Cell Press and AACR Titles
Now on Your Desktop

HSL Online now provides desktop access to key journals from both Cell Press and the American Association of Cancer Research (AACR). Cell, Current Biology, Immunity, Molecular Cell, Neuron, and Structure are among the most important journals in biological research, consistently scoring high in impact and immediacy in their disciplines.

HSL has also licensed important titles from the American Association of Cancer Research including: Cancer Research, Clinical Cancer Research, Cell Growth & Differentiation, and Cancer Epidemiology, Biomarkers & Prevention.


Questions/comments should be directed to Phil Bergen, information architecture librarian, at 412-648-2309 or bergen@pitt.edu.

New ‘OpenLink’ Connects OVID to More Full Text Online Journals

Journals@OVID currently provides access to more than 200 full text journals. A new feature of OVID has allowed HSL to set up links to the full text of hundreds of additional electronic journals outside the Journals@OVID database. These links have been added to make full-text available within OVID databases such as MEDLINE and PsycINFO. Just click on the “OpenLink Full Text” link from your search results to open another browser window that displays the full text article.
PDA Corner--Beyond the Basics

After mastering the PDA fundamentals, many users are ready to experiment with third party software. These are specialized programs designed to meet specific needs. The range of software available for PDAs is intimidating, but knowing the basics will help you to navigate through the myriad choices.

Available software can be divided into three categories: fee-based, shareware and freeware. As the name implies, fee-based software has a cost attached to it. Although fee-based software providers may supply demonstration (or “demo”) versions, these typically lack certain features or are available only for a short time. Shareware is usually free, with the understanding that the user pays a small fee to the author or distributor. Freeware is totally free with no strings attached. Sometimes the old adage ‘you get what you pay for’ applies to PDA software. However, many shareware and freeware products are as good, if not better than, their fee-based counterpart.

PDA software can be easily located through the Internet. For example, Tucows <http://www.tucows.com> provides a variety of software for the operating systems of Palm, EPOC, Newton, Win CE, Pocket PC and RIM. Categories of software at Tucows include utilities, games and productivity. Under the Palm OS category, PDA software for medicine, scheduling, and travel, among others, can be located. A quick look at the available medical software includes CardioFILE 1.0.0 and Dentalmaster 2.5. Although a brief description is included with the software titles, it may take a few downloads and “hot synchs” before finding the perfect application. While the Tucows site has some medical applications, its strength is in non-medical software.

A Web site with purely medical content is Handheldmed <http://www.handheldmed.com>, which touts itself as the source for handheld medical solutions. Handheldmed provides descriptions of software, links to other sites, and hardware reviews. The site sells fee-based applications for the operating systems of Palm, EPOC and Windows CE. Freeware is also available, including the popular Patient Tracker 5.1.

A site strictly for the Palm OS is <http://www.healthypalmpilot.com>, which includes an extensive listing of medical content. This site also has discussion forums, and a mailing list that notifies you by email when new programs and files become available.

One final note: when locating software to download to the PDA, keep in mind the size of the software application. A large program may take too much memory, impeding your PDA’s performance.

-Fran Yarger
New on HSL Online is TOMES Plus®, an extensive collection of databases offering quick access to medical, hazard, and environmental information for the safe management and handling of chemicals. TOMES Plus® is licensed from MICROMEDEX, but appears as a separate choice on HSL Online <http://online.hsls.pitt.edu>. The resources listed below are included in TOMES Plus®. The first three on the list are also included in the TOMES section of MICROMEDEX.

**MEDITEXT®/Medical Managements** contains information to assist in evaluating and treating acute exposures to industrial chemicals. MEDITEXT also helps with reporting potential adverse health effects and treatment for chemical release exposures.

**HAZARDTEXT®/Hazard Managements** provides information needed for the initial response to incidents such as spills, leaks, fires, or explosions involving hazardous materials. HAZARDTEXT discusses safe handling of industrial chemicals and specific guidelines for evacuation, personal protection and disposal.

**INFOTEXT®** provides general health and safety data on non-chemical topics such as ergonomics and human health risk assessments. It also includes current industry-relevant topics such as multiple chemical sensitivities and endocrine disruptors.

