

**Collection Development Manual of the  
National Reference Center for  
Bioethics Literature**

**February 2008**

National Reference Center for Bioethics Literature  
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Washington, DC 20057

The preparation of this Manual has been funded by Contract Number N01-LM-5-3501 from the National Library of Medicine, National Institutes of Health, Department of Health and Human Services. An online version is available at: <http://bioethics.georgetown.edu/>.

## **Preface**

The diversity and longevity of financial support for the library and information service activities of the Kennedy Institute of Ethics has resulted in the development of a broadly-based collection strong in both the foundations and applications of ethical theory. Bioethics is the primary subject area represented by the collection.

The acquisition of both monographs and serials has been and continues to be supported by multiple sources: current and past grants and contracts, an ongoing gifts and exchange program, donations by individuals, and other public and private donors.

The Library's organizing structure and collection principles have served as a model for similar collections established in other countries.



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# The Collection Development Policy of the NRCBL

Bioethics is a field of study concerned with value questions that arise in health care, in the professional patient relationship, and in biomedical research. It embraces the traditional concerns of medical ethics, focusing on the rights and duties of health professionals and patients, as well as contemporary concerns about the investigator-subject relationship and the social impact of biomedical, behavioral, and genetic research and technology. A third dimension of bioethics is the quest to develop reasonable public policy guidelines for both the delivery of health care and the conduct of research.

Current areas of concern in bioethics include the topics and subtopics presented below in alphabetical order by broad subject category are:

## BIOETHICS AND CLINICAL ETHICS

### PROFESSIONAL ETHICS

- Codes of Ethics

- Medical Ethics

- Nursing Ethics

### ETHICISTS AND ETHICS COMMITTEES

- Clinical Ethics Committees

- Research Ethics Committees

### PROFESSIONAL PATIENT

### RELATIONSHIP

- Confidentiality

- Informed Consent

- Patients' Rights

- Treatment Refusal

- Truth Disclosure

### HEALTH CARE AND PUBLIC HEALTH

- AIDS

- Biomedical Technology

- Care of Special Populations

- Managed Care Programs

- Resource Allocation

### REPRODUCTION

- Abortion

- Contraception

- Prenatal Diagnosis

- Prenatal Injuries

- Sterilization

### REPRODUCTIVE TECHNOLOGIES,

### ASSISTED

- Artificial Insemination

- Cloning

- In Vitro Fertilization

- Surrogate Mothers

### GENETIC INTERVENTION AND

### RESEARCH

- Eugenics

- Gene Therapy

- Genetic Privacy

- Genetic Research

- Genetic Screening

- Genome Mapping

- Patenting Life Forms

### ORGAN AND TISSUE DONATION

### AND TRANSPLANTATION

- Embryonic Stem Cell Transplantation

### DEATH AND DYING

- Active Euthanasia

- Advance Directives

- Allowing to Die (Passive Euthanasia)

- Assisted Suicide

- Determination of Death

- Resuscitation Orders

- Right to Die

- Terminal Care

### MENTAL HEALTH THERAPIES

- Behavior Control

- Involuntary Commitment

- Psychoactive Drugs

### HUMAN EXPERIMENTATION

- Behavioral Research

Embryo and Fetal Research  
Research on Special Populations  
ANIMAL EXPERIMENTATION  
Transgenic Animals  
BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH  
Biomedical Enhancement

FRAUD AND MISCONDUCT  
Scientific Misconduct  
WAR AND HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES  
Biological and Nuclear Warfare  
Torture

No single academic discipline is adequate to encompass the various dimensions of bioethics. For this reason bioethics has been, since its inception in the late 1960s, a cross-disciplinary field. The primary participants in the interdisciplinary discussion have been physicians and other health professionals, biologists, social scientists, lawyers and public policy makers, philosophers, and religious ethicists.

## **Audience for the NRCBL Collection**

NRCBL serves a broad audience which includes educators and students (primarily in universities and professional schools, but increasingly in secondary and even elementary schools), practicing health care professionals, lawyers, public policy makers, journalists, philosophers, and religious ethicists. The increasing availability of Web-based NRCBL services and resources provides information for a diverse group of interested laypersons as well.

NRCBL recognizes that the database searching capabilities of end-users may vary greatly. It therefore offers multiple search options, ranging from QuickBibs (automatically-generated bibliographies on selected topics), through three search interfaces of increasing complexity (Basic, Advanced, and Boolean), to the provision of custom bibliographies prepared by reference staff.

## **Collections Overview**

After three decades of focused collection development, the library comprises a unique resource for scholars and the public alike. Multiple formats are represented, and the general scope of the subject matter reflects the major topics in bioethics and applied ethics.

Collections include:

- Almost 500 ongoing periodical subscriptions, and hundreds of special issues of journals;
- 31,000 books;
- 268,000+ classified journal articles, legal documents, reports, pamphlets, and similar materials;
- Syllabi of 614 courses used in diverse settings;
- 564 audiovisuals;

- Special collections:
  - Max M. and Marjorie B. Kampelman Collection of Jewish Ethics
  - R. Sargent and Eunice Kennedy Shriver Collection on Christian Ethics
  - Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy Collection on Women, Infants & Children
  - Shigeo Morioka Asian Bioethics Collection
- Archival materials of federal bioethics commissions;
- Materials supporting research in other areas and applied ethics, such as business, law, philosophy and environmental ethics.

The non-circulating library is a public resource, open to all. In a typical year, visitors from all over the United States and nearly every continent have come to the library to study bioethics. Increasingly its visitors are “virtual,” taking advantage of the diversity of reference services offered via the Web (<http://bioethics.georgetown.edu>). The ETHXWeb database delivers bibliographic information as well as links to full-text documents (when available).

## **The NRCBL and Coordinated Collection Development**

The primary focus of collection development of the National Reference Center for Bioethics Literature (NRCBL), in existence since 1985 with major support from the National Library of Medicine (NLM), has been to establish, as comprehensively as possible, a broad collection of bioethics scholarship that reflects historical roots as well as contemporary themes. The goal is comprehensive coverage for bioethics, domestically and internationally, in multiple major languages. The NRCBL Classification Scheme (see page 7) provides a list of core interests of bioethics scholars. Some areas are less significant than others (for example, we collect virtually everything in category 2 on bioethics, but not everything in category 3 on philosophy of biology), and most topics are collected only insofar as they concern ethical, legal, or social issues.

A selected subset of the literature of the materials acquired by the NRCBL was analyzed in greater depth by the Bioethics Information Retrieval Project to add citations to the NLM databases, PubMed and LOCATOR<sup>plus</sup> from 1975 to January 22, 2007. This subset adhered to the “Scope of the Bibliography” section as published in the “Introduction” to the *Bibliography of Bioethics*.

A third activity, the National Information Resource on Ethics and Human Genetics (NIREHG), provides information services about the ethical, legal, and social implications of research in human genetics and related clinical applications. The National Human Genome Research Institute supports this project, which, in turn, covers all the work of the library’s activities regarding genetics. Additionally, NIREHG, in an effort to reach a wide, international audience, is at the forefront of Web-delivered services, such as QuickBibs, regularly-updated Scope Notes, and the identification, acquisition, and delivery of especially important materials in digital format.

In order to address ethical and public policy questions, bioethics researchers have to rely on the best literature of supporting disciplines like law, medicine, philosophy, and science. Such literature complements the bioethics collection and is acquired very selectively. These materials include basic reference works as well as monographic works.

### **Documents Included in ETHXWeb**

New documents selected for the National Reference Center for Bioethics Literature (NRCBL) are cited in ETHXWeb, which provides essential location information for library users for all books in the collection as well as for articles acquired since January 1988. (The location of articles acquired before that date is found in a traditional card catalog in the library.) The database design thus offers a single source for most of the library's materials, regardless of format, which may include: books, book chapters, reports, journal and newspaper articles, audiovisuals, abstracts, book and media reviews, and printouts of Web-only documents.

Uniform subject access to these materials is facilitated by the consistent application of classification numbers from a bioethics-oriented, hierarchical scheme, which can be "exploded" in ETHXWeb. An expanded version of the scheme (showing the one-page scheme at the end) is on the Web at: <http://bioethics.georgetown.edu/databases/classscheme/>. Displayed in this document are conventions developed by staff to classify topics and subtopics.

