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# Grassroots Healthcare Meets the Digital Era - “Where There Is No Doctor”: New 2006 Edition Now Available Online!

Go to a health care clinic in just about any community in any area of the globe, and you are bound to find a battered copy *Where There is No Doctor*, Hesperian’s classic health care manual that has been translated into over 75 languages. And, due to Hesperian’s open copyright policy, there are now literally millions of copies of the book available worldwide. According to the World Health Organization, *Where There is No Doctor* is “arguably the most widely used public health manual in the world.”

**Getting a copy of it has just been made much easier. The book, which up until last month was still laid out by hand on old publishing boards, has been completely digitized and updated for the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Now anyone with internet access can simply download and print it directly from Hesperian’s newly designed website – [www.hesperian.org](http://www.hesperian.org).**

Hesperian and *Where There is No Doctor* help people take the lead in their own health care. Simply written and heavily illustrated, Hesperian books contain a wealth of life-saving information on diagnosing and treating a wide range of health problems: everything from dysentery to gonorrhea to gunshots. Hesperian works in close collaboration with health workers, grassroots groups, and community organizations around the world to ensure our books and other materials are practical, accessible and appropriate across different conditions and cultures.

*Where There is No Doctor* has changed the face of health care in resource deprived areas. In addition to explaining signs, symptoms and remedies for disease, the book directly addresses the social, political and economic conditions that foster and maintain ill health. At the same time the book gives people the tools to develop community organizations that can demand improved health care and resources from their own governments.

All this from a small NGO in Northern California whose books sales only cover a quarter of its operating budget—the rest comes from donations and grants. The success of *Where There is No Doctor* inspired Hesperian to create a range of other health care manuals that cover HIV/AIDS, women’s health, dentistry, midwifery, disability, and a variety of critical health issues. For more information about Hesperian’s life-saving books go to [www.hesperian.org](http://www.hesperian.org).