**PITTCat for the Health Sciences** – a new version of PITTCat designed for you

The PITTCat online library catalog includes information about the nearly five million books, journals and other items owned by all University of Pittsburgh libraries, whether part of the Health Sciences Library System (HSLS), the University Library System (ULS), or the Law Library. The catalog also includes important links to related library services and resources.

HSLS librarians have designed a customized search interface to PITTCat called **PITTCat for the Health Sciences** to improve the searching experience for health sciences faculty, staff, and students. PITTCat for the Health Sciences still includes materials in all University of Pittsburgh libraries - only the design and the links to services and resources have changed.

**Information Resources for Nurses Web Portal**

With such a broad array of information resources and services available through the Internet, Web searchers can become lost in an information jungle. Web portals — Web sites that serve as a gateway to information resources in a specialized area — can help searchers negotiate this maze.

With this in mind, HSLS librarians have created **Information Resources for Nurses** <www.hsls.pitt.edu/guides/students/nursing>, a Web portal to help nurses locate relevant, authoritative health information. The portal serves as a good starting point for University of Pittsburgh nursing students, UPMC professional nurses, and anyone interested in locating research information in the field of nursing.
PITTCat for the Health Sciences
continued from page 1

How is HSLS different from other campus libraries? At the University of Pittsburgh, as at many research universities, the health sciences and law libraries are administratively separate from the main library system because of the specialized nature of these fields. While the ULS is designed to support the library needs of the general University of Pittsburgh community, HSLS is the primary service provider within the six schools of the health sciences (Dental Medicine, Health and Rehabilitation Sciences, Medicine, Nursing, Pharmacy, and Public Health), and the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center (UPMC).

Why a separate version of PITTCat for HSLS users? To more efficiently link HSLS users to library services available specifically for them, and also offer improved search functionality for HSLS collections. While the general version of PITTCat includes links to ULS services and resources, many are not available to those affiliated with UPMC or schools of the health sciences. PITTCat for the Health Sciences, however, includes links to the appropriate HSLS services designed for these users. For example, if you want to request document delivery services, PITTCat for the Health Sciences will direct you to the request form on the HSLS Web site and the request will be processed by HSLS staff.

In addition, the new interface improves search functionality for HSLS users in several ways:

- Search limits are customized for HSLS collections.
- Many HSLS book records include tables of contents. These now display by default, rather than requiring the user to go to the “Long Record.”
- Links to e-journals are more prominent.
- Online help text and search examples are written for a health sciences audience.

You can log on to PITTCat for the Health Sciences at <http://pittcat.hsls.pitt.edu> or connect from the HSLS home page <www.hsls.pitt.edu>. Please use the form available on the search page to give us your feedback on this new version of PITTCat.

-- Ammon Ripple, Phil Bergen, Gosia Fort, Jill Foust, and Deb Silverman

Information Resources for Nurses Web Portal
continued from page 1

Key portal topics include:

- Descriptive information about online databases of particular interest to nurses, including CINAHL, MEDLINE, and PsycINFO
- How to access databases from a computer on the University of Pittsburgh campus or at a UPMC facility, as well as remotely from a personal computer
- A help guide for searching the CINAHL and MEDLINE databases
- How to access HSLS full-text electronic journals and reference books
- Evaluating Internet Web sites for valid and authoritative health information
- Links to recommended health information Web sites
- A link to the APA Style Manual for Electronic Media and URLs

Turn to the HSLS Information Resources for Nurses Web portal for quick and efficient access to nursing research information.

--Jill E. Foust
Your Input, Please....

HSLS Experiments with Electronic Instruction

Have you wanted to take an HSLS library class, but time constraints or distance prevented you from physically coming to the library? Have you taken a library class and wished you could review the lesson at a later date? If so, then electronic instruction may offer a solution.

HSLS is experimenting with online instructional modules to supplement traditional face-to-face instruction, and we are asking for your input. To participate, go to News and Announcements on the HSLS homepage <www.hsls.pitt.edu>, and click on the “Electronic Instruction Project” link. Here you will find two sample modules highlighting HSLS resources UpToDate and MD Consult, and a link to a short survey that will help us evaluate user satisfaction with this type of instruction. Please take 15 minutes to watch a module and complete the brief survey. In addition to learning how to use these resources, your input will provide insight for development of future instructional modules.

