

FAMILY MEDICINE OR PRIMARY CARE JOURNALS ON THE WEB

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In today's borderless world, how many English language electronic journals that family physicians can access via the web? In writing this website review, I have used the following search strategy:

- o A general Google search plus going through the links in selected websites, i.e.
 - <http://www.freemedicaljournals.com>
 - <http://www.medbioworld.com>
 - <http://www.globalfamilydoctor.com>
 - <http://www.bioline.org.br/journals>
 - <http://www.ajol.info>
- o Perusal of journals hosted by the following electronic databases, i.e.
 - PubMed <http://www.pubmed.gov>
 - Blackwell-Synergy <http://www.blackwell-synergy.com>
 - Ovid <http://gateway.ovid.com>
 - Proquest <http://www.proquest.com>
 - ScienceDirect <http://www.sciencedirect.com>

I have included all peer reviewed electronic journals aimed at family physicians, based on a perusal of their contents; but have decided to exclude the following:

- o Journals that are irregularly updated, e.g.
 - Family Medical Practice On-Line
<http://www.priory.co.uk/fam.htm>
 - The Internet Journal of Family Practice
<http://www.ispub.com/ostia/index.php>
 - Update in Primary Health Care Journal
<http://www.zurba.com/update/issues/issues.htm>
 - Journal of Primary Care Medicine
http://www.ccsublishing.com/j_primar.htm

- o News (e.g. Family Practice News, GP Bulletin, Wonca News)
- o Journals focusing on other specific clinical discipline (e.g. British Medical Journal, Pediatrics, Primary Care Update for OB/GYN) and special interest journals (Primary Care Respiratory Journal, The Journal of Informatics in Primary Care)
- o Journals aiming at physician assistants or nurses.

Twenty-seven e-journals fulfilled the criteria of selection for this website review (see next page). An evaluation of these e-journals revealed the following:

- o Most of them are published by developed countries, only four came from Asia (Hong Kong, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, Singapore) and one from Africa (South Africa).
- o Sixteen of them are indexed in PubMed, none of the Asian or African journals cited here are indexed at the moment.
- o Eighteen of them provide full text for a variable number of years.
- o Almost one thousand review articles can be accessed for free between 2000-2005.
- o Ten of them focused almost entirely on original research, nine of these are indexed in PubMed.

Table 1: PubMed queries and results (accessed 27th Nov 2005)

Search	PubMed Queries	Result
#1	Search am fam physician OR aust fam physician OR bmc fam pract OR br j gen pract OR can fam physician OR eur j gen pract OR fam med OR fam pract OR fam pract manag OR j fam pract OR j am board fam pract OR postgrad med OR practitioner OR prim care OR scand j prim health care Field: Journal, Limits: Publication Date from 2000	19257
#2	Search am fam physician OR aust fam physician OR bmc fam pract OR br j gen pract OR can fam physician OR eur j gen pract OR fam med OR fam pract OR fam pract manag OR fam pract news OR j fam pract OR j am board fam pract OR postgrad med OR practitioner OR prim care OR scand j prim health care Field: Journal, Limits: Publication Date from 2000, Review	4149
#3	Search #2 AND free full text [sb]	981
#4	Search #2 AND free full text [sb] AND (am fam physician [ta] OR can fam physician [ta] OR aust fam physician [ta])	791

Note: PubMed search using combination of Boolean operators (AND, OR, NOT) and search field tags ([sb] for "full text" and [ta] for "journal title").

#1 Searching of 16 indexed journals, limiting to Publication Date between 2000-2005

#2 Searching of 16 indexed journals, limiting to Publication Date between 2000-2005 and "review articles"

#3 As in #2 plus "full text"

#4 As in #2 but limiting only to three journals

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E-journals in family medicine and primary care: a comparison

