

HSLs Update

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Introducing Protein Lounge: A New Bioinformatics Resource

HSLs is pleased to announce the addition of Protein Lounge to our collection of bioinformatics resources. Protein Lounge is a gene/protein centric Web portal that offers a collection of searchable databases and software tools, useful for researchers and students.

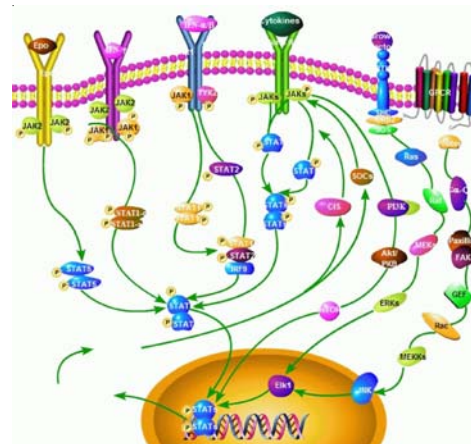
This collection features 10 databases covering research organisms including human, mouse, rat, drosophila, C. elegans, zebrafish, and yeast, as well as nine biology-based research tools. Some noteworthy components:

Databases:

- *siRNA* contains pre-computed statistically validated siRNA targets against known genes.
- *Peptide-Antigen* offers computationally predicted antigenic peptide targets for antibody generation against known protein sequences.
- *Pathway* provides an extensive collection

of 447 signaling and metabolic pathways subdivided into various functional categories such as adhesion, cell cycle, apoptosis, etc.

- *Protein Interaction* enables users to search for a protein, and then view the other proteins it activates, inhibits, or binds to.
- *Kinase-Phosphatase* stores a list of protein kinases and protein phosphatases organized with their substrates.
- *Transcription Factors* includes names, organism specification, binding sequences, binding elements, and cell type specification.



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ACP PIER[®]: HSLs' Newest EBM Tool

American College of Physicians (ACP) PIER[®] (Physicians' Information and Education Resource) is HSLs' new clinical decision-support tool, providing evidence-based guidance to improve patient care and outcomes.

PIER[®] is arranged in seven main sections: *Diseases, Screening and Prevention, Complementary and Alternative Medicine, Ethical and Legal Issues, Procedures*, and drug information through *AHFS DI[®] Essentials[™]*.

PIER's disease section contains more than 350 modules that can be searched or browsed alphabetically or by organ system. Each disease module includes the following subcategories:

- Prevention
- Non-drug Therapy
- Screening
- Drug Therapy
- Diagnosis
- Patient Education
- Consultation for Diagnosis
- Consultation for Management
- Hospitalization
- Follow-up

All modules are selected by ACP and are based upon prevalence in clinical settings. The evidence and references to the primary literature are evaluated, and the credibility of the evidence is displayed with a rating. References are linked to PubMed, providing quick access to the article's citation and/or full text.

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Director's Reflections...

A Visit to Vietnam

Several months ago, I was invited to participate in an assessment of health information access and medical libraries in Vietnam. The project was funded by the International Program of the U.S. National Library of Medicine (NLM). In addition to myself, the assessment team included Ellen Detlefsen, associate professor in Pitt's School of Information Sciences and lead faculty member for the school's specialization in medical librarianship; Kate Oliver, associate director of the Welch Medical Library at Johns Hopkins University; and Chuong Huynh from NLM's National Center for Biotechnology Information.



Barbara Epstein
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During our two-week stay in January 2007, we traveled the length of the country, beginning in Ho Chi Minh City (formerly Saigon) in the south, then to Can Tho in the Mekong Delta, Hue in the central region, and Hanoi in the north. We visited medical schools and hospitals, and interviewed nearly 100 physicians, educators, medical librarians, and students. Based on these interviews and observations, our team will offer recommendations to enhance training opportunities for medical librarians and health professionals.

In Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City, Dr. Detlefsen taught a one-day workshop titled *Medical Libraries and Medical Librarians: Moving Into the 21st Century*. Attendees were eager to discuss how Vietnamese medical libraries can enhance user services and incorporate the principles of evidence-based practice into the education of health professionals.

Medical library facilities in Vietnam range from modern, well-equipped university Learn-

ing Resource Centers in Can Tho and Hue, to tiny collections of outdated books in crowded hospitals. Updated textbooks are scarce, though a program of the World Health Organization called HINARI provides free access to hundreds of online full-text journals in the health sciences. Like their counterparts in the United States, Vietnamese students love the Internet and spend time surfing their favorite Web sites to find the latest information and trends. They recognize that the Internet and online resources, not print books or journals, will be the tools of choice for enhancing Vietnamese medical library collections.



Workshop participants in Ho Chi Minh City

Travel in Vietnam was an amazing experience – a fascinating mix of the modern and the traditional. We were unfailingly greeted with kindness and hospitality. Helpful strangers routinely offered assistance with navigating through heavy traffic to cross the street. I was awed by the beauty of the landscape, and took hundreds of pictures.

I hope that HSLs will soon have the opportunity to extend reciprocal hospitality to visiting Vietnamese librarians.

HSLs Update is produced by the University of Pittsburgh Health Sciences Library System (HSLs), 200 Scaife Hall, 3550 Terrace Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15261 <www.hsls.pitt.edu>. Contact HSLs with questions, comments, or ideas at 412-648-8796, or send e-mail to medlibq@pitt.edu.

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Book Trucks Available for Falk Patrons

For your convenience HSLs has purchased two small green book trucks to assist Falk Library patrons carrying materials to tables or the photocopy room. One truck will be located on each floor of the library near the journal and book collections. Trucks should be emptied (items can be placed on brown shelving carts or on tables) and returned to their original location after use.



“But I don’t understand...”

Facing the Challenges of Health Literacy

Health literacy is defined as the ability to read, understand, and follow basic medical instructions. The Institute of Medicine reports that 90 million people (over 50 % of American adults) have difficulty understanding and interpreting health information.¹ Low health literacy affects an individual’s ability to communicate with health care providers, adhere to multiple drug regimens, make informed decisions about care, and determine when and how to seek medical treatment in a complex health care system. In addition, “low literacy is associated with several adverse health outcomes, including low health knowledge, increased incidence of chronic illness, poorer intermediate disease markers, and less than optimal use of preventive health services.”²

An illustrative example of the consequences of low health literacy was recently published in the *Annals of Internal Medicine*. Researchers studying the ability of patients to take medications correctly found that approximately two-thirds of the patients surveyed were able to read the label but only 34.7% could demonstrate the number of pills to be taken daily.³

How can health care providers work toward overcoming this challenge?

- *Understand the importance of health literacy.*

The Joint Commission discusses pos-

sible solutions to overcome low health literacy and provides 35 recommendations to protect patient’s safety in the white paper “‘What Did the Doctor Say?’: *Improving Health Literacy to Protect Patient Safety*, released in February 2007. This document is available electronically at www.jointcommission.org

The American Medical Society Foundation developed a “Health Literacy Kit”, available for order at <http://www.ama-assn.org/ama/pub/category/8115.html>.

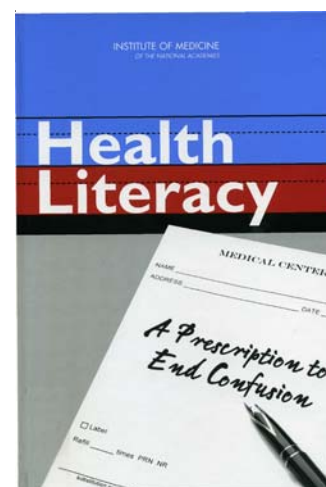
Included are videos, manuals, and educational tools to assist health care providers in identifying and providing care for patients with low health literacy.

