HSL Online expands with New Consumer Health Information Database

Finding good health information written in less technical language for patients and families is challenging. Pamphlets are difficult to stock, indexes rarely cover consumer health well, and few libraries hold these focused titles. One specialized database that answers these needs is the Health Reference Center. Health Reference Center (HRC) is a one-stop, often full text resource that combines eight reference books, over 700 pamphlets, 2,500 topical overviews, and the entire content for more than 200 journals. In addition, 1500 general interest magazines, newsletters, and newspapers are selectively indexed for health-related articles. The new five volume Gale Encyclopedia of Medicine for consumers is contained in HRC in its entirety.

This database is being added to HSL Online <http://online.hsls.pitt.edu> in July and will be available from computers in the University, and those UPMC Health System hospitals that contract for access to HSL Online. To further extend the usefulness of this database, the Health Reference Center-Academic version will be loaded. This broadened database also includes the full text of 40 nursing and allied health journals. Both text and images are captured in this resource. With content such as Psychology Today, Journal of Neuroscience Nursing, Internal Medicine Alert, and the PDR Family Guide to Nutrition and Health, this database is useful in many healthcare settings.

HRC presents its information in terms oriented to a general audience. The search interface offers intuitive features allowing easy access to the content. Individuals seeking full text answers to either academic or personal health research will find HRC current, comprehensive, and easy to use.

--Michele Klein Fedyshin
NCBI Adapts Textbooks to Link to PubMed

PubMed, the National Library of Medicine’s search service that provides free Web access to over ten million citations in MEDLINE and other related databases, continually provides new value-added features. Recently, in collaboration with book publishers, the National Center for Biotechnology Information (NCBI) began adapting textbooks for the Web and linking them to PubMed. The idea is to provide background information to PubMed, so users can explore unfamiliar concepts found in PubMed search results.

By clicking on the “Books” button, found on any PubMed abstract page, users are linked to a facsimile of the abstract in which some phrases are hypertext links. These phrases correspond to terms that are also found in the books available at NCBI. Clicking on a hypertext link takes the reader to a list of book pages in which the phrase is found. Rather than mirroring a print textbook, to be read sequentially from the first page to the last, books are divided into units of content that are based on the organization of chapters, sections, subsections, etc. The entry-point for a user is a page linked appropriately to a relevant PubMed abstract.

Molecular Biology of the Cell, one of the most widely used undergraduate textbooks in molecular and cell biology, was selected as the first book to be made available in this way. Linked to PubMed abstracts, the scope of Molecular Biology of the Cell is such that it provides further information on a broad range of topics central to molecular and cell biology. In the future, the selection of books available for consultation will grow to include new topics and different approaches to biology and medicine.

PubMed is available from the HSL Online Web page at [http://online.hsls.pitt.edu](http://online.hsls.pitt.edu) and is listed under “Other Resources.” Questions about using PubMed? Contact the Falk Library (648-8796, medlibq+@pitt.edu) or WPIC Reference Desk (648-1919, wpicref+@pitt.edu) for more information.

Editors Note: Much of the content for this article was excerpted from: [http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov:80/books/mboc/bookshelp/bookover .html](http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov:80/books/mboc/bookshelp/bookover .html). Visit this page for additional information about books linked to PubMed.

Introducing AltMedDex for Complementary & Alternative Therapies

Consumers, patients, and their healthcare providers are increasingly interested in complementary and alternative medicine (CAM) therapies. This growing interest means that clinicians are being asked more complementary and alternative medicine questions by patients and consumers. To support the clinician’s need for CAM information, HSL Online ([http://online.hsls.pitt.edu](http://online.hsls.pitt.edu)) has recently added the AltMedDex database to its MICROMEDEX System. AltMedDex contains clinically focused, scientifically sound data, including:

1) more than 65 evidence-based monographs covering herbal, vitamin, mineral and other dietary supplements;
2) referenced consults presenting critical areas of interest and general information pertaining to complementary and alternative medicines;
3) historical uses for CAM therapies and those most commonly used among CAM practitioners;
4) fully researched data on administration, safety, efficacy, uses, dosing, pharmacological actions, side effects, toxicity, warnings, precautions and contraindications.

