What are Journal Impact Factors?

At various times each year, university faculty search for information about journal impact factors. HSLS subscribes to Journal Citation Reports (JCR), a resource developed by the Institute for Scientific Information. JCR provides impact factors that can help faculty identify journals in which to publish, confirm the status of journals in which they have already published, and identify journals relevant to their research.

The impact factor is a measure of the frequency with which the “average article” in a journal has been cited in a particular year or period. The impact factor of a journal is a calculation of the number of current year citations divided by the number of source items published in that journal during the previous two years. This may sound simple but there are many things that can influence a journal’s impact and its ranking in journal lists.

Generally, review articles are cited more frequently than typical research articles because they often serve as substitutes for earlier literature. JCR considers any article containing more than 100 references as a review. Articles in “review” sections of research or clinical journals are also considered review articles. Often, the journal with the highest impact factor in subject category listings will be a review journal. For example, under the subject Immunology, the journal at the top of the list is the Annual Review of Immunology with an impact factor of 50.3 in 2000.

Another important item to be considered is the case of articles that are not counted as ‘source’ items (the denominator) in the calculation of impact factor. These include editorials, book reviews, letters to the editor, and obituaries. However, citations to such ‘non-source’ articles are counted in the numerator of the impact factor calculation. If a journal publishes a large number of letters one year, there may be a temporary increase in the number of citations received for that year. An example of a highly cited letter is a 1993 letter in Lancet titled, “Large outbreak of clinical cholera due to vibrio-cholerae non-01 in Bangladesh,” which has been cited 190 times.

Multiple factors can influence a journal’s impact factor from year to year. These graphs demonstrate changes in impact factors for two journals over a 5-year period.
PDA Corner - Drug Resources

There are many drug resources available for handheld computers, commonly known as PDAs (personal digital assistants). HSLS currently offers one of its electronic resources, MICROMEDEX, in a PDA format called mobileMICROMEDEX. It is available for download to eligible Pitt and UPMC users.

To access this resource, go to <http://www.hsls.pitt.edu/hslonline> and select the MICROMEDEX resource. Once opened, click on the link labeled mobileMICROMEDEX on the right side of the screen. This opens the mobileMICROMEDEX page; then click on the link <http://mobile.micromedex.com>. (This application must be downloaded from a Pitt/UPMC computer).

mobileMICROMEDEX contains highlights of the quality peer reviewed drug, acute care, toxicology and alternative medicine information from the MICROMEDEX resource. The drug information section contains dosing information, drug interactions, adverse effects, pregnancy warnings, indications, contraindications, therapeutic class and brand information. Acute care information is stored in the Clinical Points section of mobileMICROMEDEX. It includes treatment, diagnostic and key point information on specific diseases, accidents and health related topics. The toxicology section includes clinical effect, treatment and range of toxicology information. The Alternative Medicine portion includes dosing, indications, contraindications, adverse effects, drug interactions, therapeutic class, pregnancy, and lactation information for herbs, vitamins, minerals and other dietary supplements. The information is updated quarterly.

The current volume of mobileMICROMEDEX (volume 110) contains a shutdown feature that disables the databases after the current expiration date of 2/05/2002. This is to prevent outdated information from being stored on PDAs.

Other PDA drug resources are available for download from the Internet. One of the best-known free drug resources is ePocrates Rx™ Clinical Drug Database. The content is reviewed by at least two practicing clinicians and overseen by a physician board of editors. To download this application, go to <http://www.epocrates.com>. Unlike mobileMICROMEDEX, which is only available to eligible users for download from Pitt and UPMC computers, ePocrates Rx™ can be accessed from any computer with an Internet connection.

ePocrates Rx™ offers a wealth of drug information, including adult and pediatric dosing, contraindications, cautions, drug interactions, adverse reactions and cost information. The resource also contains information on metabolism/excretion, safety in pregnancy and the drug’s mechanism of action. The information is updated weekly.

ePocrates Rx™ offers an AutoUpdate feature. Once the feature is set up, each time the HotSync® operation is completed, in addition to personal information being backed up, any updated ePocrates information will be downloaded. If the application is not updated regularly, the application will expire and be disabled on your PDA.

Both mobileMICROMEDEX and ePocrates Rx™ are for use on PDAs running the Palm Operating System.

Jody Wozar

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Contact HSLS with questions, comments or ideas at 412-648-8796, or send email to medlibq@pitt.edu.
Even as HSLS expands its collection of electronic resources, approximately 60% of its total acquisitions budget is still spent to purchase print journals and monographs. Given recent discussion about the high cost of maintaining library collections and the changing landscape of scholarly publishing, it may be helpful to examine cost trends for print materials.

