

# Books on Health Literacy and Plain Language

The books below are some of the best-known texts on health literacy and plain language writing. They make up the foundation of knowledge on health literacy, and are a good starting point for any health literacy or plain language project. Note: where hyperlinks appear, visitors will be taken to the publisher's Web site. An internet search for the title may bring up additional purchase options.

- [Advancing Health Literacy: A Framework for Understanding and Action](#)  
Zarcadoolas, Pleasant, Greer  
Published by Jossey-Bass  
ISBN 0787984335
- The Art of Readable Writing  
Flesch  
Published 1974 by Harper Collins  
ISBN 0060112936
- [Dynamics in Document Design: Creating Text for Readers](#)  
Published 1996 by Wiley  
ISBN: 978-0-471-30636-8
- Handbook of Health Communication  
Thompson, Dorsey, Miller, & Parrott  
Published by Lawrence Erlbaum Associates  
ISBN 0805838589
- [Health Literacy: A Prescription to End Confusion](#)  
Nielsen-Bohlman, Panzer, & Kindig  
Published 2004 by National Academies Press  
ISBN 0309091179
- [Plain Language Pediatrics: Health Literacy Strategies and Communication Resources for Common Pediatric Topics](#)  
Edited by Mary Ann Abrams and Benard P. Dreyer.  
American Academy of Pediatrics  
ISBN 13: 978-1-58110-265-9
- [Health Literacy From A to Z: Practical Ways to Communicate your Health Message](#)  
Osborne  
Published 2005 by Jones and Bartlett  
ISBN 0763745502
- [Teaching patients with low literacy skills](#)  
Published 1995 by Lippincott  
Out of print, but available for free [online](#)
- [Understanding Health Literacy: Implications for Medicine and Public Health](#)  
Schwartzberg, VanGeest, Wang  
Published by American Medical Association  
ISBN 978-1-57947-630-4