AltMedDex presents unbiased, peer-reviewed information written by a team of experts from both alternative medicine and traditional medicine communities, including MDs, DOs, RPhs, RNs, and NDs. Regular updates will incorporate the latest research, and ongoing enhancements will include the addition of 50 new monographs each year. Turn to AltMedDex, available through HSL Online, to answer your questions about complementary and alternative medicine therapies.
Using Loansome Doc to Request Articles from HSL Document Express

No one likes to fill out forms. Even though the new HSL Document Express form is easy to fill out, most people would rather not have to fill out a form at all. Loansome Doc is a document ordering component designed by the National Library of Medicine which allows users to send document requests to HSL Document Express electronically while you search the PubMed database.

Loansome Doc was originally designed to assist health professionals in rural or isolated areas in ordering documents from health sciences libraries in hospitals and academic medical centers. Because it was designed to help in the provision of interlibrary “loan” services to “lonesome” doctors, it was named “Loansome Doc.” Many health sciences libraries have discovered that their regular users also find Loansome Doc easy and convenient to use. HSLS has over 30 registered Loansome Doc users.

To request articles via Loansome Doc, you must be searching the PubMed database. PubMed includes both the MEDLINE and HealthSTAR databases. If a document is not in PubMed, you can request it using the normal HSL Document Express form.

Before using Loansome Doc, you must register with HSLS. Ask at any HSLS reference desk or contact Document Delivery Services (648-2037) about signing up. Once you create a Loansome Doc account, requesting documents from us is a simple as marking the articles you want and clicking on the order button. A password is required, but you do not need to fill out your personal information or the document information over and over again.

There is no difference in charges or services to use this ordering option. Articles will still cost $3.50 for affiliated users. However, your requests may be processed faster because they will be routed directly into our automated document delivery system. We will fill the request from our own collections if possible, or route it on to another library for interlibrary loan. Complete instructions on how to use Loansome Doc will be provided upon registration.

This option is ideal for HSLS users who prefer to use the PubMed interface to search MEDLINE. If you prefer to use the Ovid search interface, we are investigating options for a similar document ordering feature that will work with Ovid. In the meantime, you can still use Loansome Doc, but you will need to retype the 8-digit Unique Identifier (UI) number into PubMed (instructions will be provided with your Loansome Doc information packet). For some people, this is still much easier than filling out multiple forms.

It takes about 20 minutes to register and set up Loansome Doc but it can make ordering documents much easier and save you valuable time. To learn more about Loansome Doc, please visit these websites:

- [http://www.hsls.pitt.edu/hsldocumentexpress/loansomedoc.html](http://www.hsls.pitt.edu/hsldocumentexpress/loansomedoc.html)

Questions about Loansome Doc? Contact Ammon Ripple, Document Delivery Librarian at (412) 648-1251 or falkdoc+@pitt.edu.

--Ammon Ripple

Medical Information: Security and Privacy in the Era of the Internet

The Fourth Annual Donald A. B. Lindberg Medical Informatics Lecture and Symposium will take place at the University of Pittsburgh, S-100 Biomedical Science Tower, South Wing Conference Center on Friday, July 14, 2000.

The Lindberg Lecture will be part of an all day symposium on confidentiality, security, and medical information on the Internet. This year’s Lindberg Lecturer is Daniel R. Masys, M.D., F.A.C.P. of the University of California, San Diego. Dr. Masys is Director of Biomedical Informatics at the University of California, San Diego School of Medicine and Associate Clinical Professor of Medicine. Registration is required. Registration forms and additional information are available by calling 412-647-7113 or at [http://www.health.pitt.edu/cbmi/symposium.htm](http://www.health.pitt.edu/cbmi/symposium.htm).
Faculty Research Interests Index
Launched for Pitt Health Sciences Schools

Multidisciplinary research and other features of the biomedical research environment make it more challenging than ever for an institution to stay in touch with its faculty’s research expertise.

