Archives

The Archival Holdings of the National Reference Center for Bioethics Literature include: the President's Commission, the New Jersey Bioethics Commission, a collection of materials assembled by Robert Cook-Deegan in the preparation of his book THE GENE WARS.

Should you have any questions or if you wish to use the Archives for research or study purposes, please contact Anita Nolen, Archivist in advance so that we may be prepared for your visit.

History of the Library

The National Reference Center for Bioethics Literature, the library of the Kennedy Institute of Ethics at Georgetown University was established in 1973. In 1985 the library was awarded a competitive five year grant by the National Library of Medicine at the National Institutes of Health to become a national center to collect, organize, and make available the literature of bioethics. This grant was extended for three years, before the National Library set up an ongoing contractual arrangement with the National Reference Center for Bioethics Literature, allowing the Center to continue its mission to provide in-depth bioethical information for all.

Library Publications

Bibliography of Bioethics: Annual index containing over 3,600 new citations to documents in the bioethics area. Published each year since 1975, the bibliography is derived from BIOETHICSLINE. It provides the most comprehensive access to literature about the ethical, legal, and public policy aspects of health care and biomedical research. $60 North America; $70 elsewhere, includes shipping.
**Bioethics Thesaurus**: Annotated, alphabetical list of keywords used for searching BIOETHICSLINE database. Contains main entries for over 600 search terms, a permuted index to the keywords, and other reference to help database users. Updated annually. $20 North America; $25 elsewhere.

**International Directory of Bioethics Organizations**: The directory identifies 278 worldwide organizations engaged in the study, teaching, research or practice of bioethics or health care ethics. 371 p. $35 North America; $40 elsewhere, includes surface shipping.


**Scope Note Series**: Timely publications on specific topics of current interest in biomedical ethics. Contain most recent information on individual issues with relevant bibliographic citations to important documents. Each **Scope Note**, $5 prepaid North America; $8 elsewhere.

**Searching BIOETHICSLINE: A Basic Manual for the Novice Searcher**: Describes database and suggests search strategies. Designed primarily for new users but useful for all BIOETHICSLINE searchers. $10 North America; $15 elsewhere.

**Syllabus Exchange Catalog**: International collection of bioethics courses from universities and health centers. No charge for catalog; $3/syllabus, prepaid; over 50 pages $10.

To order publications, please contact Gregory Cammett at 202-687-6738.

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**Syllabus Exchange**

This collection includes syllabi from medical professionals and faculty members in many disciplines who have conducted courses or workshops in the field of professional ethics. The majority of syllabi are in the area of bioethics.

**Syllabus Exchange Catalog**: International collection of bioethics courses from universities and health centers. No charge for catalog; $3/syllabus, prepaid; over 50 pages $10. To order or with any questions, please contact Ms. Martina Darragh, Reference Librarian by email or at 1-800-MED-ETHX. You can also go directly to the the Syllabus Exchange Catalog on-line at the University of Buffalo.

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**Offices and Hours**

The National Reference Center for Bioethics Literature is located in the historic Healy building on the main campus of Georgetown University. It is open throughout the year from 9 am to 5 pm, Monday through Friday. During the academic year, the Center is also open Tuesday evenings until 8 pm and on Saturday from 10 am to 3 pm.

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The National Reference Center for Bioethics Literature operates on a contract, NO1-LM-4-3532, with the National Library of Medicine, National Institutes of Health.
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- Anita Lonnes Nolen, M.A., C.A., Archivist and Systems Librarian
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Other Resources in the Wide World of Bioethics

The following are representative of Internet sites providing information on resources in Bioethics. Other information can be accessed through these sites.

- National Center for Genome Resources in Santa Fe, New Mexico
- Medical College of Wisconsin - Bioethics Online Service Choose 7 Bioethics Online Service
- Center for Clinical Ethics in Humanities and Health Care, University of Buffalo
- Center for Clinical Ethics in Humanities and Health Care American Association of Bioethics, University of Utah
- MacLean Center for Clinical Medical Ethics at the University of Chicago
- Center for Bioethics, University of Pennsylvania Medical Center
- Eubios Ethics Institute
- Karolinska Institute, Sweden, Medical Humanities Choose `Biomedical Information, Resources and Services' then `Ethics in Medicine and Science'.
- National Library of Medicine
- Georgetown University Philosophy Department
- Georgetown University Medical School for the M.D./Ph.D. Program
- Georgetown University Law School for the J.D./Ph.D. Program

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