Herbals, that is, books containing a collection of descriptions of plants for medical purposes, played an important role in the history of therapeutics.

For many centuries they have been the text-books of physicians and laymen who practiced medicine, and of priests and monks. They were also very popular as consultation books among non-medical people.

Their aim was always a purely practical one. They contained a descriptive list of plants and drugs of vegetable origin and perhaps, the earliest ones, contained some dried samples of the plants themselves.

This exhibit shows titles limited to the 15 and 1600’s.

Turkey Corn
John Gerard, Herball, 1597.

W. Bruce Fye History of Medicine Library
Office hours: Monday through Friday 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.