The University of Pittsburgh’s Schools of Health Sciences will soon have a new resource for tracking this information. The Faculty Research Interests Project at www.cbmi.upmc.edu/~frip/index.html will create a searchable index of terms describing current research interests of health sciences faculty. Available over the Web, the index will help faculty identify local colleagues and enhance the global visibility of local research expertise. It will also enable targeted distribution of announcements about funding opportunities and events, and can be used in recruitment and in research program planning.

Implementation begins this month in the School of Medicine, culminating two years of development by health sciences librarians, medical informaticians, and research administrators. Planning for introduction to the other five health sciences schools will follow.

The new resource is based on the same MeSH (Medical Subject Heading) terms used by the National Library of Medicine to index the biomedical literature for MEDLINE. MeSH is a “controlled vocabulary”—a consistent set of terms that eliminates the searching problems that can occur when people invent their own terms and use different terms for the same subject. Designed for quick and easy use, the system sends each faculty member an e-mail message containing the URL (Internet address) of a personalized Web site. At their Web sites, faculty select from automatically-generated lists of MeSH terms from their own MEDLINE publications. The selected terms go into a central database to create the searchable index.

The Faculty Research Interests Project is a joint effort of the Health Sciences Library System, the Center for Biomedical Informatics, and the Office of Research-Health Sciences. It is sponsored by the Pittsburgh IAIMS (Integrated Advanced Information Management Systems) program. IAIMS is a National Library of Medicine initiative to help medical centers and health science institutions integrate information systems to support education, research, and patient care.

--Patricia Friedman

Top 20 Electronic Journals

The following twenty electronic journals were those most frequently displayed or printed in full text through HSL Online in 1999, and listed in order of usage.

1. JAMA
2. New England Journal of Medicine
3. Lancet
4. BMJ
5. Nursing Standard
6. Annals of Internal Medicine
7. American Journal of Psychiatry
8. Circulation
9. Chest
10. Pediatrics
11. Science
12. Archives of Internal Medicine
14. Journal of Advanced Nursing
15. Neurology
16. RN
17. ACP Journal Club
18. Transplantation
19. American Journal of Health System Pharmacy
20. American Journal of Obstetrics & Gynecology
Locating Clinical Trials on the Web

Locating clinical trials recently became easier thanks to a new website called ClinicalTrials.gov. The National Library of Medicine developed the site in collaboration with NIH and the FDA. It contains information about trials pertaining to a wide range of diseases and conditions. Over 4,000 federal and private medical studies at more than 47,000 locations nationwide are listed in the site, and more are being added regularly. ClinicalTrials.gov can be reached at http://clinicaltrials.gov. The site will expand through several phases to encompass additional NIH-funded studies, as well as non-NIH-sponsored trials from other federal agencies and private industry.

The format includes a summary outlining the purpose, recruiting status, criteria for participation, location of the trial, and specific contact information. Although ClinicalTrials.gov contains contact information for each trial, the Website cannot be used to register for a trial. People interested in participating need to get in touch with the contact person listed. It is searchable by disease name or specific treatment. Searchers can use limits to identify trials for individual cities or states to find one close to home. There are links to other online health resources that help patients understand the trial in the context of their diseases. ClinicalTrials.gov is easy to search and patients, family members, and health care professionals will find it useful.

Until ClinicalTrials.gov becomes the comprehensive central listing, CenterWatch’s Clinical Trials Listing Service http://www.centerwatch.com/main.htm should also be searched. Under the Patient Resources section, industry-sponsored and NIH studies are listed. The database is searchable by disease and geographic area. CenterWatch contains other value-added features such as links to newly approved drug therapies, reports on recent advances in clinical research, and notification when new trials that match pre-registered profiles are listed.

