

SciTech Book News

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History of telemedicine; evolution, context, and transformation.

Bashshur, Rashid L. and Gary W. Shannon.

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As early contributors to the field of telemedicine, in which medical information is disseminated over communication networks for clinical consulting or remote exams/procedures, Bashur (telemedicine, U. of Michigan Health System) and Shannon (geography, U. of Kentucky) present a comprehensive history of the field. They situate telemedicine in the broader context of developments in medicine and attempts to address the seemingly intractable inequities in access, affordability, and quality of care. Tracing the separate evolutionary paths converging in telemedicine, they lucidly explain all aspects including its technological foundations, government initiatives, model projects, and continuing challenges in evidence-based medicine. Illustrations include historical records of communication networks, maps and flowcharts of current systems, and pioneers in the field. The National Library of Medicine is named as a volume supporter. (Annotation ©2009 Book News Inc. Portland, OR)