ETHXWeb supplements PubMed and LOCATOR*plus* records with citations to additional materials, such as:

- 1) articles in new periodicals not yet approved for inclusion in PubMed, such as the early volumes of *Nursing Philosophy*;
- 2) articles in newsletters published by national ethics commissions in other countries (these are important to the development of the field of bioethics, but the newsletters may not be appropriate for PubMed);
- 3) materials collected in support of special projects and collections (which are usually more extensive than what would otherwise be collected); examples are the NIREHG, supported by a National Human Genome Research Institute grant, and the Kampelman Collection of Jewish Ethics, supported by an endowed fund;
- 4) materials from publications or in formats excluded from the two major NLM databases (such as book reviews, abstracts, pre-publication items and brief news articles);
- 5) important non-English publications; and
- 6) materials from related disciplines (such as applied and professional ethics, business, environmental ethics, law, medicine, philosophy, and science) that do not fit the subject

selection criteria for NLM databases, but do provide significant reference value for bioethics researchers. (The collection of these materials is supported by non-NLM funds.)

### **Document Selection Criteria**

The NRCBL seeks to provide comprehensive, cross-disciplinary coverage of substantive English-language materials, published since 1973, that discuss ethical and related legal or public policy aspects of the topics and subtopics listed in the scope outline above. Accordingly, citations are drawn from the literatures of the health sciences, the social sciences, law, philosophy, and religion, as well as from the popular media. These citations incorporate a variety of publication types, including journal articles; books and chapters within books; newspaper articles; legal documents; government, advisory committee, and task force reports; audiovisual materials; and Web-based publications. The monitoring system for identifying relevant materials is international in its coverage.

Journal articles, books, and chapters within books represent the most frequently cited publications. Court decisions and government reports are the primary sources of relevant legal materials. Laws may be included if they are newsworthy or potentially trend-setting. An archival record of public concern about bioethical issues is provided by news items selected from major journals and news magazines, and relevant articles from the *New York Times* and the *Washington Post* are regularly cited.

## **History of the NRCBL Collection**

Two years after the 1971 founding of the Kennedy Institute of Ethics (originally named the Joseph and Rose Kennedy Institute for the Study of Human Reproduction and Bioethics, and comprised of three centers focusing on bioethics, population, and genetic counseling), Institute Director André E. Hellegers, and LeRoy Walters (at that time the Director of the Center for Bioethics) decided to establish a library. Furthermore, they thought it was crucial to develop an information retrieval system to cover the emerging, interdisciplinary field of bioethics. With the financial backing of the Kennedy Foundation, the library's early role was to support the research faculty, the NEH-sponsored Encyclopedia Project (under the direction of Warren Reich), and the bioethics information retrieval project (which was soon the recipient of a grant from the National Library of Medicine).

In 1985 the library's role was increased significantly when it became the National Reference Center for Bioethics Literature (NRCBL) through a grant from the National Library of Medicine. Today it is part of the National Network of Libraries of Medicine and provides information services to patrons on site and, via the Web and its publications program, to researchers throughout the world.

## **NRCBL Retention Policy**

NRCBL serves as an archival collection for the field of bioethics. As such, it retains most of the items it collects. However, outdated reference materials pertinent to peripheral issues are discarded as necessary.

## **NRCBL Library Classification Scheme**

[see following page]

# NATIONAL REFERENCE CENTER FOR BIOETHICS LITERATURE LIBRARY CLASSIFICATION SCHEME

## 1 Ethics

- 1.1 Philosophical Ethics
- 1.2 Religious Ethics
- 1.3 Applied and Professional Ethics
  - 1.3.1 General
  - 1.3.2 Business
  - 1.3.3 Education
  - 1.3.4 Engineering
  - 1.3.5 Government/Criminal Justice
  - 1.3.6 International Affairs
  - 1.3.7 Journalism/Mass Media
  - 1.3.8 Law
  - 1.3.9 Scientific Research
  - 1.3.10 Social Work
  - 1.3.11 Agriculture
  - 1.3.12 Information Technology

## 2 Bioethics

- 2.1 General
- 2.2 History of Health Ethics/Bioethics
- 2.3 Education/Programs
- 2.4 Commissions/Councils

## 3 Philosophy of Biology

- 3.1 General
- 3.2 Evolution and Creation

## 4 Philosophy of Medicine and Health

- 4.1 Philosophy of the Health Professions
  - 4.1.1 General
  - 4.1.2 Philosophy of Medicine
  - 4.1.3 Philosophy of Nursing
- 4.2 Concept of Health
- 4.3 Concept of Mental Health
- 4.4 Quality/Value of Life/Personhood
- 4.5 Enhancement

## 5 Science/Technology and Society

- 5.1 General
- 5.2 Technology/Risk Assessment
- 5.3 Social Control of Science/Technology
- 5.4 Nanotechnology

## 6 Codes of/Position Statements on Professional Ethics

## 7 Sociology of Health Care

- 7.1 General
- 7.2 Education for Health Care Professionals
- 7.3 Professional-Professional Relationship
- 7.4 Professional Misconduct

## 8 Patient Relationships

- 8.1 General
- 8.2 Truth Disclosure
- 8.3 Informed Consent
  - 8.3.1 General
  - 8.3.2 Parental Consent/Minors
  - 8.3.3 Third Party Consent/Incompetents
  - 8.3.4 Right to Refuse Treatment
  - 8.3.5 Bills, Laws and Cases
- 8.4 Confidentiality
- 8.5 Malpractice

## 9 Health Care

- 9.1 General
- 9.2 Right to Health Care
- 9.3 Health Care Economics
  - 9.3.1 General
  - 9.3.2 Managed Care
- 9.4 Allocation of Health Care Resources
- 9.5 Health Care for Specific Diseases/Groups
  - 9.5.1 General
  - 9.5.2 Aged
  - 9.5.3 Mentally Disabled Persons
  - 9.5.4 Minorities

- 9.5.5 Women
- 9.5.6 HIV Infection and AIDS
- 9.5.7 Newborns and Minors
- 9.5.8 Embryos and Fetuses
- 9.5.9 Substance Abusers/Users of Controlled Substances
- 9.5.10 Indigents
- 9.6 Ethics Committees/Consultation
- 9.7 Drugs and Drug Industry
- 9.8 Quality of Health Care

## 10 Sexuality/Gender

### 11 Contraception

- 11.1 General
- 11.2 Availability of Contraceptives to Minors
- 11.3 Sterilization
- 11.4 Failure of Contraception/Wrongful Birth

### 12 Abortion

- 12.1 General
- 12.2 Position Statements
- 12.3 Moral and Religious Aspects
- 12.4 Legal Aspects
  - 12.4.1 General
  - 12.4.2 Interests of Woman/Fetus/Father
  - 12.4.3 Interests of Health Personnel/Institutions
  - 12.4.4 Bills, Laws and Cases
- 12.5 Social Aspects
  - 12.5.1 General
  - 12.5.2 Demographic Surveys/Attitudes
  - 12.5.3 Abortion Counseling

### 13 Population

- 13.1 General
- 13.2 Population Growth
- 13.3 Population Policy

### 14 Reproduction/Reproductive Technologies

- 14.1 General
- 14.2 Artificial Insemination and Surrogacy
- 14.3 Sex Predetermination/Selection
- 14.4 In Vitro Fertilization and Embryo Transfer
- 14.5 Cloning
- 14.6 Cryobanking of Sperm, Ova, or Embryos

### 15 Genetics, Molecular Biology and Microbiology

- 15.1 General
- 15.2 Genetic Counseling/Prenatal Diagnosis
- 15.3 Genetic Screening/Testing
- 15.4 Gene Therapy/Transfer
- 15.5 Eugenics
- 15.6 Behavioral Genetics
- 15.7 Biohazards of Genetic Research
- 15.8 Genetic Patents
- 15.9 Sociobiology
- 15.10 Genome Mapping
- 15.11 Genetics and Human Ancestry

### 16 Environmental Quality

- 16.1 General
- 16.2 Nuclear Power/Radiation
- 16.3 Occupational Health

### 17 The Neurosciences and Mental Health Therapies

- 17.1 General
- 17.2 Psychotherapy
- 17.3 Behavior Modification
- 17.4 Psychopharmacology
- 17.5 Electrical Stimulation of the Brain
- 17.6 Psychosurgery