The libraries subscribe to about 2600 journals for an average annual cost of $570 per title*. The most expensive single title in the collection is the *Journal of Comparative Neurology* (JCN) at $15,995/year; the least expensive is the *Journal of Practical Nursing*, a bargain at $15/year. Of the 2600 journals, 500 cost less than $150 a year. The combined cost of those 500 titles, however, is just slightly over the combined cost of the three most expensive subscriptions, *Brain Research* (all parts), *JCN*, and *Biochimica et Biophysica Acta* (all parts).

At a time when the general inflation rate (based on the Consumer Price Index) has been between 2% and 3% per year, annual increases in journal prices have averaged between 7% and 11% for the past five years. The price of an individual title may rise by 25% or more, while another may remain at the same price for years at a stretch. Publishers sometimes claim that most of the added costs have gone toward the development of electronic access to the journal literature, yet print costs rarely include electronic access without an added fee. Even then, electronic access often comes with restrictions on print cancellations, as publishers attempt to protect their revenue streams.

Increasingly, publishers divide a successful journal title into parts, rather than initiating independent spin-off titles. Often, those multi-part titles, like *Brain Research*, are sold as a single subscription. While the cost per issue of such titles may be reasonable, purchasing decisions must be based on the combined “all or nothing” price, further limiting libraries’ ability to adjust to price increases.

The monograph collection presents a much rosier picture. Inflation in book publishing has mirrored general inflation for some time, and, in 2000, book prices even fell slightly. The average book in HSLS, excluding consumer health materials, costs about $100. The most expensive book purchased last year was the *Encyclopedia of Molecular Biology* for $1350, and the least expensive was *French Pox: Concepts and Cures for Syphilis and Gonorea [sic] in the 16th and 17th Century* for $3.70. Unlike journals, where a library subscription can run as much as ten times the cost of a personal subscription, books are discounted for libraries. These discounts can be as much as 20% when a library purchases in high volume as HSLS does.

HSLS adds new journal titles as the needs of our user community change. Titles that are used infrequently are cancelled. HSLS has been fortunate to have solid support from the University of Pittsburgh and UPMC Health System in building and maintaining a strong print and electronic collection.

* Journal figures are based on calendar year 2001 institutional subscription prices. Monograph prices are actual price paid, including discounts and service charges where they apply.

Nancy Tannery
A pilot project in patient education information retrieval was recently initiated at UPMC Shadyside in response to discussions held during Patient Education Clinical Design Day in March 2001. Noting that educational material is sometimes difficult and time-consuming for nurses to locate, the Hopwood Library recently began working with nurses in two patient care units selected for the project. Library staff instructed the nurses on how to locate materials on the HSLS Consumer Health Information Web page <http://www.hsls.pitt.edu/chi>, and the online UPMC Patient Education brochures <http://www.upmc.edu/patiented>. Nurses may also choose to send complex questions directly to Hopwood librarians using special fax forms to speed transmission of the requests. Library replies are sent in color-coded envelopes through the pneumatic tube and courier systems. As a result of this new initiative, the goal of providing educational information for patients quickly and efficiently is being met. Following a project evaluation and any needed process changes, Patient Education Information for Hospital Inpatients will be implemented in additional patient units.

Michele Klein Fedyshin
Identifying reliable information about complementary and alternative medicine (CAM) is a challenge for many reasons, including:

- Limited high-quality research has been done to evaluate CAM systems, therapies and modalities.

- Herbal monographs have been developed by a variety of organizations for many purposes: some are intended to define standards, while others explain therapeutic mechanisms.

- There are no manufacturing standards for dietary supplements or herbas. The product label is regulated, but information pertaining to these products can be misleading and inaccurate.

- Information may come from organizations, associations, agencies or individual health practitioners promoting their own programs and political agendas.

HSL Online can assist in discerning fact from fiction by providing access to CAM information based on scientific evidence.

MEDLINE is the database of choice to locate quality CAM studies on herbas or vitamins, as well as specific systems and modalities such as oriental medicine or massage therapy. The National Library of Medicine, producer of MEDLINE, collaborated with the National Institutes of Health, National Center for Complementary and Alternative Medicine (NCCAM) to create a CAM database subset for MEDLINE via the PubMed interface. This subset is a database filter of Medical Subject Headings (MeSH), text words, and journals that deal specifically with CAM. Follow these steps to use this subset:

- Enter your disease term, modality term or specific botanical
- Click on the word limit
- Select ‘complementary medicine’ from the subset pull down menu
- Click on the ‘go’ button
- View your retrieval.


