

NEWS

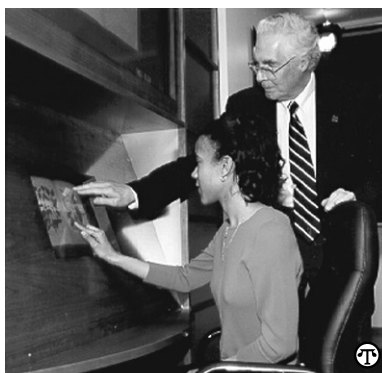
# OF BOOKS

## New Method Of Turning Pages Is Turning Heads

(NAPSA)—A number of old and rare manuscripts are now getting the space-age touch.

An unusual computer program, called "Turning the Pages," recently made its debut at the National Library of Medicine (NLM) in Bethesda, Maryland—the only U.S. library to host this program. "Turning the Pages," which was developed by the British Library, uses computer animation, high-quality digitized images, and touch screen technology to simulate the action of turning the pages of a book.

Here's how it works. As you move your fingers across the computer monitor, the page begins to turn, curves and falls to the other side. Touch an icon on the screen and you can zoom in on the illustration. Touch another icon and you get an audio description.



**A new computer program uses computer animation to simulate the turning of pages in a book.**

The first book to be displayed in this unique manner is the 18th century botanical book, *Curious Herbal* (1737 and 1739) by Elizabeth Blackwell—who had a curious history herself. Blackwell

began drawing medicinal plants to earn money in order to secure the release of her husband who had been thrown in debtor's jail for unpaid debts to a failed business. Her book was a success and Blackwell was able to obtain the release of her husband.

"Libraries no longer have to keep their rare books hidden from the general public out of fears that the books will be damaged with constant handling," said Donald A.B. Lindberg, M.D., the head of the Library. "Now everyone can 'turn the pages' of a rare book and experience the joys of touching a historical book or manuscript."

The National Library of Medicine, a part of the National Institutes of Health, is the world's largest library of the health sciences. To learn more, visit the Web site at [www.nlm.nih.gov](http://www.nlm.nih.gov).