Finding Books and E-Books at Ehrman Library

The primary tool for locating books and e-books that are part of the Ehrman Medical Library collections is MEDCat, the Library online catalog. MEDCat is available online onsite and remotely at medcat.med.nyu.edu, or via the Library home page at library.med.nyu.edu.

For books in print
Use MEDCat to search for books by author, title, topic, or call number. Once you have located a book record, make a note of the Location and Call #.

Now what?
Books may be in several physical locations in the Library. Understanding the location correctly is the first step to finding the book you are looking for.

Common Locations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MEDCat Says…</th>
<th>It means…</th>
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</table>
| MED Stacks    | • The book is in the main collection located on the **Basement (Stacks) Level** of the Library.  
• Proceed downstairs with your call number to retrieve the item. Books are shelved in call number order.  
• Books in the general collection can be checked out for an initial **4 weeks**, and then renewed once for another 4 weeks unless another patron has placed a hold on the book. |
| MED Reserve   | • The book has been set aside by a professor for use in a course, or by the Library for very high-use items. Reserves are kept at the Library **Circulation Desk**.  
• Proceed to the **Circulation Desk** to have a member of the Library staff retrieve the item for you.  
• Reserve materials may be checked out for an initial **2 hours**, and then renewed once for an additional 2 hours. |
| MED Reference | • The book is part of the reference collection containing core textbooks and basic reference sources such as dictionaries, encyclopedias, almanacs and directories. Reference books are shelved in the **Main Reading Room** in the public area and at the **Information Desk** (Ready Ref).  
• Proceed to the bookshelves in the **Main Reading Room** with your call number. Reference materials are shelved in call number order.  
• Reference materials may not be checked out! |
| MED Locked Cases | • The book is part of the Library special collections. These books are kept in locked cases on the **Mezzanine Level** of the Library.  
• Ask at the **Circulation Desk** for assistance with these items.  
• Locked Cases items may or may not circulate. For some historical materials, you may need to make an appointment with the **Archives Department**. |

Anatomy of a Call Number
In order to facilitate the location and retrieval of materials, the Library uses the alphanumeric classification system developed by the Library of Congress. A call number can be thought of as a shelf address for a book. Once you get to the correct location, finding the call number is the next step to getting your hands on a book.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>The Call Number Says…</th>
<th>It means…</th>
<th>Translation</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>RC</td>
<td>The call letter or letters correspond to a broad subject area.</td>
<td>RC = Internal Medicine</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 46                     | The call numbers provide further descriptive information.  
Read the number as a whole number. | 0 – 100 = General Works |
| .H32                   | Generally taken from the author’s name or book title.  
Read the number as a decimal. | H = Harrison  
.32 = 32/100 |
| 2001                   | Date of publication | A year |

(Can you guess the work based on the above clues?)
Finding E-Books

MEDCat
MEDCat is also the primary source for the Ehrman Medical Library collection of electronic books. Use the online catalog the same way you would to search for books in print. If an online version of a text is available, the catalog record will include a “Connect to the electronic version of:…” link to the online version. One major collection of electronic texts, Early English Books Online, is only available via MEDCat.

E-Resources
E-Books dealing with medicine, health, and related fields are also accessible via the Library home page at library.med.nyu.edu under the heading “E-Resources” in the main navigation bar at the top of the page. Select “Biomedical E-Books” from the menu choices.

The first page of e-books will display giving you the option to browse the collection alphabetically by title, or search for a specific title using the search box in the left side bar. Once you have located the title you wish to view, simply click on the title to go to the online version.

E-Book Collections
Several online services provide access to collections of e-books. Using an e-book collection allows you to search several texts at once, and are often interdisciplinary or search across specialties. Ehrman Library currently provides access to several clinical and technical e-book collections including Access Medicine, Books @Ovid, Books 24x7, CogNet, Stat!REF, WebMD, and others.

Note: Electronic versions of books may correspond exactly to the print version with the addition of search functionality. Other electronic texts may provide “enhanced” versions of the basic text, either by adding special features to the online version, or updating it between editions of the print version. Some texts are only published online. It is a good idea to read the “About” or other introductory/overview sections of e-books sites to discern exactly what you are dealing with when using an online text.