- 17.7 Involuntary Civil Commitment
- 17.8 Right of the Institutionalized to Treatment

## 18 Human Experimentation

- 18.1 General
- 18.2 Policy Guidelines/Inst. Review Boards
- 18.3 Informed Consent
- 18.4 Behavioral Research
- 18.5 Research on Special Populations
  - 18.5.1 General
  - 18.5.2 Newborns and Minors
  - 18.5.3 Women
  - 18.5.4 Embryos and Fetuses
  - 18.5.5 Prisoners
  - 18.5.6 Mentally Ill/Disabled Persons
  - 18.5.7 Elderly and Terminally Ill Persons
  - 18.5.8 Military and Government Personnel
  - 18.5.9 Foreign Nationals
- 18.6 Social Control of Human Experimentation

## 19 Artificial and Transplanted Organs/Tissues

- 19.1 General
- 19.2 Hearts
- 19.3 Kidneys
- 19.4 Blood
- 19.5 Donation/Procurement of Organs/Tissues
- 19.6 Allocation of Organs/Tissues

## 20 Death and Dying

- 20.1 General
- 20.2 Definition/Determination of Death
  - 20.2.1 General
  - 20.2.2 Bills, Laws and Cases
- 20.3 Attitudes Toward Death
  - 20.3.1 General
  - 20.3.2 Health Personnel
  - 20.3.3 Family
  - 20.3.4 Death Education
- 20.4 Care of the Dying Patient
  - 20.4.1 General
  - 20.4.2 Care of Dying Minors
- 20.5 Prolongation of Life and Euthanasia
  - 20.5.1 General
  - 20.5.2 Allowing Minors to Die
  - 20.5.3 Bills, Laws and Cases
  - 20.5.4 Living Wills/Advance Directives
- 20.6 Capital Punishment
- 20.7 Suicide/Assisted Suicide

## 21 International/Political Dimensions of Biology and Medicine

- 21.1 General
- 21.2 War
- 21.3 Chemical and Biological Weapons
- 21.4 Torture and Genocide
- 21.5 Force Feeding of Prisoners
- 21.6 International Migration of Health Professionals
- 21.7 Cultural Pluralism

## 22 Animal Welfare

- 22.1 General
- 22.2 Animal Experimentation
- 22.3 Animal Production

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## Selection Guidelines by Subject

This section contains guidance for the selection of contemporary materials by subject. Subject descriptions are based on a current understanding of the trends in biomedical research, health care practice, and associated issues. They are organized alphabetically according to the major subject headings listed in the NRCBL Library Classification Scheme (see page 7). Selection decisions for historical materials are based more broadly on the importance of a discipline to the historical practice of medicine and public health.

The Library collects works that have an ethical, legal or public policy dimension in the fields of medicine, nursing, health care and public health.

Subject categories are subdivided as follows:

**Definition:** Most terms are consistent with the *Medical Subject Headings* [MeSH], the controlled vocabulary of the National Library of Medicine. In some instances, such as non-MeSH terms, are derived from the *Encyclopedia of Bioethics* [EOB], the *Bioethics Thesaurus* [BT], or from other authoritative sources.

**Discussion:** For subjects that present selection difficulties. This section provides additional context to the Library's described collecting interest. It may include representative subtopics which provide additional guidance to the selector.

**Scope and emphasis:** This section defines the Library's collecting interest in a subject, and the level of intensity at which it is applied. **"Collected comprehensively"** signifies that the Library collects at the highest level of research intensity, according to generally accepted collection development standards, as follows: The NRCBL collection serves as a national and international resource in the fields of bioethics and related life sciences. NRCBL strives to assemble a subject collection that is as exhaustive as is reasonably possible, including works from all countries, in all applicable written languages and in the general format categories of monographs, journals, and articles. **"Collected selectively"** signifies that the Library collects materials at a study or instructional support level only, limited to English or selected non-English languages, and/or obtaining items that are monographs or journals only, not at the article level, unless indicated. The Library's collection of significant published materials is exhaustive; collections of manuscripts and other relevant formats and literature types are extensive; and NRCBL retains and systematically preserves older material to serve the needs of historical research.

**Special considerations:** Where applicable, this section provides information about collecting policies of other national libraries, major initiatives at NRCBL, and/or formats which are especially pertinent to a subject.

**See also references:** Refer users to topics which may offer additional guidance.

## **Abortion**

### ***Definition:***

The expulsion of a nonviable fetus or to terminate a pregnancy prematurely by surgical or medical means. There is some confusion about the definition of abortion. Spontaneous abortion, or what is commonly termed a miscarriage, refers to a spontaneous loss of pregnancy before viability (at about twenty-four weeks of gestation). Losses after that point in a pregnancy are termed *preterm deliveries*, or, in the case of the delivery of a fetus who has already died, *stillbirths*. The terminology commonly used in relation to induced abortion is different. Here, viability is not the key point. Rather, any termination of a pregnancy by medical or surgical means is termed an abortion, regardless of the stage of the pregnancy. [Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary, 10th edition and EOB]

### ***Discussion:***

Abortion issues include position statements; moral and religious aspects; legal interests of the woman, fetus, father, health personnel or institutions, as well as bills, laws and cases; and social aspects such as demographic surveys or attitudes and abortion counseling.

### ***Scope and emphasis:***

Collected comprehensively for the following categories:

- 12.1 Abortion (General)
- 12.2 Position Statements on Abortion
- 12.3 Moral and Religious Aspects of Abortion
- 12.4.1 Legal Aspects of Abortion (General)
- 12.4.2 Legal Interests of Woman/Fetus/Father
- 12.4.3 Legal Interests of Health Personnel/Institutions
- 12.4.4 Bills, Laws, and Cases on Abortion
- 12.5.3 Abortion Counseling

Collected selectively for the following categories:

- 12.5.1 Social Aspects of Abortion (limited to study/instructional level)
- 12.5.2 Demographic Surveys (limited to study/instructional level)

2/16/05

## **Animal Welfare**

### ***Definition:***

The protection of animals in laboratories or other specific environments by promoting their health through better nutrition, housing, and care. [MeSH]

### ***Discussion:***

Animal welfare includes issues pertaining to animal care committees, animal experimentation, animal production, animal rights and animal testing alternatives.

***Scope and emphasis:***

Collected comprehensively for the following categories:

- 22.1 Animal Welfare (General) (limited to English language)
- 22.2 Animal Experimentation

Collected selectively for the following category:

- 22.3 Animal Production (limited to study/instructional level; English language)

***See also:***

Genetics, Molecular Biology and Microbiology

2/16/05

## **Artificial and Transplanted Organs/Tissues**

***Definition:***

Transference of a tissue or organ, alive or dead, within an individual, between individuals of the same species, or between individuals of different species. [MeSH]

***Discussion:***

Transplanted organs or tissues include discussions concerning donation or procurement; allocation of organs or tissues, as well as xenotransplantation. Unless specified below, all other artificial and transplanted organs (i.e liver, lungs, pancreas, etc.) are included in category 19.1.

***Scope and emphasis:***

Collected comprehensively for the following categories:

- 19.1 Artificial and Transplanted Organs/Tissues, General
- 19.2 Hearts
- 19.3 Kidneys
- 19.4 Blood
- 19.5 Donation/Procurement of Organs/Tissues
- 19.6 Allocation of Organs/Tissues

***See also:***

Animal Welfare

2/16/05

## **Bioethics**

***Definition:***

A branch of applied ethics that studies the value implications of practices and developments in the life science, medicine and health care. [MeSH]

***Discussion:***

Areas in the field of bioethics include the history of medical ethics and bioethics; educational programs, meetings or textbooks on bioethical themes; and the work of or on national and international bioethical commissions or councils.

***Scope and emphasis:***

Collected comprehensively for the following categories:

- 2.1 Bioethics, General
- 2.2 History of Medical Ethics
- 2.3 Bioethics Education/Programs
- 2.4 Bioethics Commissions/Councils

2/16/05

## **Codes of/Position Statements on Professional Ethics**

***Definition:***

Systematic statements of principles or rules of appropriate professional conduct, usually established by professional societies. [MeSH]

***Discussion:***

This section includes codes and articles about codes.

