

Building Your Reference Library

“The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you’ll go.” - Dr. Seuss

As you start out your practice, it’s important to have resources available to you so that you can continue learning and readily recall those obscure diagnoses that make you look like a Walsh-case genius. Everyone will have their personal preferences on what those resources may be, how those resources are stored/accessed, and how many resources they may wish to have.

For the beginning neuro-ophthalmologist, building this library is often pieced together based on recommendations from peers and mentors. This time-tested method is a great way to slowly build up those resources, as most starting neuro-ophthalmologists will not have a significant amount of available cash to purchase hundreds or thousands of dollars of textbooks. However, for the neuro-ophthalmologist who may not have much contact with other neuro-ophthalmologists, this process may be much more challenging (though Amazon has certainly helped). This article will list several of the major neuro-ophthalmic texts, and also list some online resources that may also be helpful references.

As a disclaimer, I have no financial incentive or personal stake in any of these resources. I run a review website for ophthalmologists that reviews textbooks and online resources, so this list is not meant to suggest in any way that you should get all of them – these are just the books and resources I have personally acquired over the years for both my personal education and for the purposes of book review. You may find that all of these reviews are fairly positive – I have done this intentionally, because I believe that each of these resources has a very useful role for neuro-ophthalmologists. However, what works for one person may not work for another (and not one resource can accommodate everyone’s needs), so I do try to point out each resource’s strengths and weaknesses. This list is not comprehensive and if you would like to recommend other resources, please let us know and we will add them to the list!

Textbooks

Walsh and Hoyt’s Clinical Neuro-Ophthalmology, 6th Edition

Editors: Neil Miller, Nancy Newman, Valerie Biousse, John Kerriman

Practically every neuro-ophthalmologist knows or has heard of the definitive text on neuro-ophthalmology. Dr. Miller has graciously provided the 6th Edition to NOVEL and is available FREE for online access and also downloadable chapter-by-chapter in PDF documents (<http://content.lib.utah.edu/cdm/ref/collection/ehsl-wht/id/0>). For those who prefer the hardcover editions, you can find them available at Amazon (for all three editions you can expect to pay around \$400-500, depending on if you buy it new or used).

While perhaps not the best source for light reading, this is the place I go to when I have an atypical case, I want to review the details of a particular disease, or if I am trying to get an

initial reference list for an article about a particular topic. For the particularly ambitious neuro-ophthalmologist, perhaps one might wish to try and memorize the entire thing. ☺

Walsh & Hoyt's Clinical Neuro-Ophthalmology: The Essentials, 3rd Edition

Authors: Neil Miller, Prem Subramanian, Vivek Patel

If you were having trouble fitting the 3-volume Walsh & Hoyt set into your white coat, you could always get the Essentials edition. This most-recent edition of the “Cliff Notes” version of the Walsh and Hoyt text has all of the meat of the full volume but is condensed for clinical use. It is full of useful charts, tables, diagrams, and color figures, and, with its online interactive eBook access, is absolutely worth the \$130 new-book price (if you buy it used you may not be able to get the online content).

Basic and Clinical Science Course, Section 5: Neuro-Ophthalmology

Section Chair: Rod Foroozan

The American Academy of Ophthalmology has a dedicated section in their textbook review of ophthalmology to neuro-ophthalmology. It is organized slightly differently than the Walsh and Hoyt, and the content is geared towards the beginning ophthalmologist and in preparation for ophthalmology board exams. However, it remains an excellent and detailed overview of the practical aspects of neuro-ophthalmology, and covers the most common diagnoses we see.

Most ophthalmology-trained neuro-ophthalmologists will already have a copy of this book in their library as part of their residency training, and at \$169, is a worthwhile consideration for the budget-minded neuro-ophthalmologist who wants a quick practical reference. It does not carry the same level of detail as one may need for some aspects of neuro-ophthalmology practice, so this may not be well-suited for everyone.