Also, consider searching the UPMC Health System site for local clinical trial information. By entering “clinical trials” in the search function on the UPMCHS home page http://www.upmc.edu, 300 entries are retrieved. These cover a variety of topics on clinical trials ranging from a course on clinical trials to investigative therapies for breast cancer, etc. Some description of each trial is given, but specific contact persons are not always listed. By following the links to general clinic phone numbers, the specific contact may be found.

Legislation enacted in 1997 required the Department of Health and Human Services, via the NIH, to broaden the public’s access to information about clinical trials by establishing a registry for trials “on drugs for serious or life-threatening diseases.” ClinicalTrials.gov grew out of this mandate, and reflects the growing public interest in finding the best in health care.

--Michele Klein Fedyshin

“Partners in Information Access” News

Pennsylvania’s public health professionals continue to receive training provided by HSLS librarians through the Partners in Information Access contract awarded by the Middle Atlantic Region of the National Network of Libraries of Medicine. HSLS librarians Charlie Wessel, MLS, and Amy Gregg, MLIS, offer specialized classes on searching MEDLINE using PubMed, Introduction to Netscape Navigator, evaluating and selecting quality Internet resources, and Locating Public Health Resources on the Web.

The librarians trained employees of the Allegheny County Health Department at two workshops in January at Falk Library of the Health Sciences. School nurses were trained in March at Intermediate Unit #6 in Shippenville, PA. In addition, employees of the Montgomery County Health Department received instruction at two April workshops in Norristown, PA. A total of 77 public health professionals have participated in the recent training sessions.

In March 2000, a survey was distributed to the workshop attendees. The information from these surveys will help to determine the long-term impact of the training provided to the public health professionals through this project.

For more information on Partners in Information Access, please visit the web site at http://www.hsls.pitt.edu/outreach/partners/partners.html.

--Amy Gregg
HSLS Schedule of Classes
July - August 2000

Introduction and Tour of Falk Library*
(Falk Library, meet inside entrance to Library)
Thursday, July 13..........11:00-Noon
Tuesday, August 22........11:00-Noon

MEDLINE Searching using the HSL Online
Web Gateway
(Location: Falk Library, CMC Classroom #2)
Wednesday, July 19.........10:30-Noon

Introduction to MICROMEDEX
(Location: Falk Library, CMC Classroom #1)
Thursday, July 6.............2:00-3:30pm

Searching PsycINFO
(Location: Falk Library, CMC Classroom #1)
Thursday, July 6.............10:30-Noon

Introduction to the ISI Citation Databases
using Web of Science
(Location: Falk Library, CMC Classroom #1)
Thursday, July 27.........1:30-3:00pm

EndNote Basics*
(Location: Falk Library, CMC Classroom #2)
Thursday, July 20...........1:00-3:00pm

Introduction to ProCiteVersion 5*
(Location: Falk Library, CMC Classroom #1)
Thursday, July 13.............1:00-3:30pm

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/index.html

AMA CATEGORY 2 CREDIT

These activities meet the requirements for AMA Category 2 Continuing Medical Education. Physicians should maintain records of attendance,
claiming one hour of credit for each hour of course participation. The AMA Physician’s Recognition Award permits up to
30 hours of the 50 hours required annually to be earned in Category 2 activities. CME Category 2 credit not offered for courses marked with *

UPMC Hospital Based Classes
For more information on these classes contact Charlie Wessel 412-648-8730

UPMC Passavant
(Location: UPMC Passavant Medical Library)
OVID Medline and Fulltext Journals
Tuesday, July 25..........10:00-11:30am
Wednesday, August 30...2:00-3:30pm

UPMC St. Margaret
(Location: St. Margaret School of Nursing
Computer Lab)
MD Consult, HSL Online Textbooks & Drug
Resource
Thursday, July 13.........5:30-7:00pm

UPMC Rehabilitation
(Location: N-233 Library Services)
OVID Medline and Fulltext Journals
Thursday, July 13.........2:00-3:30pm

UPMC South Side
(Location: Roesch-Taylor Medical Building
Computer Lab, Basement Level)
MD Consult, HSL Online Textbooks & Drug
Resources
Thursday, July 27.........5:30-7:00pm
OVID Medline and Fulltext Journals
Thursday, August 10.......5:30-7:00pm
**HSLS Staff News**

**Ruth Deer** recently joined HSLS Document Delivery Services in an Administrative Support III position. She is responsible for retrieving journals, copying articles and numerous clerical tasks. Ruth previously worked at the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh.


