BIBLIOGRAPHIC GUIDE TO RESEARCH ON HOSPITALS

Contributed by Jennifer Wood

This bibliography is in no way exhaustive. Instead it is designed to indicate the kind of work possible using hospital records and, in addition, to give a general introduction to the history of medicine. As the article above states, clinical records are subject to rules of confidentiality and may be physically difficult to obtain, consequently, with a few notable exceptions, epidemiological historical work using hospital patient records is relatively rare. However, where administrative records and Ministry of Health reports are available, these have been frequently used.

General introductory works

Standard work, concentrates on administration and organisation.


London medicine and the rise of the medical profession and the importance of hospitals.

These volumes include some useful essays.


Chronicles the rise of the modern teaching hospital.


Investigates the state of medical history, methodological issues and new directions using computers and hospital records.

General introduction to history of medicine, with a useful introductory bibliography.


*Proceedings of a Symposium on hospital clinical records*, Wellcome Institute Contemporary Medical Archive Centre in association with the Public Record Office, 1986.


Raises issues in the history of medicine and hospitals of general interest.


Historical background from a demographic and medical perspective.

**Individual hospital histories and hospital histories in their social context**

There are numerous histories of individual hospitals, of varying quality and perspective. Some are essentially descriptive, others written from the perspective of the medical profession while others do attempt to set the history of a particular hospital or group of hospitals within the medical, political and social context of the time. This list should be of particular interest to local demographic historians, for a detailed guide see the 'Introduction', (fn. 3, p. 12), by Lindsay Granshaw in Granshaw, L. and Porter, R. (eds), *Hospitals in History*, London, Routledge, 1989, pp.1-17.

Traces the development of poor relief and the relationship of local relief and
hospital treatment of the sick poor, as for example in the Edinburgh Royal Infirmary.

Interesting use of Papworth’s hospital sources. A good case study of the way hospital records can be used.


Cameron, H. C. Mr Guy’s Hospital, 1726-1948, London, 1954.
Importance of philanthropy in relation to hospital history.


Uses Ministry of Health reports, information on local hospital and other services.

A local history by local historians.


A volume of essays setting hospitals in their social and political context, which illustrates the varying institutional roles and medical functions which hospitals played at different times and in different places. Contains useful references.


Investigates the effects of the rise of maternity hospitals.


Medical History using hospital case/medical records - epidemiological histories.


Uses London Fever Hospital annual reports.

Risse, G. B. 'Hospital History: New Sources and Methods', in Porter, R. and Wear, A. (eds), Problems and Methods in the History of Medicine, pp.175-204.