- *Encourage patients to ask questions.*

ASK ME 3™ www.AskMe3.org, a tool created by the Partnership for Clear Health Communication, is designed to improve communication between patients and health care providers. Patients are instructed to ask their nurses, doctors, or pharmacist three questions - What is my main problem? What do I need to do? Why is it important to me?

- *Provide easy-to-read health materials for patients.*

MedlinePlus, from the National Library of Medicine, offers easy-to-read,



printable patient information. www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/easytoread/easytoread_a.html

For additional information on health literacy or for assistance with finding patient handouts, consult with a librarian at the patient family resource centers located at Children’s Hospital of Pittsburgh Library, Hopwood Library at UPMC Shadyside, or Western Psychiatric Institute and Clinic Library.

—Michele Burda

1. Institute of Medicine. *Health Literacy: A Prescription to End Confusion*. Washington, D.C.: National Academy Press; 2004. www.iom.edu/CMS/3775/3827/19723.aspx.

2. Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality Publication No. 04-E007-2, *Evidence Report/Technology Assessment*, Number 87, “Literacy and Health Outcomes”, January 2004. www.ahrq.gov/clinic/epcsums/litsum.htm.

3. Davis, TC, Wolf, MS, Bass, PF III. Literacy and Misunderstanding Prescription Drug Labels, *Ann Intern Med*. 2006; 145:887-894.

All the News You Think You Want: An Introduction to RSS

What is RSS?

RSS (Really Simple Syndication or Rich Site Summary) is a technical specification for syndicating information, or distributing it to multiple Web sites.

RSS output from a Web site is called a feed, and the software used to display it is called a news reader or RSS aggregator. Readers or aggregators gather news items from different sources, where "news" is broadly defined to include everything from *New York Times* articles to the latest posting on a colleague's research wiki.

What are the benefits of using RSS?

RSS eliminates the need to search numerous locations for new information; rather users can subscribe to sources such as Web sites and have new information "pushed" to them via the RSS aggregator. The aggregator will combine and organize feeds from multiple sites into a single-screen Web display, with the new content clearly marked. Thus the aggregator Google Reader describes itself as "your inbox for the Web."

Getting started in four steps:

1. **Create an account** in one of the many Web-based news readers. Pick one that does not include banner advertising:
 - Bloglines <www.bloglines.com>: One of the oldest, with a basic, no-frills display.
 - Google Reader <www.google.com/reader>: Yet another Google product that works well.

- Netvibes <www.netvibes.com>: A graphically-oriented reader that provides not only the typical list display, but also a Web page with layout and color options for the user.

2. **Add content** by subscribing to RSS feeds. The news reader may provide a search function to assist with this. On Web sites check for one of these icons:



Or, try an RSS directory such as Feedster <www.feedster.com>. You can also create a feed, to act as an alert, for a stored literature search in PubMed or another online database. Try such feeds for a journal whose Web site does not provide a current issue RSS feed.

3. **Manage content.** News readers can organize content (using folders, categories, or descriptive tags), save content (Bloglines "clippings," Google Reader starred items), and export the blogroll (list of feeds) to a file that can be imported into a different reader if desired.

4. **Share content** using the reader's social features: Display Bloglines clippings as a public blog, designate items to be shared in Google Reader, or publish your selections on the Netvibes "ecosystem."

For more information regarding RSS or for assistance with setting up a RSS feed for a saved literature search, please contact the HSLS reference desk at 412-648-8796 or e-mail medlibq@pitt.edu.

--Patricia Weiss

Introducing Protein Lounge: A New Bioinformatics Resource

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- *Biochemical Compound* contains text and graphics describing important molecules involved in cellular signaling, biosynthesis, and metabolism.
- *Protein* presents information categorized into subtopics such as reviews, pathways, disease relation, protein family members, sequence information, and publication.

Research Tools

- *Pathway Builder 2.0* is a software application, downloadable to the desk-

top, that works on both Windows and Mac operating platforms. This easy to use, "drag and drop" software allows users to make their own signaling or metabolic pathways using pre-configured membranes, organelles, proteins, and other necessary pathway structures. This tool is excellent for creating colorful publication-quality graphics.

