Falk Library Group Study Rooms

The Health Sciences Library System (HSLS) now provides a new option for studying in the library. Because two heads are better than one, Falk Library offers four group study rooms – spaces to communicate and learn while still maintaining the library’s quiet atmosphere. The rooms may be reserved for up to four hours, and accommodate two to eight people. Each group study room contains a table, chairs, a laptop (upon request) and a plasma display monitor.

You may reserve a room online or in person in the Falk Library Computer and Media Center (CMC) up to three days in advance. A valid Pitt ID or HSLS account is required for bookings. Before booking a room, please take a moment to read the group study room policy at <www.hsls.pitt.edu/groupstudy/policy.html>.

To book online, go to the study room Web site <www.hsls.pitt.edu/groupstudy>, where a calendar page allows you to view room availability. Select the date, time, and room that suits your needs, then click the plus (+) sign to add your booking. You will be prompted to enter your HSLS user name and password to authorize the booking. Currently only an HSLS account can be used to reserve a room (which is not the same as your Pitt-issued username and password). If you don’t have an account, there is a link to create one on the login page. For more information see “Reserve a Group Study Room” on page 5 of this issue.

Once you have logged into the site, you will be prompted for your name, e-mail and length of stay. After entering this information, click “Save” to add your booking to the calendar.

When you come to the Falk Library CMC to use a group study room at your reserved time, please see the CMC help desk attendant to obtain the room key. You must provide your Pitt ID or HSLS library card at this time to claim the room. Laptops are available for each study room should you require one, and can be requested upon arrival.

--Fran Yarger
In academia and in health care, we compile annual reports to take stock of the year that has passed and to celebrate our achievements. In 2005-06, the Health Sciences Library System (HSLS) maintained and expanded its position of leadership and innovation among the nation’s academic health sciences libraries. We are unique in the scope of our integrated services to the University and the hospitals of UPMC. In nearly every measure of size, scope, service or activities, HSLS is among the top 10 academic health sciences libraries in the country, and often in the top five.

Highlights of 2005-06 include:

• Introduction of new electronic resources, and a streamlined remote access registration process for qualified users anywhere in the world.

• Expansion of the Molecular Biology information service with new resources and instructional workshops, and the addition of a second information specialist. One–on-one bioinformatics consultations were offered to 123 researchers, an increase of 71 percent over the previous year. Bioinformatics workshops were offered on 13 topics to 326 participants.

• Continued integration of HSLS librarians in the curricula of the schools of the health sciences, graduate medical training, and evidence-based nursing practice.

• Participation of reference librarians in daily morning report on the general internal medicine service in UPMC Montefiore.

• Inclusion of HSLS librarians in research grants, including PROMIS (Patient-Reported Outcomes Measurement Information System), the Dental Informatics Online Community, and the University of Pittsburgh Cancer Institute-Hampton University cancer biology course.

• Enhanced public computing facilities in each of the four HSLS libraries. With the opening of a new study lounge in Falk Library, user demand led to the purchase of seven additional circulating notebook computers, bringing the total number to 10. At Western Psychiatric Institute and Clinic (WPIC) Library, the former audiovisual area was transformed into a public computing lab with nine computers. VLAN technology was introduced into libraries at UPMC Shadyside, Children’s Hospital and WPIC, and all public computers were upgraded or replaced.

• HSLS librarians and staff provided instruction, orientations or tours to more than 9,500 faculty, students and staff. This is an increase of 8 percent over the previous year, when HSLS ranked third among 125 reporting academic health sciences libraries in the United States and Canada. HSLS offers 15 in-house workshops, 10 special topics classes and 19 different Lunch with a Librarian sessions, plus topical workshops on request. Librarians performed 1,892 database searches for HSLS users. Individual information consultations increased by 57 percent to 145.

You can read the full HSLS annual report for 2005-2006 at <www.hsls.pitt.edu/about/annual_report.doc>.
FirstGlance in Jmol:  
**A Free Web-based 3D Structure Visualization Tool**

A picture is worth of thousand words — and when a picture provides a three-dimensional representation of an object, it becomes an invaluable tool for educators and researchers in the field of molecular sciences. Computer based molecule visualization software applications are increasingly important in areas ranging from general chemistry to computational chemistry, from inorganic chemistry to molecular biology, and from mineralogy to crystallography.

A key development in the history of molecular graphics programs was the release of RasMol. It was developed by Roger Sayle, who released the copyright to the public domain, and posted the source code on the Internet in 1993. Loaded with useful features such as ability to display important aspects of the molecular structure like alpha-helix, beta-pleated sheets, and hydrogen bonds, RasMol became one of the most popular and widely used molecular graphics programs in the world.