-- Renae Barger

Hepatitis A: New Rapid Deployment Continuing Education® Module

A new education module, Hepatitis A, is available from Rapid Deployment Continuing Education® <http://cme.health.pitt.edu/index.asp?MI=000016> The module consists of a mix of CDC guidelines, recent journal articles and a statement from the Pennsylvania Department of Health. Users who complete the module receive up to one hour of continuing education credit.

RDCE®, a project of the Pittsburgh IAIMS Program, was developed by the Center for Continuing Education in the Health Sciences, in conjunction with the Center for Biomedical Informatics and the Health Sciences Library System.

--Nancy Tannery

Helpful Library Web Forms

Two new helpful library Web forms are available for your convenience. Use the Missing Item Retrieval/Report form <www.hsls.pitt.edu/services/collection/missing> to request a search for an item missing from the library shelves or to report a missing item. The Course Reserve Request <www.hsls.pitt.edu/services/collection/reserves/requests> is for use by faculty to request that material is placed on reserve at the Falk or WPIC Library circulation desks.
HSLS Participates in New Public Health Informatics Course

HSLS librarians and Graduate School of Public Health (GSPH) professors have collaborated to design a 3-credit course titled PUBHLT 2010: Online Public Health – Informatics and Intervention. Offered for the first time this fall term, the course is team taught by HSLS librarians Ammon Ripple, Patricia Friedman and Fran Yarger, as well as Dr. Anthony Silvestre and Michael Shankle from the department of Infectious Diseases and Microbiology at GSPH.

The course offers intensive training in information retrieval, an introduction to Web development, and graphics management skills designed to help students create online public health interventions. Students learn:

- Advanced information retrieval skills, focusing on Ovid MEDLINE and PubMed
- Which databases contain public health-related literature in other disciplines
- Best practices for information retrieval on the World Wide Web
- Management of bibliographic information using EndNote Software
- Basic HTML and Web design skills
- Graphics management with Adobe Photoshop
- Presentation management with Microsoft PowerPoint (and how to publish presentations online)
- Basics of health communication theory
- Usefulness of the Internet as a medium for interventions with marginalized and/or stigmatized populations, with case studies
- How to collect public health research data using the Internet

The combined expertise of faculty librarians and public health teaching faculty provides students with a more robust learning experience. Students gain a better understanding of information behaviors and health behaviors, both of which are essential to the successful development of online health interventions. The final project requires students to research a health topic that affects a specific population, and to design an online intervention using the skills acquired in the course.

Among other positive feedback, students report that they feel more confident and efficient when searching the literature, that their newly acquired skills have been appreciated in their workplace, and that they feel like they could carry on a more “educated conversation” with Web designers and information technology professionals.

A paper on this collaborative effort was presented at the annual meeting of the American Public Health Association in November by the course faculty. The course will be offered again in fall 2004.

-Ammon Ripple
Rare Books Project Update

A multi-year project to appraise and inventory the HSLS rare book collections is nearly complete. There are approximately 7,000 rare books in these collections housed in Falk Library. Highlights include the Rodnan Collection on the history of rheumatology, historical books on permanent loan from the Western Psychiatric Institute and Clinic, and the Ravitch Collection on the history of surgery, with special focus on hernia repair.

On the advice of University auditors, HSLS contracted with Mr. Jeffrey Weber of Los Angeles, Calif., to appraise all books in the collections over a two-year period. To expedite Weber’s work, HSLS Resource Management completed an inventory and cataloging review of the collections to ensure that records in PITT Cat accurately represented those books actually on the shelves.

The rare books were physically reorganized for better access and space utilization. Materials of high value were removed to a more secure internal area. Some books in the Falk Library circulating collection were reassigned to the non-circulating rare book collection. A gated area in the open stacks was constructed in June 2003 to house materials that are either too fragile or too valuable to be housed in public stacks.

In coming months, materials of high value in need of specialized preservation will be identified. In addition, housing, access, and security procedures for the collection as a whole will be reviewed. Future issues of the HSLS Update will highlight some of the more interesting and valuable books in these collections.

