HSL Online

online.hsls.pitt.edu

HSLS Update

T his issue is a traveler's update on <u>HSL Online,</u> the <u>Health Sciences Library System's</u> electronic resources gateway. Organized around the questions that are most important to our patrons right now, it includes information that will improve the

quality of your online journey and help you get the most out of what we are providing. We hope that it will help consolidate the rapid growth and changes that have occurred in our online collection in the past year.

Seamlessness and transparency. Linking and integration. The metaphors commonly used to describe movement among electronic information resources evoke the sense of smooth transitions among related items.

That's the ideal. In reality, an electronic collection is sometimes more like a limited access highway maintained in different sections by separate transportation authorities. You can get on only at certain points. Nonstandard signage, different paving materials, and other inconsistencies present themselves in the form of varied interfaces and rules for searching. Every resource looks different and has different features. Resources may or may not require passwords or include full text.

The growth of the Internet, and the development of resources that use Web browsers such as Netscape and Internet Explorer, have been fueled by consensus on non-proprietary technical standards. But while electronic information resources are built on this common foundation, the way they are packaged, sold, and distributed is anything but standard.

Nowhere is this more evident than in the way that publishers and other distributors provide full-text journals to libraries. A journal may advertise, "Free electronic access with print subscription," but this doesn't mean that anyone who buys the print can have the electronic.

Sometimes publishers and other providers will include electronic access with subscriptions for individuals, but not those for institutions. They worry that electronic access will reduce the ranks of print subscribers—of particular concern to them in the case of libraries, which pay more for print subscriptions than do individuals.

Limited access on the popular e-journal highway poses a special quandary. To conserve our resources, and because we believe that it is easier for our patrons, the Health Sciences Library System has in the past year moved away from passwords to access based on the user's Internet address for all HSL Online resources. Yet some major journals continue to insist on access based on institutional passwords. Administering these multiple passwords takes time and attention away from other patron services.

Like other members of the academic health sciences library community, we will continue to address these challenges as our electronic collection grows and matures. And we will continue to look to your preferences and suggestions to shape that collection. We have always kept track of which volumes spend the most time off our shelves; now we tally the number of times our patrons click on different electronic titles as well. Please remember, too, that the <u>forms you submit requesting books and journals</u> for purchase or subscription are always a crucial element in our acquisitions decisions.

HSLS is ultimately an intermediary between publishers and our patrons, who are the real customers. So let us know how your trip is going. And as you travel HSL Online, don't forget to write.

Access
Do I need a password?

No. Not in most cases.

In the past year, HSL Online has instituted uniform access to all resources based on Internet address alone. In general, this means that you can use most of HSL Online without a password if you are working at a computer connected to the Internet through a Pitt or UPMCHS network. Login is not necessary if you are on campus, at a UPMCHS location with a participating library, or dialing in to the Pitt or UPMCHS modem pool.

Example	Password required?	Password lets you...	Password source
Ovid	No	Save searches, Set up Auto Alerts	Register online or at any HSLS Circulation Desk. ID required.
ScienceDirect	No	Create Personal Journal List, New Issue Alerts	"Personal Login" link on ScienceDirect front page
MD Consult	Yes	Customize Today in Medicine, Patient Education handouts	"Sign up NOW!" link on MD Consult front page

Now for the exceptions:

Exception #1:
Resources with special features requiring a password. Details vary. Password may be optional, and you may be able to sign up for it directly while using the resource. *See inset for some current examples.*

Exception #2:
HSLS patrons who are not connecting to the Internet through Pitt or UPMCHS. This category includes those whose computers are on a non-Pitt, non-UPMCHS network. It also includes those who use a commercial Internet service provider such as America Online or Bell Atlantic. If you are in one of these categories, you can register for an account and use the HSLS proxy server. *See next article for details.*

Out-of-Network Access Using the HSLS Proxy Server

Access.

A proxy server is a computer that can access Internet sites on behalf of other computers that would not otherwise be able to reach them. The HSLS proxy server makes HSL Online resources available to eligible users even if their computers are not linked to a University of Pittsburgh or UPMCHS network. This includes those using a modem to connect to a commercial Internet service provider such as America Online or Bell Atlantic instead of dialing in to Pitt or UPMCHS.

Before using the proxy server, you need to...

- Obtain an HSL Online password if you do not already have one. Register at any HSLS library circulation desk. Bring your University of Pittsburgh or UPMCHS ID. Registration is also available at participating UPMCHS hospital libraries. See the online form for details.

- Configure your Web browser (Netscape or Internet Explorer) to work with the proxy server using online instructions.

Once you have a password and a properly configured browser, using the proxy server is easy. When you try to link to an HSL Online resource for the first time during an Internet session, a login window will pop up. After entering your user name and password, you will be able to access HSL Online items during that entire session. Once logged in, you will not notice the proxy server's operation.