- *Protein Hydroplotter* allows viewing of hydrophilic and hydrophobic regions of a protein sequence. This tool is ideal for finding antibody and drug targets of a protein.
- *Peptide Finder* finds the best antigenic peptides of a protein sequence. Hydrophilic regions of the protein sequence are screened to find the best possible peptides that can be used as antibody or drug targets.
- *Easy siRNA* offers an efficient

method of finding siRNA targets and cloning them online.

An additional feature of Protein Lounge is the *Online Lab Book*, which allows users to securely store information in a personal online lab book, viewable from any location.

To access Protein Lounge, type "Protein Lounge" into the search.HSLS quick search box at <www.hsls.pitt.edu/>.

For more information regarding Protein Lounge or for hands-on training on Pathway Builder, contact Ansuman Chattopadhyay, head of the Molecular Biology Information Service, at ansuman@pitt.edu or 412-648-1297.

--Ansuman Chattopadhyay

Staff News

News

Farewell to **Yi-Bu Chen**, assistant information specialist in Molecular Biology and Genetics. Chen is leaving HSLS after three years to assume a similar position at the Norris Medical Library of the University of Southern California in Los Angeles.

Farewell to **Brian McGuirk**, circulation specialist at Falk Library, who is leaving HSLS to travel to China, where he will be teaching English to Chinese students.

James Perry is the new materials handler for HSLS Resource Management. Perry has been a temporary worker at the HSLS remote storage facility since November 2006. His new duties include assisting with receiving and processing of new materials, while continuing to work with storage items.

Kenneth Smith joins HSLS as an evening shelver at Falk Library Circulation. Smith has worked in the remote storage facility as a temporary worker, and will now assist in stacks maintenance, shelving materials, and processing materials for storage.

Publications

Jonathon Erlen, history of medicine librarian, published "Dissertation list" in *History of Science Society Newsletter* 2007; 36(1):15. Erlen also served as a major contributor to "ISIS Current Bibliography of the History of Science and Its Cultural Influences 2006". Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2007.

Jill Foust, Web manager/reference librarian; **Phillip Bergen**, information architecture librarian; **Gretchen Maxeiner**, cataloging librarian; and Peter Pawlowski, software engineer and lead linguist, Vivísimo, Inc., published "Improving E-book Access via a Library-Developed Full-

Text Search Tool" in the *Journal of the Medical Library Association* 2007 Jan; 95(1):40-45.

Andrea Ketchum, reference librarian, published "Rehabilitation Act of 1973: Resources for School Nurses" in *MLA News* 2007 Jan; 392:8.

Nancy Hrinia Tannery, associate director for Information Services, **Charles Wessel**, coordinator of Affiliated Hospital Services, **Barbara Epstein**, HSLS director, and Cynthia Gadd, research associate professor of Biomedical Informatics at Vanderbilt University published: "Hospital Nurses' Use of Knowledge-Based Information Resources" in *Nursing Outlook* 2007 Jan-Feb; 55(1):15-19.

Presentations

Leslie Czechowski, collections librarian, presented a poster titled "How Many Subject Headings Does It Take to Describe an Archival Collection?" at the national conference of the Association of College and Research Libraries, March 29-April 1, 2007, in Baltimore MD. The poster was co-authored with Elizabeth J. Cox, Special Formats Cataloger, Southern Illinois University.

Jonathon Erlen, history of medicine librarian, served as moderator for three paper sessions at the international meeting of the Southern Association for the History of Medicine and Science, March 2-3, 2007 in Charlottesville, VA.

Linda Hartman, reference librarian, presented a paper titled "Soundbytes of the Past: A Brief Look at Disability Perception, Deafness, and Audiology" at the international meeting of the Southern Association for the History of Medicine and Science, March 2-3, 2007 in Charlottesville, VA.

The Cat in the Hat turns 50!