**HSDB (Hazardous Substances Data Bank)**, from the National Library of Medicine, addresses the impact of more than 4,000 hazardous chemical substances on health and the environment. It presents specific data on environmental fate, animal studies, chemical handling, and manufacturers.

**CHRIS (Chemical Hazard Response Information System)**, developed by the U.S. Coast Guard, contains information useful for responding to aquatic incidents involving hazardous materials.

**OHM/TADS (Oil and Hazardous Materials/Technical Assistance Data System)**, from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, discusses the effects to the environment of petroleum products and other hazardous materials.

**IRIS (Integrated Risk Information Systems)** offers U.S. EPA health risk assessment information used in determining safe levels of human and environmental exposure to chemicals. The effects of human health of chronic and acute exposure to chemicals and carcinogens are detailed.

**RTECS® (Registry of Toxic Effects of Chemical Substances)**, from the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), offers toxicity data on more than 135,000 substances. The information, extracted from worldwide scientific literature, includes specifics on mutagenicity, carcinogenicity, reproductive hazards, and acute and chronic toxicity of hazardous substances.

**NIOSH (National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health) Pocket Guide** contains critical industrial hygiene data for approximately 675 chemicals, with information on exposure limits, U.S. Immediately Dangerous to Life and Health (IDLH) concentrations, incompatibilities and reactivities, personal protection and recommendations for respirator selection.

**NJ Fact Sheets**, from the New Jersey Department of Health, offers employee-oriented exposure risk information useful when addressing worker right-to-know issues and developing training programs.

**2000 Emergency Response Guidebook** contains information necessary to identify a substance, isolate and contain it, and evacuate an area in case of hazardous incidents including fires, spills and explosions.

*Barbara Epstein*
HSLS Participates in Sister Library Initiative with Latvian Library

HSLS is participating in a Sister Library Initiative sponsored by the International Cooperation Section of the Medical Library Association (MLA), and in cooperation with the American Latvian Association. To support this initiative, the HSLS Document Delivery Services department will provide 30 articles per year to the Medical Research Library of Latvia for the next 6-7 years. Many other U.S. and Canadian libraries are providing articles as well, allowing this library much greater access to English-language medical literature.

The Medical Research Library of Latvia is located in Riga, Latvia’s capital city. The library serves as the national medical library of Latvia and coordinates nine branch libraries throughout the country. Every year, over 8000 users borrow materials from the collection and many others use the materials in the library. Like many libraries in developing countries, funding has been so poor that little can be done to improve print collections or purchase access to full-text electronic content.

Although the librarians collect Latvian and Russian medical materials, they also attempt to collect materials in English. The library can only afford to subscribe to about 40 English-language medical journals, making access to needed articles from U.S. and Canadian libraries very important. In addition to the document delivery services provided, other libraries are donating book and journal volumes, and the National Library of Medicine has provided support for an Internet connection so researchers can search the PubMed database and access other online information sources.

For more information, visit the Library’s website at <http://www.mzb.lv>. The site is in Latvian, but an English version is available.

-Ammon Ripple

HSLS Librarians Train Macedonian Physicians

Six faculty members from the School of Medicine in Skopje, Macedonia received training at Falk Library in May as part of the Rational Drug Prescribing Training Program for Macedonian Primary Care Physicians. HSLS reference librarians Patricia Friedman and Barbara Folb led sessions on literature searching and online resources. The training program is directed by Stevan Tofovic, M.D., D.Sc., Director of Education, Center for Clinical Pharmacology, University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine.

Folb taught PubMed searching strategies, and Friedman’s topics were online resources for evidence-based medicine and evidence-based guidelines. Most of the library-based sessions took place at the beginning of the intensive training program so that participants could use their new skills during subsequent sessions on pharmacotherapy of common medical conditions and on nontraditional teaching techniques. Resources freely available on the Internet were emphasized to insure ongoing accessibility once the trainees returned to Macedonia. Each participant received a customized CD-ROM containing the exercises covered in the library-based sessions and links to recommended Internet resources for continued use.