Note: Some HSL Online resources are either inaccessible through the proxy server or are limited to University of Pittsburgh faculty, staff, or students.

Finding What You Need

Is this available in full-text format?

We don't always hear this question explicitly. Our patrons wisely place a higher priority on finding the right information than on the specific format that information takes.

But the delighted reaction we get upon informing a patron that the article she needs can be printed out directly from her computer dramatizes full text's impact on access to library resources. Since the beginning of 1999, the list of full-text journal titles for HSLS patrons has mushroomed from under 200 to more than 1,000.

Many full-text journals can be browsed, issue by issue, from their own home pages. Others, such as the W.B. Saunders Clinics journals that are part of MDConsult, are primarily accessible through a search page. A third group includes resources such as Ovid in which home page access and contents searching are integrated in a single system.

Full-text coverage varies by journal, typically extending back one to six years. We also now have an Electronic Textbooks collection of over 70 titles. Most of these are part of multiple-title resources such as Primary Care Online, MDConsult, Stat!Ref, and Health Reference Center.

> LINKS: URLs for these items are listed on back page.

Tools for Locating Full–Text Resources

Integration of all online resources is the major trend in libraries that are building electronic collections. As technical developments advance and—more problem-atic—publishers and other providers agree to link their products, the boundaries separating different products, databases, and types of material are dissolving. In theory, it should eventually be possible to jump on any HSL Online resource and travel through successive links to every other resource on the HSL Online page.

In the coming months, look for increased integration and a consequent reduction in the number of links you need to follow between resources. Throughout and beyond this period of change, HSLS patrons can continue to rely on navigational access tools that are specific to the Pitt community:

• **PITT*Cat,*** the online catalog for the University of Pittsburgh, gives users a single point of access to all print and electronic materials in all libraries at all Pitt campuses, plus clickable links to those available online.

Enter a title in PITT*Cat.* You'll know immediately if the title is available in full-text format if the results include a record with a [computer file] notation. Click on the record to open it. Then follow the Internet Access link, which will take you to either the book or journal's home page or that of the electronic resource it is part of. If the title is also available in print, the separate PITT*Cat* record for the print version will contain the same link.

• **HSL Online resource lists.** HSL Online's Electronic Journals page, for example, provides a concise alphabeti-cal list of all e-journal titles and direct links to them. Use it for instant alphabetical or keyword searching.

• **WebLinks,** a new feature connecting Ovid and PITT*Cat*, is a sample of the improved integration environment on the horizon. Run an Ovid search as usual, then follow the PITT*Cat* link from any retrieved citation record to generate an automatic PITT*Cat* search for the cited journal. A second browser window will open showing holdings information in PITT*Cat*. From

there, you can either follow links directly to full-text resources or confirm availability of print materials. The browser window containing your Ovid session remains open and active. WebLinks is in place for Ovid MEDLINE. Watch for implementation in other Ovid databases as well.

Comparison Shopping: Ovid MEDLINE vs. PubMed

HSLS patrons have two options for searching MEDLINE through HSL Online: Ovid MEDLINE, provided by Ovid Technologies, and PubMed, devel-oped by the National Library of Medicine. While both products include the same MEDLINE citation records, each also has unique features that can help with specific searching needs:

Finding What You Need.

Q I want to search MEDLINE, but I'm not connecting to the Internet through Pitt or UPMCHS. What's my best option?
A Search PubMed, which is available without restriction to anyone with Internet access and a Web browser. Ovid is available only through computers connected directly to a University of Pittsburgh or UPMCHS network, dialing into those networks through a modem, or accessing HSL Online through the proxy server.

Q What if I want to save my searches or run Auto Alerts?
A Ovid can save searches and e-mail you periodic Auto Alerts only if you have an Ovid password. These two features and the ability to access Ovid and other HSL Online resources remotely through a commercial ISP are the **only** reasons to have an Ovid password. See the Access section of this issue for details.

Q I want to be able to access full-text articles. Which database should I use?
A Both Ovid and PubMed provide HSLS patrons with access to full text. Ovid's Journals@Ovid collection is particularly strong in clinical medicine. Because Ovid's databases and full-text journals are integrated, you can limit your Ovid MEDLINE search to "Full Text Available." Then, from an Ovid full-text article,

you can link directly to other articles cited as references.

PubMed's LinkOut connects patrons to a growing number of full-text journals, many of which are oriented toward basic science research. Although PubMed can be accessed from anywhere, LinkOut access is based on Internet address and is available only for journals that the University subscribes to and that come from participating publishers. PubMed does not offer a full-text-limiting feature or links among articles.

Q I only have part of a citation to an article. What do I do?