- Barbara Epstein

Plaque Dedicated in Memory of Dr. Carroll F. Reynolds

On September 25, 2003, Falk Library hosted a reception to dedicate a plaque in memory of former Library Director, Dr. Carroll F. Reynolds. The plaque, donated by Dr. Reynolds’ family, is displayed in the Ravitch Rare Book Room. Reynolds’ three daughters and other family members attended the reception and following lecture of the C.F. Reynolds Medical History Society, and shared memories of their father’s contributions to the field of librarianship and history of medicine.

Wording on the plaque notes “Dr. Reynolds was instrumental in the creation of the History of Medicine Program at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine. As Director of the Falk Library of the Health Professions from 1957-1975, he oversaw the initial organization of the rare book collection. Dr. Reynolds also taught history courses in the Schools of Medicine and Dental Medicine.”

Carroll F. Reynolds, PhD, 1910-1975

continued on page 6
Tools for History of Medicine Research

Searching for history of medicine information? The PubMed database <www.pubmed.gov> allows you to easily access journal citations, while online catalogs, including PITT Cat for the Health Sciences <pittcat.hsls.pitt.edu> and LOCATORplus <locatorplus.gov> provide citations for books, selected book chapters, conference transactions, and similar items.

A useful subset of PubMed includes more than 30,000 journal citations on the history of medicine and related fields published since 1964. This History of Medicine subset provides access to journal literature about the history of health-related professions, life sciences, specialties, individuals, institutions, drugs, and diseases in all parts of the world and all historic periods. To retrieve citations, choose the History of Medicine subset from the pull-down menu on the PubMed limits screen.

HSLs history of medicine book resources are readily accessible through PITT Cat for the Health Sciences. Simply select the History of Medicine search limit. For history of medicine resources outside the Health Sciences Library System, try searching the National Library of Medicine’s online catalog, LOCATORplus, to find manuscripts, oral histories, books, and audiovisuals. Use the HMD Collection (History of Medicine Division) limit to narrow your search results.

Several print catalogs, available at the Falk and WPIC Libraries, can be used to locate historical primary source materials that are not yet searchable online. The Index-Catalogue of the Library of the Surgeon-General’s Office, U.S. Army (61 volumes in 5 series, 1880-1961) provides access to pamphlets, dissertations, and journal articles from the 19th and early 20th centuries. Index Medicus, the print version of MEDLINE, provides subject and author access to articles in the medical journal literature back to 1879.

Contact Dr. John Erlen (412-648-8927; erlen@pitt.edu) for history of medicine reference and database searching assistance.

--Rebecca Abromitis

HSLS Joins

The Health Sciences Library System is now participating in CONSER, the Cooperative Online Serials program administered by the Library of Congress Program for Cooperative Cataloging. CONSER membership is highly selective, with only 41 member libraries. HSLS is one of only four participating health sciences libraries.

The purpose of CONSER is to create a database of reliable, high quality bibliographic information for serial publications (e.g. journals) that libraries worldwide may use to manage their own journals, databases, and other continuing publications. Once a serials record is “authenticated” by a CONSER participant, it is considered to be authoritative. When you view journal information in PITT Cat, or any other library catalog on the Web, you are most likely viewing information that has been contributed, verified, and distributed through CONSER.

CONSER began in the early 1970s, as a consolidated effort to create uniform electronic records to describe libraries’ serial holdings. This effort led to the rapid growth of online library catalogs and the broad availability of serials holdings. It has since evolved into the primary policy and standards agency for worldwide serials control and management. Libraries have benefited from the cooperative effort in several ways. By sharing centrally created records, libraries save in the local administrative costs for journal collection management. Using uniform data across libraries also supports resource sharing and exchange, as library users and staff can easily determine availability of needed materials in any library, and accurately articulate document delivery requests to other institutions.

—Deb Silverman and Gosia Fort
What’s Under Your Kitchen Sink?

New Household Products Database Provides Answers

The Household Products Database <householdproducts.nlm.nih.gov>, a new resource available free of charge from the National Library of Medicine, enables users to find out what’s in the products under the kitchen sink, in the garage and bathroom, etc., as well as the potential health effects of these items.