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HSLS Classes

September - October

Introduction and Tour of Falk Library
(Falk Library, meet inside entrance to Library)
Tuesday, September 11………………11:00am-12:00pm
Wednesday, October 17……………11:00am-12:00pm

Searching MEDLINE on Ovid
(Location: Falk Library, CMC Classroom #2)
Thursday, September 6……………10:00am-11:30am
Tuesday, October 9………………1:00pm-2:30pm

Searching PubMed
(Location: Falk Library, CMC Classroom #1)
Thursday, September 13…………10:00am-11:30am
Thursday, October 4……………1:00pm-2:30pm
Friday, October 26………………9:00am-10:30am

Searching the PITTCat Online Library Catalog
(Location: Falk Library, CMC Classroom #1)
Wednesday, September 19………..10:00am-11:00am
Monday, October 8………………2:00pm-3:00pm

Introduction to MICROMEDEX
(Location: Falk Library, CMC Classroom #1)
Tuesday, September 25…………10:30am-12:00pm

Searching for Evidence-Based Literature
(Location: Falk Library, CMC Classroom #2)
Wednesday, September 5…………2:00pm-3:30pm

Searching PsycINFO
(Location: Falk Library, CMC Classroom #1)
Thursday, October 25………………10:00am-11:30am

EndNote Basics
(Location: Falk Library, CMC Classroom #2)
Thursday, September 20……………9:30am-11:30am
Thursday, October 11………………1:00pm-3:00pm

Introduction to ProCiteVersion 5
(Location: Falk Library, CMC Classroom #2)
Wednesday, October 3……………1:00pm-3:00pm

Adobe Photoshop for Beginners
(Location: Falk Library, CMC Classroom #1)
Monday, September 24……………9:00am-11:00am
Tuesday, October 23……………10:00am-12:00pm

PowerPoint for Presentations
(Location: Falk Library, CMC Classroom #1)
Monday, September 10…………….9:00am-11:00am
Tuesday, October 2………………10:00am-12:00pm

Medical Humanities on the World Wide Web
(Location: Falk Library, CMC Classroom #1)
Thursday, October 18……………10:00am-11:30am

Health Resources on the World Wide Web
(Location: Falk Library, CMC Classroom #2)
Monday, October 22………………1:00pm-2:30pm

Getting Started with Netscape
(Location: Falk Library, CMC Classroom #2)
Tuesday, October 16………………1:30pm-3:00pm

All classes are open to faculty, staff and students of the University of Pittsburgh Schools of the Health Sciences and the UPMC Health System. No registration required. Seating for classes is first-come, first-served until the class is full. Detailed course descriptions are available at <http://www.hsls.pitt.edu/classes>.

Macedonian Physicians

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The 11-day training in Pittsburgh used a “teach the leaders” approach. Participants returned to their country prepared to design training materials and workshops for an upcoming “teach the instructors” course in Skopje. The trained instructors will in turn teach Macedonian primary care physicians how to apply principles of rational drug prescribing to clinical medicine. Funding for the program was obtained by the Macedonian government from the World Bank as part of the Basic Health services component of the Health Sector Transition Project.

HSLS librarians frequently teach special sessions tailored to the particular information needs of different University of Pittsburgh and UPMC faculty, staff, and students, and of selected groups served by HSLS outreach initiatives. These are in addition to the regular schedule of classes <http://www.hsls.pitt.edu/classes> offered by HSLS throughout the year. Besides hands-on training in the Falk Library Computer & Media Center, sessions can be arranged in classrooms and meeting rooms throughout the system as needed. Contact the reference staff at Falk, WPIC or UPMC Shadyside Libraries to discuss scheduling a specialized session.

-Barbara Folb and Patricia Friedman
Phil Bergen, formerly electronic resources access librarian in Technical Services, moved to a new position in the Systems Department as information architecture librarian. He will be responsible for the organization of the library’s Internet presence. Phil will work with both Technical Services and Systems to develop the logical and technical infrastructure of the library’s Web resources.

Michelle Burda, consumer health librarian at UPMC Shadyside’s Hopwood Library, garnered an award for her creative library publicity program at the Medical Library Association Annual Conference, Orlando, FL, in May. The second place award for Hospital Based Libraries-Ongoing Campaigns was awarded for Michelle’s promotion of American Heart Month at UPMC Shadyside’s Hopwood Library. Public Communications, Inc., a PR firm, judged the entries based on creativity, accomplishment of stated goals, and best use of available budget and resources.