***Scope and emphasis:***

Collected comprehensively for the following categories:

- 6 Codes of/Positions Statements on Professional Ethics

***See also:***

Human Experimentation

2/16/05

## **Contraception**

***Definition:***

The prevention of conception or impregnation by blocking fertility temporarily or permanently. [MeSH]

***Discussion:***

This topic includes ethical, legal, or public policy issues in birth control, family planning, involuntary sterilization and the failure of contraception (wrongful birth).

***Scope and emphasis:***

Collected selectively for the following categories:

- 11.1 Contraception, General (limited to study/instructional level; English language; monographs)
- 11.2 Availability of Contraceptives to Minors (limited to study/instructional level; English language)
- 11.3 Sterilization (limited to study/instructional level)

Collected comprehensively for the following category:

- 11.4 Failure of Contraception/Wrongful Birth

2/16/05

## **Death and Dying**

***Definition:***

Irreversible cessation of all bodily functions, manifested by absence of spontaneous breathing and total loss of cardiovascular and cerebral functions. Also includes the concept of death; or, the process of dying. [MeSH & BT]

***Discussion:***

Capital punishment category is at the article level when discussions are talking about physicians' participation in capital punishment; monograph and journal levels include ethics of capital punishment. Suicide and assisted suicide at the article level are primarily patient's right to suicide.

***Scope and emphasis:***

Collected selectively for the following categories:

- 20.1 Death and Dying, General (limited to study/instructional level; English language; monographs and journals)
- 20.3.1 Attitudes Toward Death, General (limited to study/instructional level; English language; monographs and journals)
- 20.3.2 Attitudes Toward Death, Health Personnel (limited to study/instructional level; English language; monographs and journals)
- 20.3.3 Attitudes Toward Death, Family (limited to study/instructional level; English language; monographs and journals)
- 20.3.4 Death Education (limited to study/instructional level; English language; monographs and journals)
- 20.4.1 Care of the Dying Patient, General (limited to study/instructional level; English language; monographs and journals)
- 20.4.2 Care of Dying Minors (limited to study/instructional level; English language; monographs and journals)

Collected comprehensively for the following categories:

- 20.2.1 Definition/Determination of Death, General
- 20.2.2 Definition/Determination of Death, Bills, Laws and Cases

- 20.5.1 Prolongation of Life and Euthanasia, General
- 20.5.2 Allowing Minors to Die
- 20.5.3 Prolongation of Life and Euthanasia, Bills, Laws and Cases
- 20.5.4 Living Wills/Advance Directives
- 20.6 Capital Punishment (English language)
- 20.7 Suicide/Assisted Suicide

2/16/05

## Environmental Quality

### ***Definition:***

The external elements and conditions which surround, influence, and affect the life and development of an organism or population. [MeSH]

### ***Discussion:***

Nuclear power is primarily ethics of nuclear war and physicians' responsibility with regard to nuclear war. Radiation includes testing on research subjects and occupational-related health issues. Occupational health primarily includes the physician's duty to disclose, genetic screening in the workplace, and reproductive issues.

### ***Scope and emphasis:***

Collected selectively for the following categories:

- 16.1 Environmental Quality, General (limited to study/instructional level; English language; monographs and journals)
- 16.2 Nuclear Power/Radiation (limited to study/instructional level; English language; monographs and journals)
- 16.3 Occupational Health (limited to study/instructional level; English language; monographs and journals)

### ***See also:***

Human Experimentation  
International/Political Dimensions of Biology and Medicine

2/16/05

## Ethics

### ***Definition:***

The field of study dealing with the principles of morality. [BT]

### ***Discussion:***

This field covers philosophical and religious ethics; applied and professional ethics in the areas of

agriculture; business; education; engineering; government and criminal justice; information technology; international affairs; journalism and mass media; law; scientific research; and social work.

***Scope and emphasis:***

Collected selectively for the following categories:

- 1.1 Philosophical Ethics (limited to study/instructional level; English language; monographs and journals)
- 1.2 Religious Ethics (limited to study/instructional level; English language; monographs and journals)
- 1.3.1 Applied and Professional Ethics, General (limited to study/instructional level; English language; monographs and journals)
- 1.3.2 Business (limited to study/instructional level; English language; monographs and journals)
- 1.3.3 Education (limited to study/instructional level; English language; monographs and journals)
- 1.3.4 Engineering (limited to study/instructional level; English language; monographs and journals)
- 1.3.5 Government/Criminal Justice (limited to study/instructional level; English language; monographs and journals)
- 1.3.6 International Affairs (limited to study/instructional level; English language; monographs and journals)
- 1.3.7 Journalism/Mass Media (limited to study/instructional level; English language; monographs and journals)
- 1.3.8 Law (limited to study/instructional level; English language; monographs and journals)
- 1.3.9 Scientific Research (limited to study/instructional level; English language)
- 1.3.10 Social Work (limited to study/instructional level; English language; monographs and journals)
- 1.3.11 Agriculture (limited to study/instructional level; English language; monographs and journals)
- 1.3.12 Information Technology (limited to study/instructional level; English language; monographs and journals)

***Special considerations:***

The purchase of monographic works and periodical subscriptions relevant to areas of applied ethics—outside strictly biomedical ethics—has historically been supported by other federal and private sources, such as the Kennedy Foundation and the National Endowment for the Humanities. Space and budget considerations have necessitated the need to be very selective in these areas, relying mostly on gift donations, except in the area of scientific research.

2/16/05

## **Genetics, Molecular Biology and Microbiology**

### ***Definition:***

Used for mechanisms of heredity and the genetics of organisms, for the genetic basis of normal and pathologic states, and for the genetic aspects of endogenous chemicals. It includes biochemical and molecular influence on genetic material. [MeSH]

### ***Discussion:***

This expansive area of study includes discussions on ethical, legal and public policy issues related to genetics and genetic research.

### ***Scope and emphasis:***

Collected comprehensively for the following categories:

- 15.2 Genetic Counseling/Prenatal Diagnosis
- 15.3 Genetic Screening/Testing
- 15.4 Gene Therapy/Transfer
- 15.5 Eugenics
- 15.6 Behavioral Genetics
- 15.7 Biohazards of Genetic Research
- 15.8 Genetic Patents
- 15.10 Genome Mapping
- 15.11 Genetics and Human Ancestry (3/05)

Collected selectively for the following categories:

- 15.1 Genetics, Molecular Biology and Microbiology, General (limited to study/instructional level; English language; monographs and journals)
- 15.9 Sociobiology (limited to study/instructional level; English language; monographs and journals)

### ***Special considerations:***

Additional funding from The National Human Genome Research Institute (NIREHG) allows us to develop a highly comprehensive collection in this area with respect to ethical, legal, and social implications of research in human genetics and related clinical applications.

### ***See also:***

Animal Welfare (for transgenic animals)  
Applied and Professional Ethics (for agriculture)  
Environmental Quality  
Human Experimentation  
Philosophy of Medicine and Health (for enhancement)  
Reproduction/Reproductive Technologies

2/17/07

## Health Care

### ***Definition:***

The concept concerned with all aspects of providing and distributing health services to a patient population. [MeSH for delivery of health care]

### ***Discussion:***

Only literature addressing bioethics or examining cost from a very broad or international perspective are included in the area of Health Care Economics. Collection development for Health Care Programs for Specific Diseases/Groups is limited to literature that addresses equity and other bioethical issues. Monographs on drugs and the drug industry are limited to ethical, legal and policy issues.