Journal Name (PubMed short forms)* url	IF**	Content & access	Publisher
American Family Physician (Am Fam Physician) http://www.aafp.org/afp.xml	1.258	Clinical review Free from 1998	American Academy of Family Physicians
Annals of Family Medicine (Ann Fam Med) http://www.annfammed.org/		Original research Free from 2003	Jointed by 6 organisations: AAFP, ABFP, STFM, Association of Departments of Family Medicine, Association of Family Medicine Residency Directors, NAPRCG
Archive of Family Medicine (Arch Fam Med) http://archfami.ama-assn.org/		Reviews & research Free from 1998-2000	JAMA (ceased publication in 2000)
Asia-Pacific Family Medicine http://www.apfmi.com/		Reviews & research Free from 2002	WONCA Asia-Pacific
Australian Family Physician (Aust Fam Physician) http://www.racgp.org.au/publications/afp_online.asp		Review & research Free from 2002	Royal Australian College of General Practitioners
BMC Family Practice (BMC Fam Pract) http://www.biomedcentral.com/bmcfampract	1.330	Original research Free from 2000	BioMed Central
British Journal of General Practice (Br J Gen Pract) http://www.ingentaconnect.com/content/rcgp/bjgp	1.824	Original research Subscription	Royal College of General Practitioner UK/Ingenta
Canadian Family Physician (Can Fam Physician) http://www.cfpc.ca/cfp/	0.365	Review & research Free from 2001	Canadian College of Family Physicians
Clinics in Family Practice http://familypractice.theclinics.com/		Clinical review Subscription	Elsevier
Education for Primary Care http://www.radcliffe-oxford.com/journals/J02_Education_for_Primary_Care/default.htm		Medical education research Subscription	Association of Course Organisers, the National Association of Primary Care Educators UK and the World Organisation of Family Doctors (WONCA)/Radcliffe Publishing
European Journal of General Practice (Eur J Gen Pract) http://www.ejgp.com/		Original research Subscription	WONCA Europe
Family Medicine (Fam Med) http://www.stfm.org/fmhub/fmhub.html	1.025	Medical education research Free from 1998	Society of Teachers of Family Medicine
Family Practice (Fam Pract) http://fampra.oupjournals.org/	1.023	Original research, Free 2y after publication, Subscription	Oxford University Press
Family Practice Management (Fam Pract Manag) http://www.aafp.org/fpm/		Practice management Free from 1998	American Academy of Family Physicians
Hong Kong Practitioner http://www.hkcfp.org.hk/		Review & research Free from 2001	Hong Kong College of Family Physicians
Journal of Family Practice (J Fam Pract) http://www.jfonline.com/	1.79	Review & research Subscription	Dowden Health Media
Journal of the American Board of Family Practice (J Am Board Fam Pract) http://www.jabfp.org/		Original research Free from 2001	American Board of Family Practice
Middle East Journal of Family Medicine http://www.mejfm.com/		Review & research Free from July 2003	Abyad Medical Center, Lebanon/Medi+World International
New Zealand Family Physician http://www.nzcgp.org.nz/news/nzfp.php		Review & research Free from Aug 1998	Royal New Zealand College of General Practitioners
Postgraduate Medicine (Postgrad Med) http://www.postgradmed.com/journal.htm	0.917	Clinical review Free from July 1996	Postgraduate Medicine
Practitioner (via Proquest http://www.proquest.com)		Clinical review Subscription	CMP Information Ltd
Primary Care: Clinics in Office Practice (Prim Care) http://primarycare.theclinics.com/		Clinical review Subscription	Elsevier
Journal of Family and Community Medicine (Saudi Arabia) http://www.ssfcm.org/journals.aspx		Review & research Free from Dec1997	Saudi Society of Family and Community Medicine.
Primary Health Care Research and Development http://www.ingentaconnect.com/content/arm/phcr		Original research Subscription	Hodder Arnold Journals/Ingenta
Scandinavian Journal of Primary Health Care (Scan J Prim Health Care) http://www.tandf.co.uk/journals/titles/02813432.asp	0.552	Original research Subscription	Association of Family doctors in Scandinavia/Taylor & Francis Group
Singapore Family Physician http://www.cfps.org.sg/		Clinical review Free from 2001	College of Family Physicians Singapore
South African Family Practice http://www.medpharm.co.za/safp/index.html		Review & research Free from 2000	South African College of Family Physicians/Med Pharm Publications

*Journals with PubMed short forms are currently indexed

**IF = Impact factor, taken from <http://molbiol.edu.ru/eng/journals/index.html>