

Occupational health and safety

# A library for workplaces: Is there such a thing?

By Wendy Langis

FOR THE SUDBURY STAR

The Occupational Health Clinics for Ontario Workers Inc. (Sudbury) has a library which is unique.

It doesn't quite have the books you would find at our wonderful City of Greater Sudbury Public Library locations. It is a library that deals with health and safety, occupations, occupational medicine and exposures.

Our library holds journals dealing with these various subjects: ergonomics, hygiene, occupational health nursing, toxicology, cancer, industrial medicine and epidemiology

There are many books in the

library divided into sections such as: occupational medicine, ergonomics, toxicology, hygiene, hospital, environmental, National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), references, health hazards, state of the art reviews and Scientific American medicine.

The clinic library is not a lending library. However, anyone interested in visiting the library is always welcome to review the books. There is a large table in the library which allows one to review books and take relevant notes.

The clinic also has a large section of vertical files that contain anything from: asbestos

to workplace violence. These are continually updated as new material is obtained or legislation changes.

The clinic also has a large collection of Material Safety Data Sheets. MSDSs are sheets which list specific chemicals or products and lists the hazards of them. Whether personal protective clothing is required, special handling requirements, boiling points, flash points. What to do if inhalation or ingestion occurs?

The clinic is linked with the Internet therefore information can always be located by that means or many CDs through the Canadian Centre for Occupational Health and Safety

(CCOHS). These include NIOSHTIC, MSDS, Chempendium, CanData, InterData, etc.

As there are four other clinics in Ontario, staff prepare information bulletins which are available at the clinic. They include: ergonomics and driving, nickel, silica, hand arm vibration syndrome, carpal tunnel syndrome, noise damages hearing, shift work, indoor air quality, work-related musculoskeletal disorders, office ergonomic workbook, working on your feet, NIOSHTIC lifting equation, taking home contaminants, occupational asthma... and many more.

Please feel free to drop into the clinic at anytime to see what resources are available to you in order to keep yourself informed about the work you do.

• **Wendy Langis, CMS, is an information technician with the Occupational Health Clinic (Sudbury). If you have an occupational health topic you would like addressed in a future column, contact the Occupational Health Clinics for Ontario Workers Inc. at 523-2330.**