Hello (COM Student),

Thanks for contacting College of Marin Distance Education Librarian. I understand that you would like to research information on the health care systems of other countries. Actually, there are a variety of resources available for gathering this data. Let’s start with our Databases, which are accessible via the Mycom portal. Log in at Mycom: https://mycom.marin.edu/cp/home/displaylogin and click on the library tab to view our database links.

Library Databases

Although Countrywatch does not provide a detailed account of a country’s health care system, it is a good source for obtaining a political, economic, and social overview of a country. For example, the HDI (Human Development Index) on Countrywatch provides composite of several indicators, which measure a country’s achievements in three main arenas of human development: longevity, education, and economic standard of living. These indicators may be relevant when comparing the health of other countries with the United States. It is also worth noting that Countrywatch provides health information for travelers to a specific country.

EBSCO is another database that you wish to query. It provides access to thousands of magazine and journal articles. If you want to understand Germany’s health care system, then consider using the following search terms: health care Germany.

Proquest database searches newspaper articles, which may provide outlines of foreign health care systems.

Beyond COM

There are reliable resources outside our library that may be worth investigating. For example, the World Health Organization (WHO) is the health arm of the United Nations. You may visit WHO at: http://www.who.int/en/ This website contains publications, data, and statistics on international health concerns. For example, please visit this link at WHO: http://www.who.int/whr/2000/media_centre/press_release/en/

You may search for information on Google using their “advanced search” functionality: http://www.google.com/advanced_search?hl=en The advanced search allows you to limit your searches to specific types of websites, such as URLs that have a “.edu” or “.gov” suffix. Generally speaking, government and educational sites tend to be a more reliable source than .com sites.
Your instructor may or may not accept information found on Wikipedia: [www.wikipedia.org](http://www.wikipedia.org) but that doesn’t mean you shouldn’t at least look at the articles found there. Quite often, Wikipedia articles have citation hyperlinks to primary documents and authoritative resources, which may be acceptable. For example, here is Wikipedia’s article entitled “Health care in France:” [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Health_care_in_France](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Health_care_in_France) Please note the fifteen references at the bottom of the article that send you to primary sources.

I hope this is enough information to get you started. Please let me know if you need further assistance with this project, as I would be happy to set up a consultation with you. In addition to email, you may also visit the reference librarian on duty or phone us at 415-485-9475. We staff the Reference Desk with a professional librarian Monday through Thursday from 9am to 9pm and Friday from 9am to 4pm.

Sincerely,
John Erdmann
Distance Education Librarian
College of Marin Library

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**From:** COM Student  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 17, 2011 5:35 PM  
**To:** John Erdmann  
**Subject:** Country watch

Hi John,

My name is Amanda Eckstut, I'm a student at College of Marin. I was asked to create a mock healthcare system to be used in America for my political science class. Would country watch be a good database to collect information on other countries' healthcare systems that I could pull ideas from?

Thanks!

COM Student