Congratulations to **Gosia Fort**, HSLS Cataloging and Database Management Librarian, and her husband Tom, who are the proud parents of a baby girl, Annamaria, born on March 22.

Farewell and best wishes to departing HSLS staff member **Heather Midkiff**, Library Specialist in the Falk Library Reference Department. Heather has accepted a new position in the School of Medicine Office of Student Affairs.

On Saturday May 20, an energetic group of **HSLS staff members** joined with other civic volunteers to plant a variety of annual flowers along the Liberty Avenue approach to the Fort Pitt Bridge and at the entrance to Point State Park.

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**Medical Library Association/Canadian Health Libraries Association Conference, Vancouver, BC, May 5-11, 2000**

**Contributed Paper Presentations**

**Barbara A. Epstein**, HSLS Associate Director; **Charles B. Wessel**, HSLS Coordinator of Affiliated Hospital Services; **Patricia C. Mickelson**, HSLS Director: Providing Library Services to an Expanding Health Care Enterprise: Management Challenges of a Dynamic Environment.


**Conference Poster Presentation**

**Alice B. Kuller**, HSLS Reference Librarian; **Heather Midkiff**, HSLS Library Specialist, **Brian Lauer**, (Reference Librarian, Northwestern University, Chicago, IL): A New Approach to Library Orientation.

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**Pitt Ranks High in Psychiatry Publishing**

The Institute for Scientific Information (ISI) reports: Of the top 100 federally funded U.S. universities whose researchers published papers in ISI-indexed psychiatry journals between 1994 and 1998, the universities below contributed the highest percentages of their total papers to the field during that five-year period.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>University</th>
<th>Number of psychiatry papers, 1994-98</th>
<th>Percent of University’s total papers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Yale University</td>
<td>551</td>
<td>3.74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Columbia University</td>
<td>554</td>
<td>3.64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>University of Pittsburgh</td>
<td>489</td>
<td>3.61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Virginia Commonwealth Univ.</td>
<td>160</td>
<td>3.52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Brown University</td>
<td>199</td>
<td>3.34</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

ISI is the publisher of *Science Citation Index* and other databases of scholarly research information in the sciences, social sciences, arts and humanities.


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**MD Consult Update**

Three new electronic texts were recently added to MD Consult, available through HSL Online at [http://online.hsls.pitt.edu](http://online.hsls.pitt.edu).

**Conn’s Current Therapy, 2000 Volume**, edited by Rakel is a concise source for recent advances in therapeutics and is completely revised. Travel Medicine is new to this edition.

**Psychiatry**, edited by Tasman provides comprehensive coverage of the field by integrating psychodynamic and biological theories and practices.

**Principles and Practice of Infectious Diseases, 5th edition**, edited by Mandell is among the most complete, authoritative and current textbooks of infectious diseases in the world.
Have you ever seen this message?

O V I D  Database Licensing Exceeded

What does this message mean?

HSLS contracts with OVID for a specific number of simultaneous user licenses. User licenses allow a set number of users to access Ovid databases at the same time, which means that only a certain number of users can be searching the MEDLINE or Journals @Ovid databases at once. The number of licenses has been exceeded when this message appears.

Why did I get this message?

This message will appear if you log into a database or full text article when the number of users already searching that database or viewing that full text article has reached the maximum number of simultaneous users allowed.

What should I do?

You should wait a few minutes and try again. If this happens to you often, please notify the reference desk at Falk Library (648-8796) or WPIC Library (624-1919). HSLS monitors online usage carefully and purchases additional licenses when usage consistently exceeds existing limits.

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