HSL Online’s OVID system has two new CAM databases. AMED (Allied and Complementary Medicine) is produced by the Health Care Information Service of the British Library. It covers journals in complementary medicine, palliative care, and allied health professions such as physiotherapy, occupational therapy, rehabilitation, and podiatry. MANTIS (Manual, Alternative, and Natural Therapy Index System) emphasizes health promotion, prevention, conservative care, and alternative therapies. It indexes over 1,000 journals, including journals from manual, chiropractic, and osteopathic medicine. Covered topics include acupuncture, allopathic medicine, alternative medicine, herbal medicine, homeopathy, naturopathy, physical therapy, and traditional Chinese medicine. Both of these databases are updated monthly.

Other OVID databases contain CAM citations as well. For instance PsycINFO covers mind/body modalities, relaxation, psychoneuroimmunology and stress. Use OVID’s EBM databases to locate systematic reviews or definitive controlled trials of CAM therapies and modalities. CINAHL indexes 60 CAM journals and has a journal subset feature that allows limiting to those specific titles.

HSL Online also provides access to MICROMEDEX and a new resource, the Natural Medicines Comprehensive Database. These two services direct you to peer reviewed information on biological-based therapies, including herbas, vitamins, minerals, dietary supplements, and ‘natural’ products.

MICROMEDEX’s AltMedDex offers evidence-based clinical information on these substances. AltMedDex contains monographs appearing in a standardized format with information on dosing, synonyms, pharmacokinetics, continued on page 6
Clinical Evidence Added to Evidence-based Resources

What are the effects of treatments for acute asthma? How do serotonin reuptake inhibitors compare with behavioral and cognitive therapies for the treatment of obsessive compulsive disorder? Based on evidence from systematic reviews and randomized controlled trials, answers to specific clinical questions are available through Clinical Evidence, a recent addition to HSL Online. Clinical Evidence, published by the BMJ Publishing Group, is an online compendium of evidence on the effects of clinical interventions. It summarizes the current state of knowledge, as well as uncertainty about the prevention and treatment of clinical conditions, based on searches and appraisal of the literature.

Clinical Evidence joins the growing list of evidence-based medicine resources available on your desktop through HSL Online. These include the Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews, ACP Journal Club, Database of Abstracts of Reviews of Effectiveness (DARE), Cochrane Controlled Trials Register (a new resource described on page 9), as well as MDConsult’s specialized evidence-oriented publications. However, Clinical Evidence is considered to be complementary but different from the other HSL Online evidence-based resources. It has been called the “friendly front end” of the Cochrane Library, because it presents high quality information in a concise format. Clinical Evidence also complements the evidence-based journals (such as ACP Journal Club), which select and abstract the best and most clinically relevant articles as they appear in the world’s medical literature. In contrast, Clinical Evidence starts with important clinical questions and summarizes the best available evidence to answer them, but also states when good evidence is not available.

Clinical Evidence includes:

- 20 medical specialties covering 134 conditions
- Content driven by specific questions
- A balance between the benefit and harm of interventions
- More frequent updates than the print version
- Guidance on applying evidence in practice
- Coverage of medical, surgical, nursing, and complementary interventions

Currently, Clinical Evidence does not provide access through an index, but this feature will be forthcoming in 2002. Clinical Evidence is available either through the Electronic Books or the OVID links on HSL Online <http://www.hsls.pitt.edu/hslonline>.

CAM Resources continued from page 5

contraindications, adverse reactions, drug interactions, mechanism of action, therapeutic uses, and comparative efficacy. Search the AltMedDex® System by using the Integrated Index® search feature on the initial MICROMEDEX search screen.

The Natural Medicines Comprehensive Database contains up-to-date clinical data on biological-based therapies, and is compiled by pharmacists and physicians of the Pharmacist’s Letter and Prescriber’s Letter research and editorial staffs. These referenced monographs are arranged into 15 categories based on questions raised by clinicians and consumers. Some of these categories include safety, effectiveness ratings, possible mechanism of action and active ingredients, adverse reactions including known allergies, possible interactions, drug influences on nutrient levels, typical dosages and routes of administration. This database is searchable by scientific, brand, product, common, herb, or supplement name, in any or all of the 15 categories, or by an alphabetical listing.

This article highlights HSL Online CAM resources. The HSLS print collection contains books on fraud and quackery, herbs and specific CAM systems and modalities. For additional information on HSLS CAM resources contact the reference desk at 412-648-8796 or send an inquiry to medlibq@pitt.edu.