Patients at Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh of UPMC celebrated the 50th birthday of Dr. Seuss's book *The Cat in the Hat* with a party at the Moulis Children's Library, a "white-coat-free zone". The party was held on March 2, which was the 10th annual National Education Association's Read Across American Day.

HSLS librarians and Children's Hospital Child Life specialists teamed up for the celebration that included a story time with Allegheny County Executive Dan Onorato, who read several Dr. Seuss favorites to children of all ages.

--Andrea Ketchum

HSLs Schedule of Classes May-June 2007

Classes are held on the first floor of Falk Library in Classroom 1, and in the Computer and Media Center Classroom 2 on the second floor of Falk Library (200 Scaife Hall). Some classes are also held at the Western Psychiatric Institute and Clinic (WPIC) Library Classroom. Class schedules are subject to change. Please consult the online class calendar at <www.hsls.pitt.edu/services/instruction/calendar> for the most current information.

HSLs ORIENTATION

Introduction to HSLs Resources and Services at Falk Library

Falk Library: Offered upon request to groups or individuals.
Call 412-648-8796.

Introduction to HSLs Resources and Services at WPIC Library

Tuesday, June 5 3:30-4:45 p.m.
WPIC library: Also offered upon request to groups or individuals.
Call 412-246-5507.

SEARCHING DATABASES

Ovid MEDLINE*

(Falk Library Classroom 1)
Tuesday, May 1 10-11:30 a.m.
Thursday, May 31 1-2:30 p.m.
Monday, June 18 9-10:30 a.m.

PubMed*

(Falk Library Classroom 1)
Wednesday, May 16 9-10:30 a.m.
Friday, June 15 Noon-1:30 p.m.

Advanced PubMed*

(Falk Library Classroom 1)
Wednesday, June 20 2-3:30 p.m.

Searching the Nursing Literature*

(Falk Library Classroom 1)
Wednesday, June 13 Noon-1:30 p.m.

Searching PsycINFO*

(WPIC Library Classroom)
Thursday, June 7 9:30-11 a.m.
Tuesday, June 26 3-4:30 p.m.

MOLECULAR BIOLOGY AND GENETICS RESOURCES

Genetic Information Hubs*

(Falk Library Classroom 2)
Wednesday, May 9 1-3 p.m.

Sequence Similarity Searching*

(Falk Library Classroom 2)
Wednesday, May 16 1-3 p.m.

Introduction to Vector NTI*

(Falk Library Classroom 2)
Wednesday, June 20 1-3 p.m.

DNA Analysis Tools*

(Falk Library Classroom 2)
Wednesday, June 27 1-3 p.m.

SOFTWARE TRAINING

EndNote Basics

(Falk Library Classroom 2)
(Note: This class is usually full. Please arrive 15 minutes in advance to ensure seating.)
Wednesday, May 2 9-11 a.m.
Monday, May 14 1-3 p.m.
Tuesday, June 5 Noon-2 p.m.
Monday, June 18 9:30-11:30 a.m.

Adobe Photoshop for Beginners

(Falk Library Classroom 2)
Thursday, May 17 10 a.m.-noon
Thursday, June 14 10 a.m.-noon

PowerPoint for Beginners

(Falk Library Classroom 2)
Thursday, May 10 9-11 a.m.

PowerPoint for Beginners and Advanced PowerPoint

(Falk Library Classroom 2)
Thursday, June 21 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

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HSLs Schedule of Classes ***May-June 2007*** *continued from page 6*

LUNCH WITH A LIBRARIAN

These informal, brown-bag lunches are held in Falk Library Conference Room B. Bring your own lunch. Drinks and dessert are provided. See <www.hsls.pitt.edu/services/instruction/lunchlibrarian/> for more information.

The WOW Factor: Posters Made with Microsoft PowerPoint

Thursday, May 10 Noon-1 p.m.