A PubMed's Citation Matcher is an easy-to-use feature that allows you to enter and search on just those citation elements that you're sure of. PubMed then retrieves articles that match the information you have provided. Look for Citation Matcher in PubMed's menu under PubMed Services (left side of screen).

Q I found an article that is exactly what I want. How do I find others like it?

A PubMed's Related Articles feature retrieves articles similar to your ideal using an algorithm that calculates similarity among documents based on words they have in common. Click on the Related Articles link to the right of any retrieved citation in PubMed to use this feature.

Q Which interface allows me to see MeSH(Medical Subject Headings) while I search?

A Ovid has a mapping feature that allows you to see possible headings under which your search topic might be categorized. This feature can help you build your search by suggesting not only comparable or related terms, but also broader and narrower terms. In PubMed, you can explore terms by linking to the MeSH Browser under the PubMed Services menu, but this does not feed directly into your PubMed search.

Finding What You Need

For further tips on searching Ovid and PubMed, HSLS offers free classes. Consult the Schedule of Classes for dates and times.

Full–Text File Formats: What's the Difference?

Journal articles in the HSL Online Journals@Ovid database are available in HyperText Markup Language (HTML) format. In ScienceDirect, Adobe Systems' Portable Document Format (PDF) is one of the options for viewing and printing articles. How do these two different formats compare?

HTML is the language or format of the Web. HTML documents are designed for on-screen viewing and interactivity rather than as replication of the traditional reprint. The text of an HTML article and its individual figures or graphics are all separate files. When printing from the Journals@Ovid database, for example, users redisplay the article through the Ovid Citation Manager, which places the images within the document. The user's Web browser, browser settings, and computer monitor determine the physical appearance of an HTML article.

An HTML article may look great on a new state-of-the-art computer, but not as good on an older computer. By contrast, the PDF standard formats documents for consistent display and printing regardless of the computer or browser being used. It also guarantees that the document will look identical to the original article. A PDF-formatted document consists of a single file combining text and graphics. Adobe Acrobat Reader software, available for free download from the Web at www.adobe.com, is required for viewing and printing PDF articles.

> **LINKS:** URLs for these items are listed on back page.

Getting More Done

Can I do that from my office?

While browser software, online resources, and full-text availability have transformed the way that libraries deliver information, the impulse to extend collections and services beyond the library walls goes back as least as far as the bookmobile and the telephone. In this section, we highlight knowledge and tools that can save you time and effort while working in the electronic environment.

Digital Attribution:
Citing One's Source Electronically

Bibliographic citation management software has been around a long time, but the last few years seem to have given people more reason to seek it out. There are at least two reasons for this surge in interest. First, these applications are a useful tool for managing the ever-escalating volume of biomedical literature. Programs such as EndNote and ProCite organize the user's citations into databases ("libraries"). These can then be used to insert citations and generate automatically formatted bibliographies for papers, reports, and grant submissions; to manage reprint files; and to share references with colleagues.

Second, successive versions of the programs have extended their usefulness with technology-based features:

- Web sites, as well as journal articles, book chapters, reports, and other types of sources, can now be added to program libraries. URLs (Uniform Resource Locators, or Internet addresses) for Web sites can be added to the records for these items and for some full-text articles as well. Users can then link to the items directly from within the program. While the programs are not designed to

store full-text articles, each citation record can store an abstract and many pages of a user's own notes.

- Users can search online databases directly from within EndNote and ProCite courtesy of the Z39.50 protocol. This information retrieval standard supports searching of different databases— CINAHL and PubMed, for example— using the same interface. (HSLS patrons are already familiar with this standard through the Ovid system, which uses it to provide a uniform interface for more than 25 databases and database segments.)

Hands-on instruction in use of bibliographic citation management software has long been a regular part of the HSLS class calendar. Check the current schedule for dates and times.

An Image Formats Primer
Black-and-white or color? High or low resolution? Thumbnail or full size?

Variables such as these can make the files that store electronic images information-rich and potentially quite large. In order to facilitate quick downloading and high-quality display, electronic graphics are compressed and formatted using one of several algorithms. You can tell how an image has been compressed by the file type suffix at the end of its file name. Most HSL Online databases use images that have been formatted as GIF or TIFF files. The remainder are JPEGs. All three image types have both strengths and weaknesses:

- **GIF (Graphics Interchange Format). File name format: name-of-your-image.gif.** This format is best used for images that have 256 or fewer colors, such as line art and graphs. When opened in a Web browser, GIF files interlace—that is, a low-quality version of the graphic is displayed first, followed by displays of progressively higher resolution. Interlacing is less noticeable with small images, which load more quickly. Since GIFs were designed for display on the computer screen, they may look muddy or blurred when printed out.

