Home Modification/Universal Design and Occupational Therapy

Scope

The purpose of the pathfinders created by the staff of the Wilma L. West Library is to provide occupational therapy practitioners and students, as well as consumers, starting points from which to begin to do research about a topic. A pathfinder is not a comprehensive listing of available resources but a guide to specific and reliable sources of information.

Introduction to the topic

Home modifications are changes made to adapt living spaces to meet the needs of people with physical limitations so that they can continue to live independently and safely. These modifications may include adding assistive technology or making structural changes to a home. Modifications can range from something as simple as replacing cabinet doorknobs with pull handles to full-scale construction projects that require installing wheelchair ramps and widening doorways. (Retrieved August 23, 2012 from http://www.elderCare.gov/ELDERCARE.NET/Public/Resources/Factsheets/Home_Modifications.aspx.)


Online databases

AbleData

AbleData provides objective information on assistive technology and rehabilitation equipment available from domestic and international sources to consumers, organizations, professionals, and caregivers within the United States. We serve the nation's disability, rehabilitation, and senior communities.

MEDLINE Plus®

MedlinePlus is the National Institutes of Health's Web site for patients and their families and friends. Produced by the National Library of Medicine, it brings you information about diseases, conditions, and wellness issues in language you can understand. MedlinePlus offers reliable, up-to-date health information, anytime, anywhere, for free.

REHABDATA database
REHABDATA, produced by the National Rehabilitation Information Center, is the leading literature database on disability and rehabilitation. The database describes over 70,000 documents covering physical, mental, and psychiatric disabilities, independent living, vocational rehabilitation, special education, assistive technology, law, employment, and other issues as they relate to people with disabilities. The collection spans 1956 to the present.

**Reference resources (print and electronic)**


**Associations, Foundations, and Organizations**

- Environmental Design Research Association (EDRA)
- Center for Assistive Technology and Environmental Access (CATEA)
- Institute for Human Centered Design
- The Center for Universal Design
- National Resource Center on Supportive Housing and Home Modification

**Image, video or podcasts**

- Aging in place in the home – Vital Living Forum (video)
- Making your home fit you (Podcast)
- OT in Home Modification (video)

**American Occupational Therapy Association/American Occupational Therapy Foundation**

**Official Papers**


**Fact sheets**

**Tips for Living**

Remaining in your home as you age

Helping your older parent remain at home

**Specialty certification**

**AOTA Specialty Certification in Environmental Modification**

**Publications**


**Articles on the role of occupational therapy**


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