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❖ **The top 10 health search engines of 2008** were Mednar, GoPubMed, WorldWideScience.org, Health Sciences Online, ScanGrants, SearchMedica, Vadlo, NextBio, Lalisio Literature, and Yottalook, according to blogger Hope Leman. Read more about them at <http://tinyurl.com/9zqu94>.

❖ **A new extension to the CONSORT statement** is intended to improve the reporting of pragmatic randomized controlled trials. Pragmatic trials are designed to help clinicians make real-world decisions about care and are typically conducted in a normal practice setting, with few participants excluded. The CONSORT and PractiHC groups jointly agreed that 8 items on the CONSORT checklist need to be modified when such trials are reported. Their statement, which includes an explanation of each item and examples of proper reporting, is at <http://tinyurl.com/7jh76w>.

❖ **The US Food and Drug Administration has finalized its “Good Reprint Practices”** [see “Briefly Noted,” *AMWA Journal* 2008;23(1):28]. The guidelines restore sales representatives’ prerogative to distribute—but not discuss—journal articles about off-label use of drugs. A number of other conditions apply, such as that the article must be from a peer-reviewed journal and must be distributed separately from promotional material. Letters to the editor, publication abstracts, reports of phase I studies involving healthy subjects, and industry-funded literature such as journal supplements are among the publications excluded. Furthermore, the FDA says the guidelines do not establish legally enforceable rights. See www.fda.gov/oc/op/goodreprint.html.

❖ **The Institute of Medicine (IOM)** has formed an ad hoc committee to consider whether to recommend establishment of a national, interprofessional institute on continuing education (CE) that would be independent of industry. The project is sponsored by the Macy Foundation, which funded a 2008 report that recommended phasing out industry support for CE. [See “Briefly Noted,” *AMWA Journal* 2008;23(2):76]. The first meeting of the IOM committee was held in December; the agenda and a few of the presentations are at www.iom.edu/CMS/3809/59584.aspx. (Related news: Following its call for comments on whether industry should support CE, the Accreditation Council on Continuing Medical Education says it won’t take final action until “the end of 2009.”)

❖ **Attention book authors**—Google has settled the lawsuit brought by the Authors Guild and other groups over its program to digitize books. The settlement includes at least \$45 million for authors and publishers whose in-copyright books were scanned without permission. It also establishes a Book Rights Registry to allow authors to make out-of-print books available online and receive part of the revenue. For details, see www.authorsguild.org.

❖ **What can you (legally) take from the Web?** “It depends on what you take, why you take it, who you are, and what technology you use,” says Kirk Teska, the managing partner of an intellectual property law firm in Waltham, MA. “If you are employed in a for-profit enterprise, be careful of touting fair use as a knee-jerk defense, because fair use is typically not for you.” An article he wrote for the IEEE magazine is at <http://tinyurl.com/5w4lyh>.

❖ **SemanticMEDLINE.com** is a free search engine that allows users to search MEDLINE by typing a “conversational sentence” instead of using Boolean operators and learning the intricacies of PubMed. Cognition Technologies, creator of the site, says its Semantic natural language processing technology “incorporates word and phrase knowledge to comprehend the meaning and nuances of the English language.” SemanticMEDLINE.com doesn’t appear to be powerful enough for comprehensive literature searching, but it could be useful to people who write for the public and to “expert patients” doing medical research for themselves.