Free Medical Library & Journal Access Options

- Any university with an open access repository is free to access.

- Many universities offer public access passes to their libraries.

University of Iowa

Network of the National Library of Medicine (NNLM)
https://www.nnlm.gov/about/regions/region6
A group through the NIH that allows for interlibrary loan for hospitals and other institutions. Our Midwest region is run through the University of Iowa's Hardin Library for the Health Sciences.

→ Join the FREE network https://www.nnlm.gov/membership/join

→ Who can join? https://www.nnlm.gov/membership/member-services

Iowa Research Online https://iro.uiowa.edu/esploro/

Evidence-Based Practice Resources https://uihc.org/evidence-based-practice
Free tools, strategies, and tips for implementing EBP, especially useful for nurses and interprofessional teams.

Iowa State University

Free Scientific Research Resources https://instr.iastate.libguides.com/freescientific
Excellent guide; it includes tabs to browse through, links to general open access collections and ones grouped by topic:
→ Biology & Medicine https://instr.iastate.libguides.com/c.php?g=49318&p=317999

ISU Digital Repository https://dr.lib.iastate.edu/home

University of Northern Iowa

Rod Library Database Search https://library.uni.edu/

Online databases/Other resources

All open access materials are fully open and free to anyone in the world to read.

Google Scholar https://scholar.google.com/
Searches for journal articles and academic books, and provides links to Open Access articles

PubMed Central (PMC) https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/
Free access to full-text articles from biomedical and life sciences journals

Researched and created by Randi Boell, DNP Student, University of Iowa for the Iowa Flex Program (8/2/25)

Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ) https://doaj.org/
Lists and searches for open access journals and articles.
Apply Filters: Without any fees, Medicine, United States

Oxford Medicine Online https://academic.oup.com/oxford-medicine-online
Journals and books; able to modify search using FREE filter.

OpenAlex https://openalex.org/

BioMed Central https://www.biomedcentral.com/
An online publisher of free peer-reviewed scientific articles in medical research and biology

Core https://core.ac.uk/
A search engine and index for research publications from journals and repositories

OpenEvidence https://www.openevidence.com/
Free and unlimited access to verified U.S. healthcare professionals. It includes clinical findings from top journals like *The New England Journal of Medicine* and *JAMA*.
Register/Sign in with email, name and hospital NPI, Iowa (when asked for medical license state)

Sigma Repository (Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing)
https://www.sigmarepository.org/
Free digital resources for nurses and hospitals; includes research, EBP materials, and educational content.

Open Textbook Library
https://open.umn.edu/opentextbooks/subjects/medicine?language=&order_by=publication_date&commit=Filter
Openly available educational resources; textbooks, lab books, and simulations.

Open RN https://www.wistechopen.org/open-rn-details
Collection of free and open nursing textbooks, simulations, and activities.

Community Colleges

Connect with local college libraries to see what their policies are for public access; many colleges allow members of the public to access subscription databases when users are physically in the building. The details of what you can access vary by school, and there may be limits.

DMACC https://dmacc.libanswers.com/faq/227383

WITCC https://www.witcc.edu/library/

Kirkwood https://www.kirkwood.edu/explore/services/library/