- **TIFF (Tagged Image File Format). File name format: name-of-your-image.tif or name-of-your-image.tiff.** TIFFs are familiar to HSL Online patrons as the format used for tables, figures, and other

graphics in Journals@Ovid full-text articles. Like JPEG, TIFF handles a range of color depths with ease. Both TIFFs and JPEGs print well using a variety of printers. Although some quality loss will occur when printing a color image to a non-color printer, TIFFs and JPEGs generally remain sharp.

- **JPEG (Joint Photographic Experts Group). File name format: name-of-your-image.jpeg or name-of-your-image.jpg.** This is the format of choice for photographic images. The JPEG algorithm handles photographic color depth well, so JPEG files stay small and download quickly while retaining a high degree of color fidelity. JPEG does not perform as well with line art or other images that have crisp edges.

Displaying images with recent versions of Netscape and Internet Explorer is typically straightforward, though some installations (such as older Web browser versions) may need a "helper" program to view TIFF files. (These are available free of charge from the Downloads section of CNET (www.cnet.com); search on *image viewer* or *tiff* to identify appropriate software.) Saving image files in Windows is often as simple as clicking the right mouse button while the cursor is on the body of the image, then scrolling to *Save Image* in the resulting popup menu. Special instructions for saving images are provided in some HSL Online databases, such as Journals@Ovid.

Graphic editor applications can be used to alter, enhance, or convert images from one file type to another. Adobe's Photoshop (available on computers at Falk Library) is the most full-featured product, but its learning curve and price are both quite steep. A better solution may be a less powerful application geared to the graphics non-professional, such as Paint Shop Pro.

A cautionary note when using graphics to enhance presentations: Please remember that images gathered from HSL Online databases are copyrighted. Using images in either original or altered form without permission is a direct violation of copyright law.

Extending the Library Collection:
HSL Document Express

Even with comprehensive print collections and access to full-text information through HSL Online, it is impossible for a single library to provide on-the-spot access to all existing health sciences information. That is why it is more important than ever to have quality document delivery services that extend our collection by providing access to regional and national libraries. *HSL Document Express* is our recently-enhanced service for interlibrary loan and photocopy services. Features include:

- **Electronic forms.** The *HSL Document Express Request Form* is available in two comparable formats. Use the online form to submit your document request to us over the Internet. Or, print out the traditional form, fill it in, and mail or bring it to the Document Delivery or Reference Department at Falk Library.

Getting More Done.

- **A simplified fee structure.** Charge is $3.50 per document for all regular requests, including both in-house photocopy and interlibrary loan. HSLS continues to subsidize document delivery services substantially. Fees charged to our primary users represent only a fraction of the actual costs involved in obtaining documents.

- **A promise that we will deliver articles available from the HSLS collections within two working days** or notify you personally.

- **Use of state-of-the-art technologies to improve delivery time for interlibrary loan requests.** While we cannot control how quickly we get documents from other libraries, you will receive many documents much faster than the official seven to ten working days estimate because of direct Internet delivery. In addition, a special agreement with ScienceDirect gives us quick access to thousands of articles not available online or in our collections. If it's in the ScienceDirect database and the full text is not available online, we can get it for you within two days at no extra charge.

- **In the coming months, watch for electronic ordering and delivery options** that will allow you to pick up documents at your desktop over the Internet. **In the mean time,** ask us about the National Library of Medicine's Loansome Doc program.

HSL Online

Links Cited

Links cited more than once are listed according to their first appearance:

page 1: HSL Online online.hsls.pitt.edu Health Sciences Library System www.hsls.pitt.edu

page2: Service Request Forms www.hsls.pitt.edu/forms

page 3: HSL Online registration form www.hsls.pitt.edu/forms/hslonline.pdf Online instructions (proxy server) www.hsls.pitt.edu/hslinfo/proxyintro.html MDConsult, Ovid, Electronic Textbooks, Primary Care Online, Stat!Ref, Health Reference Center: Follow links from online.hsls.pitt.edu

page 4: PITT*Cat* naos.cis.pitt.edu Electronic Journals www.hsls.pitt.edu/php/ejournals.php3 PubMed www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/PubMed/

page 5: PubMed LinkOut www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/entrez/query/static/linkoutoverview.html PubMed Citation Matcher www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov:80/entrez/query/static/citmatch.html PubMed Related Articles www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov:80/entrez/query/ statichelpppmhelp.html#RelatedPubMed ArticlesLink MeSH Browser www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov:80/entrez/meshbrowser.cgi Schedule of Classes www.hsls.pitt.edu/classes ScienceDirect www.sciencedirect.com

page 7: *HSL Document Express* www.hsls.pitt.edu/hsldocumentexpress *HSL Document Express* Request Form www.hsls.pitt.edu/hsldocumentexpress/#form Loansome Doc www.nlm.nih.gov/pubs/factsheets/loansome_doc.html