

Falk Library of the Health Sciences

Staff Newsletter

July/August 1990

ARCHIVAL PACS

You will begin to see a new type of item on our journal shelves. They are called "Archival Pacs" and we're having them made for some of our journals which are in need of repair, but are too brittle to bind. We've contracted to have about 300 made by the Conservation and Preservation Division of Information Conservation, Inc. Jon Erlen, assisted by Jeremy Shellhase and Sally Wilson, identified this first group of titles. Beth Dion measured all of the journals and prepared the binding slips. The exterior of the archival pacs is buckram, similar to our regular binding, the inside flaps are lined with acid-free paper, and they are secured with velcro. They will make this portion of our collection more useable and slow down further deterioration. We have received the first 20 pacs and they are presently on the shelves in the Serials Department until shelveers and others have seen them. Please stop by to look at them.

PUBLIC CARD CATALOGS

The public card catalog for the Graduate School of Public Health Collection is being removed from the Library. This catalog and the Falk Library public card catalog have not been updated or maintained for three years. Complete retrospective conversion records are loaded into NOTIS, which represents all of the Library's holdings, as well as items in process or on order. A few items: old government documents, old annual reports, some of the MMC's AV collection and the MMC software collection are not yet converted to PITTCAT, but there is no additional information available in the public card catalog. Please help inform our patrons that for a complete search of our Library's holdings, search PITTCAT.

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS SUBJECT AUTHORITY RECORDS

The complete Library of Congress Subject Authority file is scheduled to be loaded into the NOTIS system in mid-October. This file will be accessible in staff mode, using the Merged Headings Index (MHI), and will provide cross-references for all Library of Congress subject searches. The complete Subject Authority file is currently available in the NOTIS demonstration database.

MMC NEWS

NBME Software

Computer-Based Testing software from the National Board of Medical Examiners has been installed in the MMC. Although eventually intended for use in evaluating clinical competence, we currently have it as a test site. NBME is testing the operation of the software and its validity as an evaluation tool, and introducing the materials to medical faculty. The important part of this software is clinical cases in five medical specialties (Internal Medicine, Pediatrics, Surgery, Ob/Gyn, and Family Medicine). These cases offer students uncued opportunities to diagnose and treat hypothetical patients, having to take into account the time taken to perform physical examinations, get test results, and so on. Videodisc images are used to present the results of tests and physical symptoms that would be observed by the physician, such as bruising or inflammation. At the end of the case, the student is presented with an analysis of which actions were beneficial, which neutral, and which potentially harmful. Access to the software will be restricted to student assignments, at least for now.

New CIS Computing Procedures

Starting this fall, CIS is requiring that people who use their public microcomputers have an account. There will be no charges for reasonable usage, but the new system allows them to control abuse. All students can get accounts very easily, by taking a valid ID to a CIS lab. The nearest is 569/70 Benedum. The sign-up procedure is very quick, but they should expect to wait 24 hours before the account can be used. (Please note that this change does not affect the procedures of the MMC).

REFERENCE NEWS

User Education

Library orientations and educational programs are currently underway for many of the schools we serve. First year students from Medicine and Public Health are touring Falk Library, and Falk Reference Librarians are speaking at orientation sessions for Nursing and Public Health. Course-specific programs are just beginning for Second Year Clinical Skills students (Medicine), Fourth and Fifth Year Pharmacy students, and First Year Public Health students. Grateful Med instruction and assignments are part of these programs, which include other computer skills and information-seeking skills instruction as well.

Physician Investigator Program

On July 18th and 20th, Jill Foust taught DIALOG to four residents participating in the Physician Investigators Program. The sessions included instruction on the Medical Subject Headings and hands-on searching.

STAFF NEWS

Caroline Arms has had two articles published in the September 1990 issue of Online: "A New Information Infrastructure" on pages 15-22, and "Using the National Networks: BITNET and the INTERNET," on pages 24-29.

David Ginn has agreed to serve as Associate Editor of The Bulletin of the Medical Library Association for the term comprising 1992-4.

Pat Mickelson attended a Board Meeting of the Health Sciences Libraries Consortium in Philadelphia on July 18, 1990.

Katherine Schilling attended MEDLARS training at the National Library of Medicine in Bethesda, Md., July 9-13, 1990.