

News Currents

In Brief

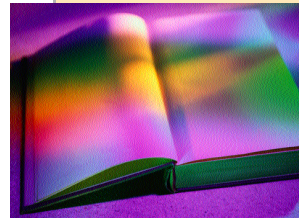
'Assisted Living' Debuts In Webster's

The term "assisted living" is one of about 2,500 new health-related entries in the 11th edition of Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary, which was published in July 2003. About 40 percent of the health-related entries are age-related.

"The words being added to the dictionary are a fascinating barometer of

what's going on in our society,"

John Morse, president and publisher of Merriam-Webster, told the *New York*



Times. "Aging baby boomers may be the second-biggest thing [behind the Internet], and I don't know that the world has really quite focused on that yet," he said.

Editors make minor updates to the dictionary each year and publish a new edition every 10 years. The 11th edition has about 10,000 new entries in all.

The definition for assisted living reads: "a system of housing and limited care that is designed for senior citizens who need some assistance with daily activities but do not require care in a nursing home."

—Amy Waye