The database links over 4,000 consumer brands to health effects from Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS), which are designed to provide workers and emergency personnel with the proper procedures for handling a particular substance. The Household Products Database allows scientists and consumers to research products based on chemical ingredients, and to answer questions like these:

• What chemicals are contained in specific brands and in what percentage?

• Which products contain specified chemicals?

• Who manufactures a specific brand and how can the manufacturer be contacted?

• What are the potential health effects (acute and chronic) of the chemical ingredients in a specific brand?

• What other information is available about such chemicals in the toxicology-related databases of the National Library of Medicine?

Users can browse a product category, such as Pesticides or Personal Care, by alphabetical listing or by brand name. Products can also be searched by type or by manufacturer. Information on chemicals can be obtained by browsing an alphabetical listing of product ingredients, chemical names, or by searching a chemical’s unique identifier (Chemical Abstracts Registry Number). The Material Safety Data Sheet for a product can be searched for health effects via text words. For more information, users can launch a TOXNET <toxnet.nlm.nih.gov> search for a product or ingredient directly from the product’s page. TOXNET is a cluster of additional NLM databases covering toxicology, environmental health, and hazardous chemicals topics.

For example, a homeowner interested in learning about what algaecide she might use in the swimming pool could select the “Landscape/Yard/Swimming Pool” category in Household Products and “algaecide” as the type. She could then choose several brands to explore. The record for each product lists ingredients from the MSDS/label, as well as health effects and toxicity information.

NLM plans to expand the products covered in the Household Products Database and to routinely update product information, including the MSDS, for the product brands currently in the database.

--Colette Hochstein, DMD, MLS,
Division of Specialized Information Services
National Library of Medicine
HSLS ORIENTATION

Introduction to HSLS Resources and Services
(Falk Library, meet inside entrance to Library)
Tuesday, January 6           10 a.m.-11:15 a.m.
Thursday, January 15           2 p.m.-3:15 p.m.
Tuesday, January 20           10 a.m.-11:15 a.m.
Wednesday, January 28          2 p.m.-3:15 p.m.
Wednesday, February 4           10 a.m.-11:15 a.m.
Monday, February 23           2 p.m.-3:15 p.m.

SEARCHING MEDLINE

Searching MEDLINE on Ovid*
(Falk Library, CMC Classroom #2)
Monday, January 12           10 a.m.-11:30 a.m.
Friday, January 23           1 p.m.-2:30 p.m.
Friday, January 30           2 p.m.-3:30 p.m.
Friday, February 20           10 a.m.-11:30 a.m.
Wednesday, February 18      9 a.m.-10:30 a.m.

Searching MEDLINE on PubMed*
(Falk Library, CMC Classroom #2)
Wednesday, January 28        9:30 a.m.-11a.m.
Tuesday, February 24       10 a.m.-11:30 a.m.

Searching MEDLINE and EMBASE on EMBASE.com*
(Falk Library, CMC Classroom #2)
Wednesday, January 7       noon-1:30 p.m.
Tuesday, February 24      1:30 p.m.-3 p.m.

Advanced MEDLINE Searching on Ovid*
(Falk Library, CMC Classroom #2)
Wednesday, February 4      9:30 a.m.-11 a.m.

SPECIAL TOPICS

Clinical Information Resources*
(Falk Library, CMC Classroom #2)
Thursday, January 22        2:30 p.m.-4 p.m.

Basic Science Information Resources*
(Falk Library, CMC Classroom #1)
Monday, February 2       2 p.m.-3:30 p.m.

Mental Health Information Resources*
(Falk Library, CMC Classroom #1)
Monday, January 26       10:30 a.m.-noon

Finding Information on Psychiatric and Psychological Testing Instruments*
(Falk Library, CMC Classroom #2)
Thursday, February 5    2 p.m.-3:30 p.m.

Complementary and Alternative Medicine (CAM) Information Resources*
(Falk Library, CMC Classroom #1)
Wednesday, January 28    9 a.m.-11 a.m.