### ***Scope and emphasis:***

Collected comprehensively for the following categories:

- 9.2 Right to Health Care
- 9.4 Allocation of Health Care Resources
- 9.6 Ethics Committees/Consultation

Collected selectively for the following categories:

- 9.1 Health Care, General (limited to study/instructional level; English language; monographs and journals)
- 9.3.1 Health Care Economics (limited to study/instructional level; English language)
- 9.3.2 Managed Care (limited to study/instructional level; English language)
- 9.5.1 Health Care Programs for Specific Diseases/Groups, General (limited to study/instructional level; English language; monographs)
- 9.5.2 Health Care Programs for the Aged (limited to study/instructional level; English language; monographs)
- 9.5.3 Health Care Programs for Mentally Disabled Persons (limited to study/instructional level; English language; monographs)
- 9.5.4 Health Care Programs for Minorities (limited to study/instructional level; English language; monographs)
- 9.5.5 Health Care Programs for Women (limited to study/instructional level; English language; monographs)
- 9.5.6 Health Care Programs for HIV Infection and AIDS (limited to study/instructional level; English language; monographs)
- 9.5.7 Health Care Programs for Newborns and Minors (limited to study/instructional level; English language; monographs)
- 9.5.8 Health Care Programs for Embryos and Fetuses (limited to study/instructional level; English language; monographs)
- 9.5.9 Health Care Programs for Substance Abusers/Users of Controlled Substances (limited to study/instructional level; English language; monographs)
- 9.5.10 Health Care Programs for Indigents (limited to study/instructional level; English language; monographs)

- 9.7 Drugs and Drug Industry (limited to study/instructional level; English language; monographs)
- 9.8 Quality of Health Care (limited to study/instructional level; English language; monographs)

***See also:***

Animal Welfare (for animal ethics committees)

2/16/05

## **Human Experimentation**

***Definition:***

The use of humans as investigational subjects. [MeSH]. Research that is conducted to increase fundamental knowledge and understanding of the physical, chemical and functional mechanisms of human life processes and diseases. [NLM under biomedical research]

***Scope and emphasis:***

Collected comprehensively for the following categories:

- 18.1 Human Experimentation, General
- 18.2 Policy Guidelines/Institutional Review Boards
- 18.3 Informed Consent
- 18.4 Behavioral Research
- 18.5.1 Research on Special Populations, General
- 18.5.2 Newborns and Minors
- 18.5.3 Women
- 18.5.4 Embryos and Fetuses
- 18.5.5 Prisoners
- 18.5.6 Mentally Ill/Disabled Persons
- 18.5.7 Elderly and Terminally Ill Persons
- 18.5.8 Military and Government Personnel
- 18.5.9 Foreign Nationals
- 18.6 Social Control of Human Experimentation

***See also:***

Animal Welfare

Patient Relationships (for parental/third party informed consent)

2/17/07

## **International/Political Dimensions of Biology and Medicine**

***Definition:***

The quality or state of relating to or affecting two or more nations. (After Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary, 10th edition)

***Discussion:***

This area of study includes issues relating to human rights, just war theory, and physicians' participation in torture and in force feeding of prisoners.

***Scope and emphasis:***

Collected selectively for the following categories:

- 21.1 International and Political Dimensions of Biology and Medicine, General (limited to study/instructional level; English language; monographs and journals)
- 21.2 War (limited to study/instructional level; English language; monographs and journals)
- 21.3 Chemical and Biological Weapons (limited to study/instructional level; English language; monographs and journals)
- 21.4 Torture and Genocide (limited to study/instructional level; English language; monographs and journals)
- 21.5 Forced Feeding of Prisoners (limited to study/instructional level; English language; monographs and journals)
- 21.6 International Migration of Health Professionals (limited to study/instructional level; English language; monographs and journals)
- 21.7 Cultural Pluralism (limited to study/instructional level; English language; monographs and journals)

***Special considerations:***

Special funding for the Kampelman Collection of Jewish Ethics allows for a broader selection of materials relating to the Holocaust.

***See also:***

Environmental Quality (for nuclear power and radiation)  
Genetics, Molecular Biology and Microbiology (for eugenics)

2/16/05

## **The Neurosciences and Mental Health Therapies**

***Definition:***

Neurosciences are the scientific disciplines concerned with the embryology, anatomy, physiology, biochemistry, pharmacology, etc., of the nervous system. Mental health therapies include psychiatry, the medical science that deals with the origin, diagnosis, prevention, and treatment of mental disorders; and with psychology, the science dealing with the study of mental processes and behavior in man and animals. [MeSH/MeSH/MeSH]

***Discussion:***

The area of involuntary civil commitment excludes criminal commitment.

***Scope and emphasis:***

Collected comprehensively for the following categories:

- 17.1 The Neurosciences and Mental Health Therapies, General
- 17.2 Psychotherapy
- 17.3 Behavior Modification
- 17.4 Psychopharmacology
- 17.5 Electrical Stimulation of the Brain
- 17.6 Psychosurgery
- 17.7 Involuntary Civil Commitment
- 17.8 Right of the Institutionalized to Treatment

***See also:***

Philosophy of Medicine and Health (for concept of mental health)

2/16/05

## **Patient Relationships**

***Definition:***

Includes medical and nursing care. [BT under patient care]

Behavioral, psychological, and social relations among various members of the nuclear family and the extended family; includes patients' rights. [MeSH under family relations]

***Discussion:***

Only landmark or unusual legal documents on informed consent are collected in the area of bills, laws, and cases.

***Scope and emphasis:***

Collected comprehensively for the following categories:

- 8.2 Truth Disclosure
- 8.3.1 Informed Consent, General
- 8.3.2 Parental Consent/Minors
- 8.3.3 Third Party Consent/Incompetents
- 8.3.4 Right to Refuse Treatment
- 8.3.5 Bills, Laws and Cases
- 8.4 Confidentiality

Collected selectively for the following categories:

- 8.1 Patient Relationships, General (limited to study/instructional level; monographs and journals)
- 8.5 Malpractice (limited to study/instructional level; English language; monographs and journals)

***See also:***

Human Experimentation (for informed consent in research)  
Sociology of Health Care (for professional-professional relationships and professional misconduct)

1/10/08

## **Philosophy of Biology**

### ***Definition:***

Philosophy of biology focuses on the metaphysical, epistemological, and conceptual issues involving the scientific study of living organisms. [EOB]

### ***Scope and emphasis:***

Collected selectively for the following categories:

- 3.1 Philosophy of Biology, General (limited to study/instructional level; monographs and journals)
- 3.2 Evolution and Creation (limited to study/instructional level; monographs and journals)

### ***See also:***

Genetics, Molecular Biology and Microbiology

2/16/05

## **Philosophy of Medicine and Health**

### ***Definition:***

Regarding medical findings, reasoning in medicine, the status of knowledge claims in medicine, and the special concepts that structure the science and art of medicine. [EOB]

### ***Scope and emphasis:***

Collected selectively for the following categories:

- 4.1.1 Philosophy of Medicine and Health, General (includes allied health) (limited to advanced study/instructional level)
- 4.1.2 Philosophy of Medicine (limited to advanced study/instructional level)
- 4.1.3 Philosophy of Nursing (limited to advanced study/instructional level)
- 4.2 Concept of Health (limited to advanced study/instructional level)
- 4.3 Concept of Mental Health (limited to advanced study/instructional level)
- 4.4 Quality/Value of Life/Personhood (limited to advanced study/instructional level)
- 4.5 Enhancement (limited to advanced study/instructional level; English and selected foreign languages) (3/05)

### ***See also:***

Codes of/Position Statements on Professional Ethics  
Genetics, Molecular Biology and Microbiology

3/22/05

## Population

### ***Definition:***

The whole number of people or inhabitants in a country or region. Demography is the statistical study of human populations with reference to size and density, distribution, and vital statistics. [Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary, 10th edition]

### ***Discussion:***

The area of population policy is limited to the focus on human rights or equity issues, such as coerced sterilization or funding of family planning services.

### ***Scope and emphasis:***

Collected selectively for the following categories:

- 13.1 Population, General (limited to study/instructional level; English language; monographs and journals)
- 13.2 Population Growth (limited to study/instructional level; English language; monographs and journals)
- 13.3 Population Policy (limited to study/instructional level; English language; monographs and journals)

### ***See also:***

Contraception

International/Political Dimensions of Biology and Medicine

2/16/05

## Reproduction/Reproductive Technologies

### ***Definition:***

A branch of medicine concerned with the morphology, physiology, biochemistry, and pathology of reproduction in humans and other animals, and on the biological, medical, and veterinary problems of fertility and lactation. It includes ovulation induction, diagnosis of infertility and recurrent pregnancy loss, and assisted reproductive technologies such as embryo transfer, in vitro fertilization, and intrafallopian transfer of zygotes. [NLM]

The total process by which organisms produce offspring. (Stedman, 25th ed) [MeSH-reproduction]

Methods pertaining to the generation of new individuals, including techniques used in selective BREEDING, cloning ( CLONING, ORGANISM), and assisted reproduction ( REPRODUCTIVE TECHNIQUES, ASSISTED). [MeSH under reproductive technologies]

### ***Scope and emphasis:***

Collected comprehensively for the following categories:

- 14.1 Reproduction/Reproductive Technologies
- 14.2 Artificial Insemination and Surrogacy
- 14.3 Sex Predetermination/Selection
- 14.4 In Vitro Fertilization and Embryo Transfer
- 14.5 Cloning
- 14.6 Cryobanking of Sperm, Ova, or Embryos

***See also:***

Genetics, Molecular Biology and Microbiology  
Human Experimentation

2/16/05

## **Science/Technology and Society**

***Definition:***

Philosophy of science is usually divided into philosophy of the natural sciences and philosophy of the social sciences. Philosophy of science clarifies both the quest for scientific knowledge and the results yielded by that quest. It does this by exploring the logic of scientific evidence; the nature of scientific laws, explanations, and theories; and the possible connections among the various branches of science. [American Philosophical Association]

***Discussion:***

Literature selection must address ethical, legal or policy issues.