But RasMol, a stand alone software that requires downloading and installation on a user’s computer, was limited to use by only the computer savvy. By the mid-1990s, with the increasing popularity of Internet, there was a growing demand among educators and researchers for a Web-based method of displaying 3D structures of molecules. This unmet need was filled by the release of Jmol in December 2004. Jmol is a free open-source molecule viewer written in the Java programming language that works on multiple platforms, including Windows, Mac OSX, and Linux/Unix systems. When a user visits a Web page containing the Jmol applet, the program is automatically downloaded and executed on the client’s browser without requiring installation.

Following the precedent set by RasMol, Jmol has been used in biochemistry and molecular biology in various applications including FirstGlance in Jmol, a free Web-based tool for three-dimensional molecular visualization. It was developed by Eric Martz in the Department of Microbiology, University of Massachusetts at Amherst, and is available at <www.bioinformatics.org/firstglance>. It works in most popular browsers and platforms, including Internet Explorer or Firefox on Windows, and Safari and Firefox on Mac OSX.

In FirstGlance, the 3D structure of a molecule appears initially as a cartoon. By clicking on the links and buttons from the convenient control panel in the upper left corner, one can link to different renderings of the molecule. In addition to the cartoon format, molecules can be displayed in these formats, and several others:

- **Secondary Structures**: shows alpha-helices and beta-strands
- **N-C Rainbow**: provides smoothed backbone traces, with nucleic acids thicker than proteins
- **Composition**: provides space filling spheres of van der Waals radii
- **Vines**: displays all amino acid side chains and nucleotide bases as sticks colored by atom types.

Settings can be turned on or off to show or hide ligands or water molecules. Users can also zoom in and out, or change the background color. Structures can be rotated or be made to spin by clicking the spin button. Help documents about each view or operation, including color keys, are always available in the lower left corner of the screen.

Online journal publishers have begun to employ Jmol technology. *Nature Structural & Molecular Biology* recently began including links from its table of contents to the FirstGlance 3D structures discussed in the articles.

The advantage of FirstGlance is that, unlike RasMol, you don’t need to be computer savvy to operate it. Consider using FirstGlance to help interpret experimental data and assist in the design of experiments based on your structure of interest.

— Ansuman Chattopadhyay
**Create a Better CV: Tools and Resources**

A recent issue of *Faculty Vitae* <www.aamc.org/members/facultydev/facultyvitae/fall05/start.htm>, published online by the Association of American Medical Colleges, highlights “Tools for Academic Career Development.”

A feature article in this issue is titled “Preparing Your Curriculum Vitae” <www.aamc.org/members/facultydev/facultyvitae/fall05/cv.htm>, which is designed to help you improve your curriculum vitae (CV), teaching portfolio, and professional biography. It provides ideas for maintaining effective documentation of your academic history and achievements, and good tips and tools for preparing and highlighting your unique qualifications. The site contains Create My CV to craft your CV within an MSWord CV template; Tips and Strategies to make the best impression, from font selection to dos and don’ts; Teaching Portfolio explains what should be included in showcasing your teaching efforts; and Biographies includes information about your biographical statement, links to the National Institutes of Health biosketch form, and how to create an executive summary emphasizing your qualifications to accompany your CV. Resources provides links to additional references and Web sites.

The University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine Web site also provides a curriculum vitae format template on the Health Sciences Web portal “Downloads Archive” section at <www.health.pitt.edu/downloads_archive.asp>.

--Charlie Wessel

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**The New HSLS Web Site: Your Feedback Please?**

In early September, a prototype of a newly enhanced HSLS Web site became available via a link on the current HSLS homepage <www.hsls.pitt.edu>, or at <http://test.hsls.pitt.edu>. Please take a minute to explore the HSLS test site and send us your feedback via the Comments link available at <http://test.hsls.pitt.edu>.

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**PLoS Clinical Trials Launched**

An innovative new journal launched in May is devoted to peer-reviewing and publishing reports of randomized clinical trials in all areas of medicine and public health. PLoS Clinical Trials <www.plosclinicaltrials.org> is published by the Public Library of Science (PLoS) <www.plos.org/>, a coalition of researchers and physicians founded in 2000 by Nobel Prize recipient and former National Institutes of Health Director Harold Varmus.

PLoS Clinical Trials’ commitment to a transparent trials reporting system will be achieved through the acceptance and publication of all randomized trials that are ethically and scientifically sound, registered, and reported accurately. By considering all such trials for publication irrespective of the outcome of the results, the journal aims to increase the accuracy and completeness of the evidence available for clinical decision making by practitioners, policymakers, and patients. All trials considered for publication are rigorously peer-reviewed by expert statisticians and clinicians. As with all PLoS journals, authors keep the copyright to their work, enabling the widest possible redistribution and reuse of content.

