NLM Traveling Exhibitions
PR Information

https://www.nlm.nih.gov/artificial-intelligence-and-physiognomy

The National Library of Medicine produced *Promising Future, Complex Past: Artificial Intelligence and the Legacy of Physiognomy,* guest curated by Erika Mills (National Library of Medicine).

The traveling banner exhibition and companion website presents the history of physiognomy—the practice of assessing one's mental character based on physical attributes—and explores its influence on contemporary artificial intelligence and computer science technologies that gather and interpret body data. Now debunked as pseudoscience, physiognomy enjoyed periods of legitimacy and popularity over a history spanning millennia, being discredited in the 20th century. We've rejected the harmful aspects of physiognomy, but efforts to gain information from physical characteristics continue with today's technologies, which have positive potential.

Promising Future, Complex Past includes a selection of health information resources and a digital gallery of fully digitized items from the historical collections of the NLM, which are also available in their entirety in NLM Digital Collections.

Please include this courtesy line with all public announcements about the project:

The National Library of Medicine produced this exhibition and companion website.

NIH⟩ National Library of Medicine

NLM Traveling Exhibitions
PR Information

Host venues for *Promising Future, Challenging Past* receive the following PR images. For your reference, there are brief captions for the images. Please include their corresponding **courtesy** noted below when using them.
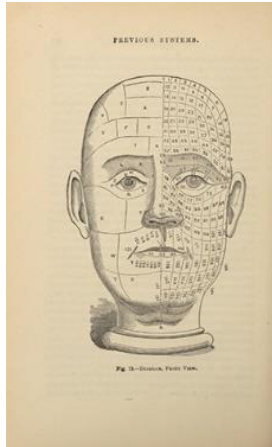
Facial character chart from *New physiognomy, or, Signs of character, as manifested through temperament and external forms, and especially in "the human face divine,"* ca. 1894

Courtesy National Library of Medicine

Italian polymath Giovanni Battista della Porta (1535–1615) presented the case for physiognomy with detailed illustrations in his work *De Humana Physionognomia* (1586). Porta's book helped popularize physiognomy in the 16th century.

In Physiognomica Aristotelis commentii, Camillo Baldi and Geronimo Tamburini, 1621
Courtesy National Library of Medicine
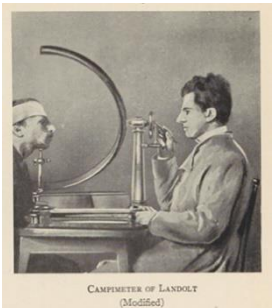
Italian criminologist Cesare Lombroso measured the facial and bodily attributes of thousands of convicts over his career, attempting to prove scientifically that there was a criminal "look."

From *Criminal man, according to the classification of Cesare Lombroso* 1911
Courtesy National Library of Medicine

NLM Traveling Exhibitions
PR Information

Today's biometric technologies reference databases of personal information to identify people and limit access to sensitive information and restricted places. They're used in law enforcement and border security, as well as everyday life.

Types of biometric identification, 2023
Courtesy National Library of Medicine
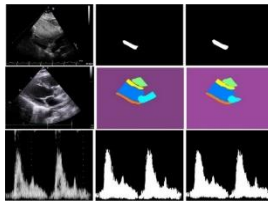
Artificial intelligence and computer vision analyze visual material to help understand and diagnose illnesses. National Library of Medicine research has advanced techniques to help predict and spot health conditions using these technologies.

A heart ultrasound from "Real-time echocardiography image analysis and quantification of cardiac indices," *Medical Image Analysis*, 2022
Courtesy National Library of Medicine