Finding a Needle in a Haystack: Search Bioresearch Databases and Software Tools Using the HSLs Online Bioinformatics Resource Collection

Tuesday, May 22 Noon-1 p.m.

The Nuts and Bolts of Publishing an Article: Resources and Strategies for Aspiring Authors

Wednesday, June 6 Noon-1 p.m.

Jazz It Up: How to Find Medical Images for Your Presentation

Thursday, June 28 Noon-1 p.m.

CUSTOMIZED CLASSES

Customized classes can be developed for your department, course, or other group. For more information, see <www.hsls.pitt.edu/services/instruction/customizedinstruction/>.

All classes are open to faculty, staff, and students of the schools of the health sciences at the University of Pittsburgh and UPMC. No registration required. Seating for classes is first-come, first-served until the class is full. Classes marked with an asterisk () qualify for American Medical Association Category 2 continuing education credit. Detailed course descriptions are available at*

<www.hsls.pitt.edu/services/instruction/>.

Action! Upgraded Video Editing Equipment Available in CMC

Recent hardware upgrades in Falk Library's Computer and Media Center (CMC) enhance its status as one of the best facilities on campus for video capture and editing.

Upgrades include three Dell Dimension desktop computers and dual DV/VHS players. The new computers contain Intel Duo processors, with twice the memory of previous technologies, allowing large video and computer files to be quickly processed. These improvements enable a more efficient video capture/edit process to produce high quality products.

The CMC will continue to utilize the existing multimedia software (Roxio for CD and DVD burning, and Adobe Premiere for intensive video editing); however, these programs will now function much more quickly than before.

All equipment and software are available to Pitt and UPMC students, faculty, and staff. Facilities can be used to convert existing videotapes to DVD format (copyright laws apply), create educational DVDs for patients or students, transfer recorded surgical procedures to a more accessible disc-format, and more. Those wishing to burn CDs or DVDs must provide their own discs. The CMC help desk staff is available to provide assistance.

Future CMC plans include upgrades of Macintosh hardware for DVD creation and editing, and development of online tutorials, detailing the step-by-step process of DVD creation.

--Sam Lewis

ACP PIER[®]: HSLs' Newest EBM Tool *continued from page 1*

PIER[®] is available through STAT!Ref and is searchable alone or with other STAT!Ref titles such as "Current Critical Care Diagnosis & Treatment." STAT!Ref is a collection of electronic resources for healthcare professionals, allowing users to cross-search a wealth of core medical, nursing, and drug reference books, evidence-based clinical guidance tools, and Anatomy.tv, an online 3-D interactive human anatomy resource .

To access ACP PIER[®], type "ACP PIER" into the search.HSLs quick search box on the HSLs home page or select ACP PIER[®] on STAT!Ref's table of contents page.

--Charles Wessel

Shifting Falk Library Journal Collection

HSLS Technical Services staff is busy rearranging the print journal collection on the first floor of Falk Library. Journal volumes published between 1975 and 1984 are moving to closed stacks or offsite storage to allow room for future growth of the collection and library space reallocation, as exemplified by the new comfortable seating area, pictured to the right.

During this rearrangement process, signs are posted throughout the stacks explaining which date ranges and titles have been moved. While these posted signs are helpful, the most current and accurate location information is always included in PITTCat, the library catalog. Please ask the library staff for assistance if you are having difficulty with locating the title and year of a particular journal.

This rearrangement process is being conducted in several steps. Volumes will initially be moved to the library's closed stacks, and can be retrieved on request by Falk Circulation



staff, to photocopy or for in-library use. Eventually, these journal volumes will be moved to their permanent location in offsite storage. The message "HSLS Storage - Request via HSLS Service Requests" will appear in PITTCat for these titles, and they can be requested free of charge by HSLS patrons. Requested materials can be made available for pickup at any HSLS circulation desk, or copies can be sent by fax, mail, or online as a scanned PDF file. Requests will generally be filled within two working days. For more information visit: <www.hsls.pitt.edu/services/collection/stacks>.

--Gosia Fort

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