National Library of Medicine Enhances MedlinePlus Consumer Web Site

MedlinePlus, the National Library of Medicine’s (NLM) consumer-oriented Web site, is free to the public and can be accessed from the HSLS Consumer Health Information page <www.hsls.pitt.edu/guides/chi/> or <http://medlineplus.gov>. Several recent enhancements have made MedlinePlus more visually appealing and easier to navigate, including:

Health Topics

Changes to the Health Topics page allow users to click on a picture to link to a body location/system. For example, if you click on the heart icon next to the Health Topic Blood, Heart and Circulation, a picture of the body appears, providing a choice of links to topics on the blood, heart, veins or arteries. If you select blood, a list of blood disorders will appear from which to choose the subtopic of interest. The familiar format of any MedlinePlus Web page remains unchanged, with headings such as Disease Management, Specific Conditions and Organizations to direct users to reliable information.

Surgery Videos

For those interested in surgical procedures there is a link to prerecorded Webcasts of actual surgeries performed at numerous U.S. medical centers. Most videos are one hour long, with detailed explanations by surgeons as they perform the surgery. Topics are arranged according to the body system or disease state. Procedures such as computer-assisted hip replacement surgery, minimally invasive lumbar fusion, and gastric bypass surgery are available at the click of your mouse. To link to this feature from MedlinePlus click on Surgery Videos <www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/surgeryvideos.html> and select from the list of more than 200 procedures. The surgery Webcasts are produced by OR-Live.com.

NIH MedlinePlus Magazine

A new quarterly publication, NIH MedlinePlus <www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/magazine.html> is now available online, or can be mailed upon request. This new magazine, written for patients and their families, features the same reliable and up-to-date medical and healthcare information that is found on the MedlinePlus Web site.

--Michelle Burda

Reserve a Room for Group Study in Falk Library

To make an online reservation for a group study room in Falk Library, go to the study room Web site <www.hsls.pitt.edu/groupstudy>. Step-by-step instructions are available by clicking “How to Book a Study Room” in the top right corner.
HSLS Update

HSLS Schedule of Classes November - December 2006

Class schedules are subject to change. Please consult the online class calendar at <www.hsls.pitt.edu/services/instruction/calendar> for the most current information. Classes are held in the Computer and Media Center Classroom 2 in Falk Library (200 Scaife Hall) unless otherwise noted.

HSLS ORIENTATION

Introduction to HSLS Resources and Services at Falk Library
Offered upon request to groups or individuals. Call 412-648-8796.

Introduction to HSLS Resources and Services at WPIC Library
Offered upon request to groups or individuals. Call 412-246-5507.

SEARCHING DATABASES

Ovid MEDLINE-Getting Started*
Monday, November 6  1-2:30 p.m.

Ovid MEDLINE for Mental Health Information*
Wednesday, November 29  2-3:30 p.m. (class at WPIC Library)

PubMed-Getting Started*
Wednesday, November 8  9:30-11 a.m.
Tuesday, December 5  1-2:30 p.m.

Searching PsycINFO*
Tuesday, November 14  10-11:30 a.m. (class at WPIC Library)

MOLECULAR BIOLOGY RESOURCES

Introduction to Vector NTI*
Wednesday, November 1  1-3 p.m.

Genetic Variation Resources*
Wednesday, November 8  1-3 p.m.

Introduction to PathwayArchitect*
Wednesday, November 15  1-3 p.m.

Introduction to Genome Browsers*
Wednesday, December 13  1-3 p.m.

Vector NTI: Molecular Construction & Design*
Wednesday, December 6  1-3 p.m.

Vector NTI: Database Management*
Wednesday, December 20  1-3 p.m.

SOFTWARE TRAINING

EndNote Basics
(Note: This class is usually full. Please arrive 15 minutes in advance to ensure seating.)
Tuesday, November 14  1-3 p.m.
Thursday, December 7  9:30-11:30 a.m.

Adobe Photoshop for Beginners
Thursday, November 9  9-11 a.m.
Tuesday, December 5  9-11 a.m.

Advanced PowerPoint for Presentations
Thursday, December 21  9-11 a.m.

PowerPoint and Advanced PowerPoint
(Please plan to attend the entire session.)
Wednesday, November 22  9 a.m.-1 p.m.

LUNCH WITH A LIBRARIAN

These informal, brown-bag lunches are held in Falk Library Conference Room B. Bring your own lunch. Drinks and dessert are provided. See <www.hsls.pitt.edu/services/instruction/lunchlibrarian/> or call 412-648-1251 for more information.

Drug Information @Your Desktop*
Wednesday, November 1  Noon-1 p.m.

The Nuts and Bolts of Publishing an Article: Resources and Strategies for Aspiring Authors*
Wednesday, November 15  Noon-1 p.m.