Neuro-Ophthalmology: Diagnosis and Management, 2nd Edition

Authors: Grant Liu, Nicholas Volpe, Steven Galetta

Personally, I think this is a must-have resource for the beginning ophthalmologist. At approximately \$150 on Amazon, this single text is both incredibly detailed yet practical. I keep a copy of this book at the office and probably use this the most when I need to review a differential diagnosis or recall the specific management of a rarer disease. It is well-organized, with many large images (which are available on the accompanying DVD-ROM for easy use in educational presentations) and tables.

Like the Walsh and Hoyt, this text provides detailed references on every subject, which I have found is a great starting point for finding the salient articles when writing my own articles or just for my personal reference. Because its goal is to provide a helpful reference for diagnosis

and management of neuro-ophthalmic disease, this may not be the best resource for learning or knowing the basic science; however, it is fantastic for clinical application.

Neuro-Ophthalmology Illustrated, 2nd Edition

Authors: Valerie Biousse, Nancy Newman

A review of the neuro-ophthalmology texts would not be complete without Drs. Biousse and Newman's illustrated handbook to neuro-ophthalmology. Replete with diagrams, photographs, figures, and more, the book delivers on its ability to teach neuro-ophthalmology in both the diagnostic realm but also in the practical examination. The number of pictures, descriptions, and diagrams provided in teaching neuro-ophthalmic examination techniques is probably as close as one can get to watching a demonstration video or being taught live as one can get by reading a book.

For those who would like to have a useful reference manual for recalling the proper techniques of neuro-ophthalmic examination, or have an atlas-quality reference for looking at neuro-ophthalmic disease, definitely consider spending \$100 on this book.

Neuro-Ophthalmology Review Manual, 7th Edition

Authors: Lanning Kline, Rod Foroozan

This is another text that is often listed in neuro-ophthalmology resources. This review book is very concise and brief, and offers an outlined approach to thinking through neuro-ophthalmic topics. I obtained this book (6th Edition) in residency, and it proved to be a great way to systematically approach neuro-ophthalmology. It is a great resource for study, and those people who think in outline form will absolutely love the format.

There are many great chapters in this book (the list of different pathologies of the cranial nerves is really helpful), but I think the approach to visual field disorders is awesome. While it's not as comprehensive as many of the other resources listed, it's not meant to be comprehensive and accomplishes its goals well. If you are studying for your board exam, just starting neuro-ophthalmology, or do not have a good mental schema for remembering neuro-ophthalmic disease, this is a great initial resource. Amazon lists the price around \$60, which makes this a very affordable reference.

Online Resources

The Neuro-Ophthalmology Virtual Education Library (NOVEL)

<http://novel.utah.edu>

As you probably are already aware, NOVEL is a tremendous online resource hosted at the University of Utah but is really setting itself up to be THE official online resource for neuro-

ophthalmology. With collections of lectures from distinguished neuro-ophthalmologists, as well as a rapidly growing library of peer-reviewed content covering the whole of neuro-ophthalmology, NOVEL has made neuro-ophthalmology education accessible to everyone with an internet connection.

As I already mentioned, NOVEL hosts the entirety of Walsh and Hoyt's Clinical Neuro-Ophthalmology 6th Edition in individual PDFs (each chapter is published separately). I downloaded the whole text and put it on my iPad and iPhone so I could quickly search for information in-between patients. With the new content outline available to NANOS members, NOVEL is going to continue growing and developing new ways of learning neuro-ophthalmology.

The North American Neuro-Ophthalmology Society (NANOS)

<http://nanosweb.org>

This is the homepage for NANOS members. There are links to tons of member resources, including online access to the Journal of Neuro-Ophthalmology, and more. The NANOS staff keeps this hub updated pretty frequently, so as new resources are developed and made available to NANOS members (such as this article), you can go to the NANOS homepage and find links to these resources.

The Journal of Neuro-Ophthalmology (JNO)

<http://jneuro-ophthalmology.com>

Free to NANOS members (or available by subscription), the Journal of Neuro-Ophthalmology is the place to go for up-to-date peer-reviewed articles pertaining to neuro-ophthalmology. It is available online or through a mobile app, in case you don't have your physical copy available to you.