***Scope and emphasis:***

Collected selectively for the following categories:

- 5.1 Science/Technology and Society, General (limited to study/instructional level; monographs and journals)
- 5.2 Technology/Risk Assessment (limited to study/instructional level; monographs and journals)
- 5.3 Social Control of Science/Technology (limited to study/instructional level; monographs and journals)
- 5.4 Nanotechnology (limited to study/instructional level; monographs and journals) (3/07)

***See also:***

Genetics, Molecular Biology and Microbiology (for biotechnology as it relates to genetics)  
Human Experimentation

3/24/07

## **Sexuality/Gender**

***Definition:***

The sexual functions, activities, attitudes, and orientations of an individual. Sexuality, male or female, becomes evident at PUBERTY under the influence of gonadal steroids (TESTOSTERONE or ESTRADIOL), and social effects. [MeSH under sexuality]

A person's concept of self as being male and masculine or female and feminine, or ambivalent, based in part on physical characteristics, parental responses, and psychological and social pressures. It is the internal experience of gender role. [MeSH under gender identity]

***Discussion:***

Collection development includes primarily sexual ethics and issues related to gender in health care or medicine. This category is also used to classify works on homosexuality and feminist ethics.

***Scope and emphasis:***

Collected selectively for the following categories:

- 10 Sexuality/Gender (limited to study/instructional level; English language; monographs)

2/16/05

## **Sociology of Health Care**

***Definition:***

The social structure of medical institutions or the medical profession.

***Discussion:***

Includes materials (insofar as they are related to bioethics) on such topics as: medical anthropology, epidemiology, ethnography, ethnology, history of medicine, and medical humanities (including film and literature); and practice issues, such as the right to strike, the disciplining of professionals, and gender and the health care professional.

***Scope and emphasis:***

Collected selectively for the following categories:

- 7.1 Sociology of Health Care, General (limited to study/instructional level; English language; monographs)
- 7.2 Education for Health Care Professionals (limited to study/instructional level; English language; monographs)
- 7.3 Professional-Professional Relationship (limited to study/instructional level; English language; monographs)

Collected comprehensively for the following category:

- 7.4 Professional Misconduct (3/07)

***See also:***

Bioethics (for bioethics education/programs)  
Sexuality/Gender

3/24/07

## Selection Guidelines by Format and Literature Type

The National Reference Center for Bioethics Literature's goal is to assemble a collection that insofar as possible contains all significant professional and research literature in the field of bioethics. This comprehensive resource represents the world's largest collection of works relating to the field of bioethics.

In most cases, the Library's first preference is for works that are available in print. Longevity of the collection is foremost in terms of preservation of materials.

Within some categories, NRCBL collects selectively in order to avoid redundancy.

The following section offers guidance for the selection of many categories of publications. It is based on formats and publication types included in the *Collection Development Manual of the National Library of Medicine*.

### Academic Dissertations

This category includes master's theses, doctoral and post-doctoral dissertations, inauguraldissertationen and habilitationschriften.

Academic dissertations often represent unique research, empirical studies and analytical thought in a given field. Because of the explosion of bioethical studies in the past 20 years, the NRCBL has had to be selective in its acquisitions of dissertations. Preference is given to English language works from major universities with established bioethics programs. The library is selective with regard to foreign theses, which are acquired mostly as gifts or as commercially published monographs.

2/27/06

### Alumni and Student Publications

Publications written by and for alumni and students provide important historical developments in the areas of bioethics education and scholarship. NRCBL is selective in its collection of alumni and student publications, giving preference to works from well-established educational programs in the field of bioethics.

2/27/06

### Annual Reports

Organizations publish annual reports to document activities to members of the public, to satisfy organizational or government mandates, to promote orderly progress toward organizational goals, or to enhance public relations.

The library collects annual reports on a selective basis primarily from national and international

bioethics organizations, institutions, commissions and councils. These are retained in the collection to help document the history and development of significant bioethical institutions and organizations.

2/27/06

### **Atlases**

Atlases are works consisting of collections of images, usually with explanatory text or captions.

These works are housed in the reference section of the library only. Updated atlases are acquired very selectively as needed to replace existing volumes.

2/27/06

### **Audiovisual Materials**

This category includes works such as film, video, sound recordings, and projected images, whether produced in analog or digital format.

Due to budgetary and space constraints, the NRCBL is selective in collecting VHS and DVDs. Works added to the collection must have substantial ethical, legal or policy content. Problems with preservation and migration of AV materials have limited the number of audiocassettes acquired for the collection in recent years.

CD-format materials, which represent collected works, monographic appendices, and interactive media are housed with the audiovisual collection.

2/27/06

### **Bibliographic Works**

This category includes abstracts, indexes, and national, subject, and personal bibliographies, both recurring and monographic.

The library does not collect national bibliographies. Selective bibliographies are added to the collection if they represent topics of primary importance in the field of bioethics, having a substantial focus on ethical, legal or policy issues.

2/27/06

### **Biographical Works**

This category includes biographies, autobiographies, personal narratives, memoirs, and published oral history transcripts. Biographical works are collected only for individuals who have made substantial contributions to the ethical, legal or public policy dimensions of medicine, nursing, or in the field of genetics.

2/27/06

## **Catalogs**

This category includes sales and trade catalogs, academic catalogs, and exhibit catalogs.

Sales and trade catalogs are not collected by the NRCBL. Academic catalogs would only be added to the collection if they added important historical developments in the field of bioethics which are not found elsewhere in the collection.

The library collects exhibit catalogs dealing with ethical, legal or public policy issues in medicine, nursing, and related fields such as genetics.

2/27/06

## **Collected Works**

NRCBL selects collected works only when the original works are not in the collection, when the compilation contains additional information or commentary, or when presentation of the material as a unit is of value for scholarship.

2/27/06

## **Conference Publications**

NRCBL strives to assemble a comprehensive collection of the proceedings of significant national and international bioethical conferences, congresses and symposia.

Conference programs are collected only if they are of historical interest, or if they document important research not otherwise represented in the traditional scholarly literature.

2/27/06

## **Consumer Health**

This category includes materials designed for direct use by consumers, as well as those intended to be used by health professionals to educate patients.

NRCBL is selective in acquiring print format materials on consumer health, with emphasis on ethical, cultural or legal aspects. Audiovisuals pertaining to consumer health are generally not added to the collection.

2/23/07

## **Continuing Education Publications**

Continuing education materials provide evidence of the content, instructional techniques and educational philosophies found in formal education for the health professions. These materials typically contain information collected from other sources and reorganized into forms suitable for instructional purposes. NRCBL collects this category both for historical purposes and to help

support the Syllabus Exchange Project. Continuing education materials that describe new concepts, demonstrate new techniques or document contemporary concerns in the arena of bioethical discussion are of particular collecting interest.

**See also:**

Audiovisuals

Textbooks

2/27/06

## **Datasets**

This category includes structured collections of related digital formats. To date, no datasets have been acquired. Nevertheless, the category will be collected if appropriate collections are identified and made available to NRCBL.

**See also:**

Electronic resources

2/27/06

## **Developing Countries Publications**

The NRCBL actively strives to collect monographs, journals, government publications, conference proceedings, and grey literature. This is primarily achieved through the International Bioethics Exchange Project, initiated by the NRCBL to encourage establishment of educational programs in the field of bioethics in developing countries and to facilitate the exchange of scholarly research materials as they are developed.