Searching for Evidence-Based Literature*
By appointment; contact Pat Friedman, 412-648-2040

MOLECULAR BIOLOGY AND GENETICS

Information Hubs for Molecular Biology and Genetics (Part I)*
(Falk Library, CMC Classroom #2)
Thursday, January 8           1:30 p.m.-3 p.m.

Information Hubs for Molecular Biology and Genetics (Part II)* (Falk Library, CMC Classroom #2)
Thursday, February 12          1:30 p.m.-3 p.m.

CellSpace Knowledge Miner*
(Falk Library, CMC Classroom #2)
Wednesday, January 21           1:30 p.m.-3 p.m.
Wednesday, February 18          1:30 p.m.-3 p.m.

SOFTWARE TRAINING

EndNote Basics
(Falk Library, CMC Classroom #2)
Tuesday, January 13           11 a.m.-1 p.m.
Thursday, February 19          12:30 p.m.-2:30 p.m.

Adobe Photoshop for Beginners
(Falk Library, CMC Classroom #1)
Wednesday, January 14         9 a.m.-11 a.m.
Tuesday, February 17           10 a.m.-noon

PowerPoint for Presentations
(Falk Library, CMC Classroom #1)
Wednesday, January 21        10 a.m.-noon
Friday, February 20            9 a.m.-11 a.m.

Introduction to Personal Digital Assistants (PDA’s)
(Falk Library, CMC Classroom #1)
Thursday, February 26           9 a.m.-11 a.m.

WORLD WIDE WEB RESOURCES

Health Resources on the World Wide Web*
By appointment; contact Linda Hartman, 412-648-1479

Public Health on the Web: Finding What You Need When You Need It*
By appointment; contact Ammon Ripple, 412-648-1251

*Classes marked with an asterisk qualify for AMA Category 2 CME credit.

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. Detailed course descriptions are available at <www.hsls.pitt.edu/classes>. 
HSLS Staff News

PUBLICATIONS


KUDOS

The Hopwood Library at UPMC Shadyside was one of 12 libraries selected from across the United States and Canada to be part of a chapter titled “Consumer Health Information in Action: Profiles of 12 innovative libraries” in the *Consumer Health Information Source Book*, edited by Alan M. Rees, Westport, Conn: Greenwood Press, 2003.

PRESENTATIONS

Michelle Burda, consumer health librarian for the Hopwood Library at UPMC Shadyside, coauthored “Can Patients Trust Arthritis Information on the Internet?” which was presented as a poster at the American College of Rheumatology’s Annual Scientific Meeting, October 16-21, 2003 in San Antonio, Texas. The study evaluated arthritis Web site disease information for content, navigability, literacy level, and currency.

Barbara A. Epstein, HSLS interim director, was an invited speaker at “The Library As Place: Symposium on Building and Revitalizing Health Sciences Libraries in the Digital Age.” This event, co-hosted by the National Library of Medicine and the Association of Academic Health Science Libraries, was held on November 5-6, 2003 at the National Institutes of Health Campus in Bethesda, Md. Her paper was titled “Hospital Libraries: From the Past Into the Future.” She also presented a poster titled “The Libraries at UPMC Shadyside: Health Professionals and Health Consumers Sharing Information Access.”

Jonathon Erlen, history of medicine librarian, presented a lecture on Oct. 20, 2003 to 1st and 2nd year School of Dentistry students titled “Human experimentation in 20th century America: Myths and realities.”

Ammon Ripple, document delivery librarian and reference services coordinator, presented “Partnering with librarians to teach information retrieval and Web development skills to MPH students” at the American Public Health Association meeting, held November 15-19, 2003 in San Francisco. Ripple and Barbara Folb, public health librarian, were awarded stipends from the Grace and Harold Sewell Memorial Fund to help fund their attendance at the meeting. This competitive award is presented annually to librarians who work in the field of public health.
HSLS Holiday and Winter Recess Hours
<www.hsls.pitt.edu/about/hours/holiday_hours>

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

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*The schedule of regular hours for Falk, WPIC, and the UPMC Shadyside Libraries is available at <www.hsls.pitt.edu/about/hours>. 

University of Pittsburgh
Health Sciences Library System
Falk Library of the Health Sciences
200 Scaife Hall
DeSoto & Terrace Streets
Pittsburgh, PA 15261