

Preface to the 6th edition of the Core Collection of Medical Books

The Health Libraries Group (HLG) Core Collections working group are pleased to present this new edition of the Core Collection of Medical Books (CC). First published in 1992, the CC has established itself as a reliable acquisition guide for health libraries in the UK.

It is over five years since the publication of the previous edition during which time several changes have taken place. We have used the social cataloguing application LibraryThing, as a platform to invite contributions from a wider range of information specialists and clinicians both in commenting on titles from the previous editions and recommending new titles.

Members of the working group added additional books, using circulation data, information from book awards or book reviews, reading lists, information about the bestselling titles from Tomlinsons, and specialist knowledge.

Our selection criteria was limited to books published after 2005 and in English although some older materials which were still judged to be useful were included. We tried to choose a range of books, ranging from introductory works, student textbooks and postgraduate multi-volume sets. We excluded examination resources and revision aids. This CC concentrates on clinical materials and excludes allied health materials and nursing materials which are covered by separate collections.

The full list of contributors is given overleaf and the editors are grateful to them and the other members of the CC working group listed below for their hard work in researching the best materials.

Members of the working group met at the end of the consultation period in order to consider these recommended materials and to identify overlooked areas. We set a guide limit of 25 books for each topic though some major topics have more resources than this and some smaller topics have fewer resources than this.

The final Library Thing version of the CC which includes contributors' comments can be viewed online through the CILIP HLG website.

Tomlinsons have continued with their role in the publication and distribution of this core collection. Tomlinsons have much experience in the publication of core collections and this publication has been facilitated by the production expertise of the Tomlinsons staff.

The CC can never be a definitive list of titles but we hope that this list of recommended books will be useful. We anticipate that libraries will use it as a selection resource and choose from it according to the scope of their collections. In the UK, it has become an established selection tool as well as a means of supporting bids for additional funding.

If you have used the Core Collection before, we hope you find the latest edition as useful as the previous editions. If you are new to it, then we hope it that you will find it a valuable reference work.

Hélène Gorrington and Richard M. Jones, co-editors

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