Visiting scholars who use the NRCBL collection are encouraged to donate works that they produce to the library.

2/27/06

## **Dictionaries and Encyclopedias**

NRCBL collects subject-relevant dictionaries and encyclopedias if they have substantial content related to ethical, legal or public policy issues in medicine, nursing, health care, and genetics.

The library is very selective in collecting medical dictionaries and encyclopedias. Collecting emphasis is on works edited by leading experts or endorsed by major professional organizations. NRCBL does not collect clinical works in these formats.

2/27/06

## **Digital Images**

The National Information Resource on Ethics and Human Genetics (NIREHG) functions as a resource within NRCBL. Its Digital Collection Project (DCP) consists in part of materials digitized in-house, and these documents include images that are made publicly available via the Web at <http://bioethics.georgetown.edu/nirehg/nirehgdigcol.htm>. Other digital image collections will be collected, if appropriate collections are identified and made available to NRCBL.

2/27/06

## **Directories**

A directory is a list of persons, places, organizations, government agencies, and similar entities, which can have reference value to library users. NRCBL collects directories pertinent to the field of bioethics.

NRCBL makes directory information available online through the International Bioethics Organizations Database, which contains location, descriptive information, website links, classification analysis, and contact data about bioethics organizations worldwide. The current size of the file, including records for defunct organizations (retained for historical reference), is 1,411. See: <http://bioethics.georgetown.edu/databases/Organizations/>.

2/26/08

## **Drafts**

A draft is a preliminary version of a written work, often produced prior to comment, approval or clearance by others. NRCBL generally does not add drafts to the collection. Exceptions are drafts of significant content for which the publication of a final version is not assured and those that have historical importance.

### **See also:**

Manuscripts

2/27/06

## **Electronic Resources**

NRCBL supports public access to scholarly and professional electronic works in the field of bioethics in several ways.

First, under the NLM contract, NRCBL is in the process of offering full text of selected NRCBL publications on the Web. These include training materials and annotated bibliographies (Scope Notes). At present, 46 Scope Notes have been posted. They are accessible at: <http://bioethics.georgetown.edu/publications/scopenotes/>

Second, NLM supports the digitization of items in the Syllabus Exchange Collection, carried out

with permission of the authors and originators, to be posted at: <http://bioethics.georgetown.edu/databases/Syllabus/> . To date, 238 syllabi have been digitized and posted.

Third, complementary projects supporting NRCBL digital collections have been funded by the other federal and private organizations as outlined below:

- the National Bioethics Advisory Commission (NBAC) designated NRCBL as the site of its digital archive at the end of NBAC's term, <http://bioethics.georgetown.edu/nbac/>;
- the Office for Human Research Protections (OHRP), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services funded a project to make historical materials readily accessible on the Web; see <http://bioethics.georgetown.edu/nrc/collections/ohrp.htm>;
- the U.S. National Human Genome Research Institute supports digitization and collection of digital materials: <http://bioethics.georgetown.edu/nirehg/nirehgdigcol.htm>; and
- the Kennedy Institute of Ethics and the Hastings Center are undertaking the digitization of back issues of Hastings Center journals.

Fourth, whenever possible, records prepared by NRCBL for NLM databases include links to fulltext, as do bibliographic records in the ETHXWeb, and Genetics and Ethics databases. To date, 15 per cent of the ETHX records are linked to fulltext providers.

Fifth, to ensure preservation of the content of an electronic work cited in a NRCBL database, NRCBL prints a copy for the vertical file.

**See also:**

Audiovisual Materials

Datasets

Digital Images

2/27/06

## **Ephemera**

Materials designed for short term use are considered ephemera. They vary greatly in size and format.

NRCBL selectively collects examples of ephemera of particular interest such as posters, pamphlets and fact sheets. Other types of ephemera (e.g. board games) are collected very selectively based on their relevance to bioethics and historical value.

2/27/06

## **Examination Review Guides**

This category includes publications that assist students preparing for entrance, board certification, recertification, or licensing examinations.

The library generally does not collect examination review guides.

2/27/06

## **Fact Sheets**

Fact sheets provide health information in an economical, easily distributed form. NRCBL may collect compilations of fact sheets issued by influential agencies or societies, or of potential interest if there is a significant amount of ethical or legal focus.

2/27/06

## **Fiction and Poetry**

The Library does collect fiction and poetry that is limited to bioethical themes.

### **See also:**

Popular Literature

2/27/06

## **Government Publications**

Government agencies are a significant source of information about bioethics, and their publications are collected by NRCBL. Most significant are materials delineating policy at the national and international level. Landmark legal materials (primarily case decisions and laws) are similarly important. Proposed legislation (bills) and materials generated by state and local governments are less important.

### **See also:**

Grey Literature

2/27/06

## **Grey Literature**

Grey literature is “that which is produced on all levels of government, academics, business and industry in print and electronic formats, but which is not controlled by commercial publishers,” according to the Luxembourg Convention.

This category includes reports, memoranda, conference proceedings, standards, technical documentation, and government documents.

NRCBL's intent is to be as comprehensive as possible in collecting grey literature that is relevant to the field of bioethics. The Library's collecting intent is to collect a wide range of works representing diverse perspectives on a variety of bioethical subjects.

**See also:**

Conference Publications  
Drafts  
Government Publications  
Standards and Guidelines  
Working Papers

2/27/06

### **Handbooks and Manuals**

Handbooks and manuals that summarize and document ethical or moral aspects of the physician-patient relationship are collected by the Library. Handbooks and manuals having a purely clinical focus are not collected by the NRCBL.

2/27/06

### **Humorous and Satirical Works**

Humorous and satirical works, including caricatures, provide unique insight into controversies and often times reflect public opinion in bioethics, depict health care professionals as seen through the eyes of their contemporaries, and illuminate the political and social setting of bioethics and the health professions.

NRCBL collects these works selectively.

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### **Journals**

The American Library Association Glossary of Library and Information Science (1983) defines journal as "a periodical, especially one containing scholarly articles and/or disseminating current information on research and development in a particular subject field."

The Library's first priority is collecting scholarly journals containing signed papers that report original research. The intent is to assemble a comprehensive collection of the world's most significant bioethics and bioethical-related research journals. In addition, over 1550 special issues of journals particularly relevant to bioethics have been acquired;

<http://bioethics.georgetown.edu/nrc/silist.pdf>

NRCBL does collect some clinical and other practice journals only if they have regularly-featured sections or articles relating to ethical, legal or policy issues. For journals that the Library does not

subscribe to, due to budgetary and space constraints, a substantial vertical file of relevant articles is maintained.

**See also:**

Annual Reports  
Newsletters and Newspapers  
Reprints and Facsimiles

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**Juvenile Literature**

The Library's collection of literature intended for children or young adults is limited to the High School Bioethics Curriculum Project.

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**Laboratory Manuals**

NRCBL does not collect laboratory manuals.

**See also:**

Handbooks and Manuals

2/27/06

**Limited Distribution Materials**

NRCBL collects publications designed for limited distribution and proprietary use only when they are available to the Library without restrictions on access.

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**Looseleaf Service Publications**

Looseleaf subscriptions services are generally designed to be updated by means of interfiled or replacement pages. They typically provide information compiled from other sources. NRCBL collects looseleaf services on a very limited basis, on such subjects as informed consent or other medico-legal topics.

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**Manuscripts**

Manuscripts collected by the NRCBL primarily represent President's Commissions papers, archival materials donated by persons prominent in the field, and other documents related to government commissions. These are housed in the Library's Archives collection.

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## **Market Research Reports**

Market research reports assess the likely demand for a product or a service, describe potential commercial opportunities and barriers, recommend marketing strategies, and provide competitive business intelligence information. The NRCBL generally does not collection such works.

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## **Monographs**

Within the subject parameters of this manual, NRCBL strives to assemble the most comprehensive collection of significant published monographic works published in English that contain original thought or research and that potentially are of international interest. Monographic works in German are collected to the extent possible. Gift acquisitions of monographic works in foreign languages that are not German are used to expand the collection, where some languages or countries of origin are less represented.