Charles Wessel
Harrison’s Online Adds New Features

**Harrison’s Online (HOL),** available through HSL Online, is the fully searchable electronic version of *Harrison’s Principles of Internal Medicine,* presently in its 15th edition. In addition to providing access to the complete text and illustrations from *Harrison’s,* HOL regularly presents new and revised content from the original editors and contributors of this widely used clinical medicine resource. The involvement of the *Harrison’s* author team in HOL ensures that the database meets the same rigorous standards as the *Harrison’s* textbook.

AccessMedicine News, *Harrison’s This Week,* and *Hot Topics* are some of the expanded features offering new material, added daily to augment the original text. All updates are referenced to the relevant HOL chapters and many link to MEDLINE abstracts, late-breaking clinical trial data, updated therapies, medical news, concise reviews, editorials and other relevant current information.

Some additional expanded HOL features include:

- Electronic access to *Color Atlases, Acronyms, Laboratory Values of Clinical Importance and Instructions for Collection and Transport of Specimens for Culture.*
- *Biographies* of winners of the Nobel Prize in physiology or medicine.
- Immediate access to chapters written by *Contributors* and links to MEDLINE abstracts of publications by these individuals.
- *Pre Tests,* 823 multiple-choice self-assessment questions accompanied by answers, detailed explanations, and chapter references to *Harrison’s.*
- *Forum,* an online medium for members to post and read messages, or join in any of the discussions on selected topics in *Harrison’s.*
- *Patient Notes,* information for patients on selected topics related to chapters in *Harrison’s.*

Several search options are available to HOL users. One convenient method is to click on the *Site Map* button at the top of any HOL screen. This opens a new window that lists tables of content, links to all the added enhanced features, as well as a search window where *Harrison’s* text or the entire database may be searched in either basic or advanced mode. 

_Ester Saghafi_

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**Harcourt Health Sciences Now Available to Oakland Users via HSL Online**

HLS Online users on the Oakland campus now have access to the *Harcourt Health Sciences Collection,* a collection of 143 journals published by Mosby, Saunders, Churchill-Livingstone and Bailliere Tindall.

The Harcourt Health Sciences collection is a significant addition to HLS Online clinical full text journals, offering practical knowledge in medicine, nursing, dentistry, veterinary medicine, and allied health. Access is through the IDEAL Library, also the host of Academic Press online titles. All titles are accessible through the HSLS Electronic Journals page at [http://www.hsls.pitt.edu/php/ejournals.php3](http://www.hsls.pitt.edu/php/ejournals.php3). A full list of the titles available through IDEAL is at [http://www.idealibrary.com/servlet/useragent?func=showContractJournalsFT&id=21238](http://www.idealibrary.com/servlet/useragent?func=showContractJournalsFT&id=21238).

The Harcourt Health Sciences Collection is available to the Pittsburgh campus of the University, and the Oakland area hospitals: UPMC Presbyterian, UPMC Shadyside, Eye & Ear, Magee-Women’s Hospital of the UPMC, and WPIC.

_Deb Silverman_
**Schedule of Classes January - February**

**Introduction and Tour of Falk Library**  
*Falk Library, meet inside entrance to Library*  
Thursday, January 10  11:00am-12:00pm  
Wednesday, February 13  11:00am-12:00pm

**Searching the PITTcat Online Library Catalog**  
*Location: Falk Library, CMC Classroom #2*  
Tuesday, January 8  1:00pm-2:00pm  
Wednesday, February 20  11:00am-12:00pm

**Searching MEDLINE on OVID**  
*Location: Falk Library, CMC Classroom #2*  
Monday, January 7  1:00pm-2:30pm  
Friday, February 8  10:00am-11:30am

**Advanced MEDLINE Searching on OVID**  
*Location: Falk Library, CMC Classroom #2*  
Tuesday, February 12  1:00pm-2:30pm

**Searching PubMed**  
*Location: Falk Library, CMC Classroom #2*  
Tuesday, January 15  10:00am-11:30am  
Wednesday, February 6  1:00pm-2:30pm

**Introduction to MICROMEDEX and TOMES Plus**  
*Location: Falk Library, CMC Classroom #2*  
Wednesday, January 23  2:00pm-3:30pm

**Searching PsycINFO**  
*Location: Falk Library, CMC Classroom #2*  
Monday, February 25  10:00am-11:30am

**EndNote Basics**  
*Location: Falk Library, CMC Classroom #2*  
Wednesday, January 9  10:00am-12:00pm  
Tuesday, February 19  1:30pm-3:30pm

**Introduction to ProCite Version 5**  
*Location: Falk Library, CMC Classroom #2*  
Monday, January 14  10:00am-12:00pm

**Health Resources on the WWW**  
*Location: Falk Library, CMC Classroom #2*  
Tuesday, February 19  9:30am-11:00am

**Medical Humanities and the WWW**  
*Location: Falk Library, CMC Classroom #1*  
Thursday, February 14  10:00am-11:30am

**Adobe Photoshop for Beginners**  
*Location: Falk Library, CMC Classroom #1*  
Tuesday, January 15  9:00am-11:00am  
Wednesday, February 20  10:00am-12:00pm

**PowerPoint for Presentations**  
*Location: Falk Library, CMC Classroom #1*  
Tuesday, January 8  9:00am-11:00am  
Wednesday, February 13  10:00am-12:00pm

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](http://www.hsls.pitt.edu/classes).

