

Directory of History of Medicine Collections

Organization Name:	Rochester Public Library Local History and Genealogy Division
Organization Type:	Library
Address:	115 South Avenue
City:	Rochester
State/Province:	New York
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Abstract:	The Local History Division has two major collections of medical history information. These consist of the Dr. George W. Goler collection (Rochester city health officer 1896-1932), and the papers of the Health Association of Rochester and Monroe County (1920s-1980s). The restrictions on its use are that all items must be used on site (there is no interlibrary loan of them), and there may be photocopying restrictions depending on the physical condition of an item. Copying by camera is allowed. Reference service is available 7 days a week, via in person, email, phone, or letter. There is free public access for research in the collection. Staff does not do research. There is addition information in picture and newspaper clippings files, concerning various medical personnel 1936-date.
Holdings:	The Goler collection consists of papers covering the years 1892-1932. Dr. George W. Goler 1864-1940) was the Director of the Board of Health in Rochester, New York. It is approximately 30.0 linear feet in Hollinger boxes. It includes correspondence, laboratory reports, articles, and notes of Dr. Goler. Subjects include contraception, air quality, child care, drugs, sanitation, housing, influenza, pneumonia, tuberculosis and other communicable diseases, insects and vermin, venereal disease and its treatment (especially as related to the 'Rochester method' of treatment), testing and purification of milk, water supply protection, smallpox vaccination, diphtheria anti-toxin, and other topics related to public health in Rochester, NY. Supplemented by a 'Guide to the Goler Collection (Dr. George W. Goler, Rochester Health Officer) in the Local History Division, RPL', by Shirley Iversen, [Rochester, N.Y.: Rochester Public Library, 1979], containing a detailed inventory and description of contents. The entire collection consists of 75 Hollinger boxes. The Health Association collection consists of 12 boxes of items related to the operations of the Association, 1920s-1980s. These include

	correspondence, advertising materials, 200 colored glass slides used in public health presentations (covering communicable disease, venereal diseases sanitation etc.). A detailed inventory is available in the division. It also includes 5 scrapbooks with about 200 photos of hospitals, patients, etc. These are part of a major digitizing project, which will make the contents available online.
Collection Subject Strengths:	History of Epidemiology and Infectious Diseases; History of Public Health
Other Collection Subject Strengths:	
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