Pathfinder for the Role of Occupational Therapy in Serious Mental Illness

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

Serious mental illness (SMI) is defined as a mental, behavioral, or emotional disorder resulting in serious functional impairment, which substantially interferes with or limits one or more major life activities. The burden of mental illnesses is particularly concentrated among those who experience disability due to SMI. (Retrieved on January 29, 2018 from https://www.nimh.nih.gov/health/statistics/mental-illness.shtml)

Online databases

Suggested subject terms to use in searching are schizophrenia, bipolar disorders, and psychotic disorders

MedlinePlus®
Health information for patients, families and health care providers. Also in Spanish. Access to this government-supported database is free.

OT SEARCH
OT Search contains over 41,000 citations for occupational therapy literature and related subject areas dating from the early 1900’s. Citations may include links to full-text content. It is a subscription-based service.

PsychINFO
PsychINFO is an expansive abstracting and indexing database with more than 3 million records devoted to peer-reviewed literature from the 1800s to the present in the behavioral sciences and mental health, making it an ideal discovery and linking tool for scholarly research.

PubMed
PubMed comprises more than 20 million citations for biomedical literature from MEDLINE, life science journals, and online books. Citations may include links to full-text 

content from PubMed Central and publisher web sites. Access to this government-supported database is free.

**Reference resources (print and electronic)**

**What is “Serious Mental Illness” and what is not**
https://mentalillnesspolicy.org/serious-mental-illness-not/

**Associations, Foundations, and Organizations**

Mental Illness Policy Org

National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI)

National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH)

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)

**Image, Video, Webinars, or Podcasts**

Addressing serious mental illness; Effective prevention, treatment and recovery strategies. (Webinars)
https://www.samhsa.gov/addressing-serious-mental-illness-webinar-series

**American Occupational Therapy Association, Inc. (AOTA) Resources**


Occupational therapy’s perspective on the use of environments and contexts to facilitate health, well-being, and participation in occupations (2015)

**Selected articles on the role of occupational therapy**


February, 2018