SPECIAL TOPICS CLASSES

Many classes on special topics are offered upon request to groups or individuals. For a list of all HSLS classes, see <www.hsls.pitt.edu/services/instruction/desc>.
To request a class, call 412-648-8796 or e-mail medlibq@pitt.edu.

CUSTOMIZED CLASSES

Customized classes can be developed for your department, course, or other group. For more information, see <www.hsls.pitt.edu/services/instruction/customizedinstruction>.

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. Classes marked with an asterisk (*) qualify for American Medical Association Category 2 continuing education credit. Detailed course descriptions are available at <www.hsls.pitt.edu/services/instruction>.
Falk Library Hosts Open House Events for New Students

In August, Falk Library hosted two open house events for incoming students from the School of Medicine and School of Pharmacy. Students enjoyed refreshments, toured the library, and were introduced to staff, services, and resources.

HSLS Staff News

PUBLICATIONS


Mary Lou Klem, reference librarian, presented a poster titled “Creation of exhaustive item banks: The role of the health sciences librarian” at the inaugural PROMIS (Patient-Reported Outcomes Measurement Information System) conference: Building Tomorrow’s Patient-Reported Outcome Measures on September 11-13, 2006 in Gaithersburg, MD. The poster was coauthored by reference librarians Ester Saghafi and Rebecca Abromitis, and the Pittsburgh PROMIS research site.

PRESENTATIONS

Jonathon Erlen, history of medicine librarian, Judith A. Erlen, professor, and director, PhD program, University of Pittsburgh School of Nursing, and Ammon Ripple, former head of Reference Services, presented a poster “Accessing untapped resources on women’s health” at the annual meeting of Sigma Theta Tau, in Montreal, Canada, on July 20, 2006.

Jonathon Erlen, history of medicine librarian, presented “Factors in the Decline in the Doctor/Patient Relationship” at Plastic Surgery Grand Rounds, University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine on August 30, 2006.

Mary Lou Klem, reference librarian, presented a poster titled “Creation of exhaustive item banks: The role of the health sciences librarian” at the inaugural PROMIS (Patient-Reported Outcomes Measurement Information System) conference: Building Tomorrow’s Patient-Reported Outcome Measures on September 11-13, 2006 in Gaithersburg, MD. The poster was coauthored by reference librarians Ester Saghafi and Rebecca Abromitis, and the Pittsburgh PROMIS research site.

Charlie Wessel, coordinator of Affiliated Hospital Services, taught the following Medical Library Association (MLA) continuing education courses: Number, number who’s got the number or who’s counting? health statistic sources at the Alabama Health Libraries Association annual meeting, Orange Beach , Ala., on September 14, 2006; and at the Upstate New York and Ontario Chapter / MLA annual conference, Niagara Falls, N.Y. on October 11, 2006; and Complementary and Alternative Medicine: Information Resources for Choices in Healing at the Health Sciences Library Association of New Jersey at the Hospital Association of New Jersey, Princeton, N.J. on September 20, 2006.

STAFF CHANGES

Megan McKeown recently joined the Falk Library Computer and Media Center as a CMC specialist. Her responsibilities include staffing the CMC help desk, overseeing student assistants, and providing technical support to HSLS. Megan, a student in the University of Pittsburgh School of Information Sciences, is working toward a BS degree in information science. She previously worked as a student assistant in the CMC.

FAREWELL

Farewell to Jay Miller, Computer and Media Center systems analyst, who has taken a position with the City of Pittsburgh.
Cultural Competence in Health Care

Trust is an important part of every healthcare relationship. For trust to develop, each person in the relationship needs to understand what is expected of the others. When participants have dissimilar backgrounds and life experiences, expectations may differ, and roadblocks may develop that impede the formation of a trusting relationship.

Becoming culturally competent allows healthcare providers to work effectively with those whose beliefs and values differ from their own. According to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Minority Health <www.omhrc.gov> “cultural and linguistic competence is a set of congruent behaviors, attitudes, and policies that come together in a system, agency, or among professionals that enables effective work in cross-cultural situations.”

To help increase the understanding and practice of culturally competent care, the Health Resources and Services Administration developed a Web site entitled Cultural Competence Resources for Health Care Providers <www.hrsa.gov/culturalcompetence>. The resources include assessment tools, technical assistance, and training curricula. The culture/language specific and disease/condition specific resources cover topics such as, HIV/AIDS and various special populations (i.e., African Americans; American Indian / Alaskan native / native Hawaiians; Hispanic/Latino/Spanish; and gay/lesbian/bisexual/transgender), health issues of farm and migrant workers, USA Mexico border populations, homeless people, children with special needs, and geriatric populations. Also listed on the site are links to opportunities for grant funding, data and statistics.

--Linda Hartman