Other monographs are collected on a selective basis with the use of non-NLM funding sources, such as the Kampelman Collection on Jewish Ethics. Substantial acquisitions of monographic works with emphasis on ethical, legal or policy issues in genetics are provided with funding from other sources.

### **See also:**

Academic Dissertations  
Handbooks and Manuals  
Grey Literature  
Textbooks

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## **Newsletters and Newspapers**

Newsletters and newspapers may represent a unique historical chronicle of bioethical-related issues in the public domain. They often contain the most current information on bioethical topics, research and policy. Newsletters may focus on emerging areas of research and health care before such discussions are adequately represented in the primary journal literature.

NRCBL collects selected newsletters with an emphasis on those issued by major U.S. and international professional bioethics organizations and institutions, or representing a segment of bioethical research that is not readily available elsewhere.

Newspapers included in the NRCBL collection are the *New York Times*. Selected articles are added to the collection from other major newspapers, such as the *Washington Post*, the *London Times*, the *Wall Street Journal*, and the *Christian Science Monitor*.

### **See also:**

Consumer Health

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## **Pamphlets**

Pamphlets are short, unbound, printed works which generally deal with subjects of current interest. They are an efficient means for the distribution of health care standards, guidelines, and capsule summaries of a bioethical topic. Pamphlets are also an effective medium for public health outreach, patient instruction, and consumer health information.

The Library collects pamphlets related to ethical, legal and public policy aspects in medicine, nursing, allied health professions and genetics.

### **See also:**

Standards and Guidelines

Ephemera

2/27/06

## **Patents**

Collection development in this area is limited to genetic patents in a special collection funded by other sources.

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## **Pharmacopoeias and Formularies**

NRCBL does not collect in the area.

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## **Popular Literature**

Popular health literature is aimed at a wide audience and does not presuppose subject expertise on the part of the reader. Popular literature typically is written by journalists or science writers, but sometimes also by scientists, medical experts, or scholars in non-medical fields. In addition to works that explain scientific and health issues to general readers, popular literature includes genres such as investigative journalism, essays, personal narratives, and polemical works. Popular literature has research value for historians, medical sociologists and medical anthropologists, since it may influence health behaviors and viewpoints, and capture dissenting viewpoints not always found in scientific, technical and medical publications. Popular literature in the NRCBL collection is limited to certain journals and monographs.

### **See also:**

Biographical Works

Consumer Health

Fiction and Poetry

Juvenile Literature

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## **Posters**

Posters are designed to be displayed publicly to communicate a message or to advertise a product or service. The Library generally does not collect works in this format.

### **See also:**

Ephemera

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## **Practice Management Tools**

This category includes practical business aids and systems intended to assist health care providers with financial management, file management, marketing, and human resource management.

NRCBL does not collect in this area.

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## **Prints and Photographs**

NRCBL does not collect in this area.

### **See also:**

Digital Images

Posters

2/27/06

## **Reprints and Facsimiles**

A reprint may refer to a new printing of an item made from the original type image, commonly by photographic methods, or to a new edition with substantially unchanged text. A facsimile reproduction simulates the physical appearance of the original in addition to reproducing its content exactly. Reprints are collected to supplement the acquisition of article-length works that are not in journals that are found in the Library's journal collection. Reprints and facsimiles are acquired when the Library lacks the original, when the original copy in the collection is in poor condition or was issued on alkaline paper, or when they represent important scholarly initiatives or are historically significant in some way.

### **See also:**

Collected Works

Journals

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## **Standards and Guidelines**

Institutions, associations, and government agencies issue health related standards and guidelines

which are widely used and recognized in the U.S. Standards are authoritative statements that articulate minimal, acceptable or excellent levels of performance or that describe expected outcomes in health care delivery, biomedical research and development, health care technology, or professional health care. Guidelines are statements of principles or procedures that assist professionals in ensuring quality in such areas as clinical practice, biomedical research, and health services. Practice guidelines assist the health care practitioner with patient care decisions about appropriate diagnostic, therapeutic, or other clinical procedures for specific clinical circumstances.

The library collection in this area is limited to works that have ethical, legal or policy content, standards of conduct and professional competence for health care professionals, and national standards in health care technology, biomedical research and health care.

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### **Statistical Works**

This category includes works that tabulate and summarize data.

NRCBL collects statistical works if they are embedded in other relevant bioethical works (e.g. success of various reproductive technologies), or in empirical studies of bioethical scholarly interest. The Library does not collect statistical reference materials if they can be found in online sources.

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### **Technical Reports**

Technical reports detail the progress or results of scientific, technical, or policy research. Typically, technical reports are produced in response to a relatively narrow research need, and serve as a report of accountability to the sponsoring organization. Technical reports play a unique role in scientific communication, in that they sometimes are the only source of information on a specific topic, and often report on unsuccessful research results. Technical reports generally are not commercially published, but are issued using techniques that permit rapid, inexpensive, and limited distribution methods. The Library collects on a selective basis technical reports on topics related to bioethics with emphasis on the ethical, legal or policy aspects of the research that was done.

#### **See also:**

Working Papers

2/27/06

### **Tests**

The Library does not collect this document type.

2/27/06

## **Textbooks**

Textbooks primarily are intended for the instruction of students, but they also may document the history of education for the health professions or chronicle societal viewpoints toward health. Advanced, widely recognized textbooks summarize the state of knowledge in a single field and service as generally accepted reference tools in many disciplines.

NRCBL is selective in its acquisition of textbooks to major scholars in the field of bioethics.

### **See also:**

Monographs

2/27/06

## **Translations**

NRCBL collects works primarily in the English language. It collects works which appear in their original language on a selective basis. When works are issued simultaneously in several languages, NRCBL generally collects the English version only, although there are exceptions.

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## **Working Papers**

Working papers, discussion papers, and occasional papers report original research in a narrow area of study. They sometimes are used to communicate new approaches or ideas, or to solicit comment from other scholars. NRCBL selectively acquires working papers, emphasizing ethical or legal issues in health policy.

### **See also:**

Technical Reports

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## Organizational Arrangement by Format and Publication Type

NRCBL aims to collect comprehensively all significant information pertinent to the study of bioethics, regardless of format. At present, like materials are collected and managed separately in format-determined databases, the bibliographic data from which may later be concatenated into multi-format, publicly-accessible databases, such as “ETHXWeb” or “GenETHX.” Each format may contain a variety of literature types. For example, the format “Monographs” may include academic dissertations, alumni and student publications, annual reports, atlases, bibliographic works, etc.

The format-determined, in-house, processing databases are: BOOK (for monographs), ETHX (for journal and newspaper articles, pamphlets, short reports, and other items suitable for storage in either runs of journal subscriptions held by NRCBL or file cabinets), and BAVS (for audiovisual materials).

<b>Format/Literature Type</b>	<b>BOOK</b>	<b>ETHX</b>	<b>BAVS</b>	<b>OTHER</b>
Academic Dissertations	X			
Alumni and Student Publications	X	X		
Annual Reports	X	X		
Atlases	X			
Audiovisual Materials			X	
Bibliographic Works	X	X		
Biographical Works	X	X	X	
Catalogs	X	X		
Collected Works	X	X		
Conference Publications	X	X		
Consumer Health	X	X		
Continuing Education Publications	X	X	X	
Datasets				X
Developing Countries Publications	X	X	X	
Dictionaries and Encyclopedias	X			

<b>Format/Literature Type</b>	<b>BOOK</b>	<b>ETHX</b>	<b>FILM</b>	<b>OTHER</b>
Digital Images				X
Directories	X	X		
Drafts	X	X		
Electronic Resources	X	X		X
Ephemera		X		
Examination Review Guides				X
Fact Sheets		X		
Fiction and Poetry	X	X		
Government Publications	X	X	X	
Grey Literature	X	X		
Handbooks and Manuals	X	X		
Humorous and Satirical Works	X	X	X	
Journals		X		
Juvenile Literature	X	X	X	
Limited Distribution Materials	X	X	X	
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Popular Literature	X	X	X	
Prints and Photographs				X
Reprints and Facsimiles	X	X		
Standards and Guidelines	X	X		

<b>Format/Literature Type</b>	<b>BOOK</b>	<b>ETHX</b>	<b>FILM</b>	<b>OTHER</b>
Statistical Works	X	X		
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