Visions and Voices and the USC Libraries have collaborated to create a series of resource guides that allow you to build on your experiences at many Visions and Voices events. Explore the resources listed below and continue your journey of inquiry and discovery!

Why Me?
THE PIONEERING DOCUMENTARY ON BREAST CANCER
USC LIBRARIES RESOURCE GUIDE

Event Date: October 21, 2010

In 1974, journalism professor Joe Saltzman produced Why Me?, a landmark documentary acknowledged to be the first television documentary on breast cancer. This groundbreaking program was viewed by one out of every three women in the Western world, and has been credited with saving thousands of lives. In 1974, it was an act of courage for a woman to appear on television to talk about what was considered a deadly disease. This event will feature a screening of the documentary and a panel moderated by television correspondent and journalism professor Judy Muller about the making of the program and how it paved the way for contemporary documentaries. The panel will also look at current television dramas and their portrayal of breast-cancer awareness and treatment.

AVRIL CUNNINGHAM of the USC LIBRARIES has selected the following resources. Don’t miss the online version of this guide at libguides.usc.edu/whyme.

Featured Books

A Darker Ribbon: Breast Cancer, Women, and Their Doctors in the Twentieth Century  
By Ellen Leopold

Breast cancer strikes 182,000 American women annually, but public awareness of this disease is a recent phenomenon. Here, Leopold, a sociologist and a breast cancer survivor, examines the cultural history of this disease. She looks at the social attitudes, treatments and doctor-patient relationships, while tracing the evolution of the disease from a private to a public entity. Unpublished correspondence between doctors and patients from different eras illustrate the changes in their relationships: Barbara Mueller accepted the decisions of Dr. William Halstead, who developed the radical mastectomy, without question. Rachel Carson actively participated in her care and consulted Dr. George Crile Jr., an eminent surgeon who uses a less radical procedure. —Barbara M. Bibel, Library Journal

Doheny Memorial Library RC280.B8L37 1999

Eating Pomegranates: A Memoir of Mothers, Daughters, and the BRCA Gene  
By Sarah Gabriel

An intensely powerful and moving memoir about genetics, mortality, family, femininity, and the author’s battle with cancer. After the grief of losing her mother to cancer when Sarah Gabriel was a teenager, she had learned to appreciate “the charms of simple happiness.” With a career as a journalist, a home in Oxford, England, a husband and two young daughters, she was content. But then at age forty-four, she was diagnosed with breast cancer the result of M18T, an inherited mutation on the BRCA1 gene that had taken the lives of her mother and countless female ancestors.—Description from book cover

Doheny Memorial Library RC280.B8G324 2010

Women Confront Cancer: Making Medical History by Choosing Alternative and Complementary Therapies  
By Margaret J. Wooddell

Each year hundreds of thousands of women are diagnosed with cancer, and more and more frequently, women are turning to alternative treatments to take control of their illnesses and their lives. Information, however, has been scarce for women navigating through conventional and unconventional medicine. Research funding continues to support traditional cancer therapies. Women Confront Cancer declares the need for new, less toxic therapies and diagnostic procedures. For the first time, Women Confront Cancer unites the voices of women leaders who have breast, cervical, ovarian, and other cancers.—Description from book cover

The Biopolitics of Breast Cancer: Changing Cultures of Disease and Activism
By Maren Klawiter
For nearly forty years, feminists and patient activists have argued that medicine is a deeply individualizing and depoliticizing institution. According to this view, medical practices are incidental to people's transformation from patients to patient activists. The Biopolitics of Breast Cancer turns this understanding upside down. —Description from book cover

Online Library RC280.B8K568 2008 e b

Breast Cancer Sourcebook: Basic Consumer Health Information about Breast Health and Breast Cancer
By Karen Bellenir

Other Selected Reading

Unravelling the Ribbon
By Mary Kelly
A moving, frequently hilarious Irish play for three women about the daily reality of breast cancer.—Description from book cover

Doheny Memorial Library PR 6111.E52255U57 2007

Cancer on the Margins: Method and Meaning in Participatory Research
Edited by Jennifer J. Nelson, Judy Gould and Sue Keller-Olaman
For health professionals, policy makers, researchers and undergraduate and graduate students, Nelson et al. present the findings of the Ontario Breast Cancer Community Research Initiative, which was created to investigate the experiences of women with breast cancer from marginalized and underrepresented groups and the social forces and inequities that shape their experiences.
—From Book News, Inc.


Meeting Psychosocial Needs of Women with Breast Cancer
Edited by Maria Hewitt, Roger Herdman and Jimmie Holland
The National Cancer Policy Board of the Institute of Medicine examines the psychosocial consequences of the cancer experience. The book focuses specifically on breast cancer in women because this group has the largest survivor population (over 2 million) and this disease is the most extensively studied cancer from the standpoint of psychosocial effects. —Description from book cover

Online Library RC 280.B8M435 2004 e b

Articles

Search for “Breast Cancer” or “Breast Cancer History” in the following recommended databases, which you can access on the USC Libraries homepage (www.usc.edu/libraries) through the E-Resources tab.

Alternative Press Index
Indexes journals covering cultural, economic, political and social change

Article First
Indexes more than 13,000 journals in science, technology, medicine, social science, business, the humanities and popular culture

Proquest Research Library
A multidisciplinary index covering dozens of subject areas and indexing thousands of general and scholarly titles. Provides full-text for most articles.