Kathy DeVito recently joined the staff in HSLS Document Delivery Services. She will be responsible for copying articles and processing interlibrary loan requests. Kathy has previous work experience at the Northland Public Library and the Duquesne University Library.

Yumin Jiang recently began as serials and electronic resources librarian in the Resource Management Area. She is responsible for managing both print and electronic serials for HSLS. Yumin comes to HSLS from Albert R. Mann Library at Cornell University, where she was the cataloging librarian for Serials and Electronic Resources. She received her Bachelor of Economics degree from Peking University in Beijing, China, and holds an MA in Agricultural Economics from the University of Wisconsin and an MS in Library and Information Science from the University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign.

Lisa Shaffer recently joined the Falk Library Circulation Department. Lisa received her BA in English from Indiana University, and is currently enrolled in the School of Information Sciences at Pitt.

On June 14-15, HSLS hosted two full day workshops for health sciences librarians titled “Keeping Up with NLM’s PubMed,” and “TOXNET on the Web.” Instructors from The National Library of Medicine National Training Center and Clearinghouse presented the workshops in the Falk Library CMC for librarians from southwestern Pennsylvania and West Virginia.

Jonathon Erlen, curator, History of Medicine, gave the commencement address, “The changing image of the American physician,” to the graduating residents at St. Elizabeth Health Center, Youngstown, OH on June 16.


Annalisa Gilberti, acquisitions assistant in Technical Services since 1998, left HSLS at the end of June. She received her B.S. degree from Pitt in May, and will be working toward her MBA in Chicago.

Gretchen Higginbottom and Tamar Smith recently completed the 2000-2001 Health Sciences Library and Informatics Traineeship, a combined program of HSLS and the Center for Biomedical Informatics.

Sally Wilson, serials librarian for HSLS, retired on August 20 after 18 years with the library. Sally began in 1982 in the Falk Library Serials Department. During her tenure, her responsibilities were broadened to include coordinating the serials collections in all HSLS libraries.
‘Health Information for the Public’ Contract Concludes

Public librarians are often an essential source of information for patients seeking health and medical information. Recognizing this, HSLS focused on public librarians in southwestern Pennsylvania as a key target audience for its Health Information for the Public contract, which was awarded to HSLS in early 2000. The Middle Atlantic Region of the National Network of Libraries of Medicine, and the National Library of Medicine granted HSLS the 18-month contract, which concluded in July 2001.

As part of the contract, a series of three workshops for public librarians was initiated in November 2000, when Workshop I, Introduction to Medical Information, was presented to 90 public librarians (see HSLS Update, December 2000 at http://www.hsls.pitt.edu/update.html).

For Workshop II, HSLS faculty librarians Charlie Wessel, coordinator of Affiliated Hospital Services and Jody Wozar, reference librarian traveled throughout southwestern Pennsylvania teaching Health Information for Public Librarians: Internet Resources and Databases from January through July 2001. Over 180 public librarians were given hands-on instruction at various locations including Oakland, Greensburg, Titusville, Johnstown, Beaver, Monessen, New Castle and Slippery Rock.

This second workshop focused on finding high quality free information on the Internet. Web sites featured in the workshop included the HSLS Health Information for the Consumer Web site <http://www.hsls.pitt.edu/chi>, MEDLINEplus <http://www.medlineplus.gov>, and PubMed <http://www.pubmed.gov>. The curriculum stressed the concept of evidence-based medicine. The course was interactive, with the instructors using participants’ own real world examples to illustrate the effectiveness of the featured Web sites. The course content ranged from resources providing drug information, to finding disease/wellness information, to information about local physicians and hospitals.

Workshop III, Information on Complementary and Alternative Medicine, taught by Charlie Wessel, was offered three times during May through July to more than 45 public librarians. Participants were given an overview of complementary and alternative medicine (CAM) in healthcare today, as well as resources to find CAM information.

In addition to the public librarian population, area school nurses, and staff and students at the Western Pennsylvania School for the Deaf were targeted audiences of the contract. In March, HSLS librarians, Amy Gregg and Jody Wozar, together with Fran Yarger, head of Computing Services, traveled to State College to attend the Pennsylvania Association of School Nurses and Practitioners (PASNAP) annual conference. Two classes were offered at the conference: Access to Health Information, a hands-on class that focused on finding quality information on the Internet and, PowerPoint for Presentations, a basic skills primer for producing professional presentations. A total of 26 PASNAP members attended the classes at the annual meeting. The Access to Health Information class was also offered in Greensburg in May, and was attended by 10 school nurses.