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**HSLS Staff News**


*Amber Knopic* is the newly appointed temporary reference librarian. Amber has a BA in English from Indiana University of Pennsylvania and recently completed her MLIS from the University of Pittsburgh. She previously worked as a library specialist in the Falk Reference Department, and WPIC document delivery.

Congratulations to *Mary Gail Merlina*, and husband Scott on the birth of their daughter, Sarah on October 30. Mary Gail is the circulation supervisor at Falk Library.
The **Cochrane Controlled Trials Register (CCTR)** is the newest addition to Ovid’s Evidence Based Medicine Reviews collection available through HSL Online <http://www.hsls.pitt.edu/hsonline>. The CCTR database contains over 300,000 bibliographic references to controlled trials in health care, which have been identified by the contributors to the Cochrane Collaboration. They and others, as part of an international effort to systematically search the world’s health care journals and other sources of information, have combined results to create an unbiased source of data for systematic reviews. Contributors to the Cochrane Collaboration follow quality control standards to ensure that only reports of qualified randomized controlled trials or controlled clinical trials are included. Additional evidence based medicine databases available through HSL Online include ACP Journal Club, Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews, DARE: Database of Abstracts of Reviews of Effectiveness, and Clinical Evidence (a new resource described on page 6).

### Diversity Bibliographies Available

Ester Saghafi, WPIC reference librarian, recently compiled two bibliographies at the request of the WPIC Diversity Champions Committee. Each list, to be used in conjunction with both cultural diversity and sensitivity education, and cultural competency training programs for UPMC faculty and staff, includes selected print, electronic, and audiovisual resources available in the Falk and WPIC Libraries. *Diversity in Health Care 1995-2001*, (call number q Z6675.S53 S3 2001 [Falk]; q ZWA 30 S129 2001 [WPIC]) and *Diversity in Mental Health 1995-2001*, (q Z6675.M68 S3 2001 [Falk]; q ZWM 31 S129 2001 [WPIC]) are available at the reference desks. In the very near future, these resources also will be accessible via the UPMC Health System Diversity Web Page.

### Medical Responses to Terrorism

*Medical Responses to Terrorism* was recently added to the HSLS Internet Resources page. It can be accessed through the Health Resources link at <http://www.hsls.pitt.edu/intres>. The new page includes links to full text journal articles and electronic books in the HSL Online collection; pertinent Internet sites; organizations, associations and agencies; and consumer health information.

### Welcome UPMC Lee Regional

Full access to HSL Online is now available to physicians, residents and clinical staff at UPMC Lee Regional. Training and orientation sessions for HSL Online can be scheduled at your hospital. For more information about library services to UPMC Health System hospitals, visit the UPMC Library Services Web page at <http://www.hsls.pitt.edu/upmc>, or contact Charles Wessel, HSLS coordinator for Affiliated Hospital Services, at 412-648-8730 or cbw@pitt.edu.
**HSLS Holiday Hours**

HSLS libraries will maintain regular hours* during the holiday season, **with the following exceptions:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Falk Library</th>
<th>WPIC Library</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>December 24 8:30 am-2:00 pm</td>
<td>December 15-16 CLOSED</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 25 CLOSED</td>
<td>December 17-21 8:00 am-5:00 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 26-28 8:30 am-5:00 pm</td>
<td>December 22-25 CLOSED</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 29-30 9:30 am-5:00 pm</td>
<td>December 26-28 8:00 am-5:00 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 31 8:30 am-2:00 pm</td>
<td>December 29-30 CLOSED</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 1 CLOSED</td>
<td>December 31 8:00 am-noon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>January 1 CLOSED</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>UPMC Shadyside Hillman/Hopwood Library</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 24 8:00 am-2:00 pm.</td>
<td>January 2-4 8:00 am-5:00 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 25 CLOSED</td>
<td>January 5-6 CLOSED</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 31 8:00 am-2:00 pm.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>January 1 CLOSED</td>
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