

BOOK REVIEW

Bibliography of Primary Care Research in Malaysia

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Like a telephone directory this is not a book you read chapter by chapter. It is a listing of medical publications from the year 1966 to 2003. In total 1,222 papers, including original articles, theses, reports, conference proceedings and abstracts are indexed. They were retrieved from 66 journals, of which 30 are indexed in PubMed. Therefore, in addition to what one can obtain from an electronic search, this bibliography has retrieved over 600 articles manually in non-indexed journals.

The scope of this search is the primary care setting. That includes the community (eg. schools, health centres), general practice and hospital outpatient clinics. It does not include all medical research. The first short section describes how the work was done. The next section is an index of all 1,222 papers according to the name of the first author. The subject index follows next. This would be the section a person interested in a topic, and searching the literature would find useful. I have noted some minor errors here, for instance, the list for dengue is put in the section for Blood and duplicated with wrong numbering under infections. Similarly, there is a

slight difference in list for diarrhoeal diseases under the Digestive System and under infections. No bibliography can hope to be 100% complete, but this attempt has, in my opinion let very little fall through the net.

Of course this book is not targeted to a wide audience. It is for those doing research. To be of continued relevance, it ought to be updated every few years. One might hope to have a tool like this available on the web in the future. This resource enables writers to write reviews and books for the general audience. As one who has written a book about diseases in Malaysia, I am encouraged to know there are at least four co-workers I can possibly seek out in the future.

REFERENCE

1. Lim KG. A review of Diseases in Malaysia. (2001). 2nd Ed.

Reviewed by: Dr Lim Kean Ghee