One further component of the contract was to provide classes for students and staff at the Western School for the Deaf. Amy Gregg provided this group with training on how to locate quality health information on the Internet (see HSLS Update, April 2001 at http://www.hsls.pitt.edu/update.html).

In all, more than 350 public librarians, school nurses, and hearing impaired students benefited from classes provided by HSLS librarians through the Health Information for the Public contract.

-Jody Wozar
Health & Wellness Resource Center Replaces Health Reference Center

Gale’s Health & Wellness Resource Center (HWRC) is a new and more comprehensive database that has evolved from the former Health Reference Center. Available through HSL Online <http://online.hsls.pitt.edu>, this fully integrated electronic resource allows users to access health and medical information through an intuitive, user-friendly Web interface. HWRC is an excellent source for patient and consumer-level information. It features:

- Reference sources such as The Gale Encyclopedia of Medicine, The Gale Encyclopedia of Childhood & Adolescence, Consumer Health Information Source Book, and Clinical Reference Systems
- Over 400 full text health/medical journals
- More than 800 informational pamphlets from national organizations and government agencies
- Links to key health Web sites

HWRC provides users with multiple pathways to key information. With its new browser format you can scan the latest news, review a set of subject areas, select particular resources or search the entire database. Advanced search options allow for customizing your query. Search results are organized by source (i.e. information from pamphlets, information from magazines, etc.) and publication date. You may access the Health & Wellness Resource Center from computers in the University and UPMC hospitals.  

-Michelle Burda

Access To HSL Online at UPMC Hospitals

UPMC Horizon is the newest UPMC hospital to contract with HSLS for access to HSL Online. The following UPMC hospitals now have HSL Online available by direct network access: Braddock, Horizon, McKeesport, Magee Womens Hospital, Passavant, Rehabilitation, St. Margaret, Shadyside, and South Side. UPMC Lee has access to Micromedex only. In addition, clinicians and staff in UPMC satellite centers and physician offices are eligible for HSL Online password accounts.

Computers directly linked to the UPMC network do not require a password. Immediate access to MEDLINE and other biomedical databases, drug information, full-text journal articles, and major textbooks is available. Computers not linked to the UPMC network can access HSL Online through the HSLS remote access server. Note that prior registration is required.

Training and orientation sessions for HSL Online can be scheduled at your hospital. For additional information about services to UPMC hospitals, visit the HSLS Web page <http://www.hsls.pitt.edu/upmc>, or contact Charlie Wessel, HSLS coordinator for Affiliated Hospital Services, at 412-648-8730 or cbw@pitt.edu.

-Barbara Epstein
Applying Technology in the Computer and Media Center

With so much technology available in the Falk Library Computer and Media Center (CMC), how can you identify what is best for your specific need? The CMC consulting service is the answer. After discussing your requirements, CMC staff generate a report highlighting the resources best suited for your needs. For example, if you are interested in medical terminology, a CMC staff member might suggest various media packages including: CD-ROMs (Med-terms Plus and Med-Words); videos (Dean Vaughn Learning System 12 part video series); and audiotape/book combinations (Medical Terminology Simplified). Once the material is identified, you may either borrow non-reserve items from the library, place the items on reserve, or use the resource in the CMC.

The newest equipment available for using multimedia in the CMC is located in the recently upgraded video viewing room. Features of the room include: a video viewing area to accommodate multiple patrons, a DVD player, an U-matic video player, and single viewer VCRs.

In addition, the video editing VCR, located in the media room, has been upgraded to a S-VHS format. This format is useful with medical imaging systems that allow data to be saved and viewed on S-VHS videotape, including echocardiograms, ultrasound, and older fluoroscopy machines. Combining the video editing software and the CD-ROM burner provides a powerful workstation where multimedia educational materials can be viewed, created, duplicated, and distributed.

To access these CMC services, please contact Fran Yarger, head of Computing Services, at 648-8955 or via email at yarger@pitt.edu.

-Fran Yarger
# HSLS Contacts

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Health Sciences Library System  
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Pittsburgh, PA  15261