



Duke University
Medical Center Library News

April 2003

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Evaluating Our Gateways to the Literature

Pat Thibodeau, Associate Dean for Library Services

Databases serve as gateways to the current journal literature and are critical for searching, identifying, and locating the most recent discoveries in clinical medicine, research, and health care administration and policy. Like journals, these databases must be reviewed to ensure they are providing high quality and current information and that they are relevant to the changing needs of the Duke community. It is also important to scan the information field to see if new, better-designed, or more important databases and interfaces are available. The Library is now carefully reviewing all of its databases as part of the ongoing process of evaluating our collection and services.


The first round of database reviews involves our professional library staff. Having developed particular expertise over the years, they have been asked to review our current databases and compare them to similar databases from other vendors. Content, currency, ease of use, relevance to the Duke community, and cost are some of the factors being evaluated.

In the case of *content*, databases may vary according to the particular vendor or source. Some have full text or full-text links, while others are simply bibliographic databases. The content may also be easily retrievable through other products that have a broader scope. However, in cases like nursing and allied health literature, there is only one database that provides a special search vocabulary, as well as coverage of the full spectrum of journals in the field. The currency of the content is critical in our fast-paced biomedical environment. In addition to considering what is included in the database, the Library must assess how quickly citations are added to it. This factor is becoming more crucial to both clinical care and research initiatives.

Ease of use and relevancy to Duke are important criteria and will determine how often the database is used. The interface can encourage or discourage use. Special features such as saved searches and autoalerts may save time for end users. Monitoring database use can help determine if certain databases are still relevant, but we must also consider ongoing and new initiatives that need to be supported in the future.

The final issue is *cost*, which must be reviewed in the context of the criteria listed above. However, when costs outweigh some of the product's features, it may be time to consider alternatives. A good example is the Ovid interface. In cases like this, we have to ask ourselves, "Is this a cost-effective way of providing the database content or are there other vendors and interfaces that might be less costly?" While Ovid is a very powerful search engine, it has a high price tag. The question being considered now is whether its cost truly justifies the benefits when other free or less expensive interfaces exist.

As the Library progresses through its review, we will be seeking your input as to the relevancy, features, and functions that make a database important to you and your work at Duke.

 <p>Duke University Medical Center Library http://www.mclibrary.duke.edu/</p> <p>Monday - Thurs. 8:00 am - 11:00 pm Friday 8:00 am - 6:00 pm Saturday 10:00 am - 6:00 pm Sunday 2:00 pm - 10:00 pm Administration 660-1150 Circulation/Reference Services 660-1100 Document Delivery/ILL 660-1135</p>	Evaluating Our Literature Gateways..... 1	PubMed Database Support..... 4
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New Library Service Desk Opens

As reported in previous issues of the *Medical Center Library News*, the Information Services and Circulation Services desks have been merged to provide a single access point, conveniently located adjacent to the front doors on the main level of the Library. The new **Library Service Desk**, under construction since December, is now complete and open for business. In addition to improving the area's appearance, the desk offers better functionality for facilitating brief and in-depth transactions. Renovations on the main level will continue for the next few weeks as carpeting is installed in the Reference area adjacent to the desk.



SciFinder Scholar

Betsy Adams, Information Services

SciFinder Scholar provides easy access to a variety of information offered by the Chemical Abstracts Service (CAS) databases back to 1907. Although assumed by many researchers to be strictly “chemistry” in coverage, the content is far more than that. Physiological chemistry, toxicology, pharmaceutical sciences, pathological biochemistry, immunochemistry, and nutrition are a small sample of the medical topics one can research in SciFinder Scholar. Journal articles and patents can be searched by topic, author, substructure, molecular formula or substance name.




Access to SciFinder Scholar is available to Duke users via the Web, but special software is required to use the database. To download this software, connect to <http://www.lib.duke.edu/chem/sfschlrhowto.htm>. The license agreement restricts use to on-campus only and to three simultaneous users, so please log out when your search is completed.

For more information about the capabilities of SciFinder Scholar, visit <http://www.cas.org/SCIFINDER/SCHOLAR>.

TOUGH Decisions

This column focuses on tough decisions that the Library must make while trying to maintain our budget and cope with increasing costs for print and electronic resources.

American Physiological Society Pricing for 2003

-  *American Journal of Physiology* - \$3,065 print and electronic; \$2,510 electronic only
-  *Journal of Applied Physiology* - \$970 print and electronic; \$795 electronic only
-  *Journal of Neurophysiology* - \$1,055 print and electronic; \$905 electronic only

Decision: The Library will maintain the electronic versions only.

SAHMS Conference Comes to Duke

The fifth annual conference of the **Southern Association for the History of Medicine and Science (SAHMS)** was jointly hosted on February 21-22, 2003 by the Duke University Medical Center and the University of North Carolina (UNC) at Chapel Hill. Twenty-two sessions with three papers each were held in the Duke Medical Center Library and the Searle Center over the two-day period. On Friday the keynote lecture, "The Potential Caution," was given by Michael McVaugh, Ph.D., William Smith Wells Professor of History at UNC, in the Pleasants Family Assembly Room of the Wilson Library on the UNC campus. Afterward, the attendees enjoyed a southern buffet at The Carolina Inn.

SAHMS is a regional association formed to stimulate interest in the history of medicine and science, by fostering collegiality and by providing a forum for the exchange of ideas. The major themes of this year's conference, pre-1800 history of medicine, 19th and 20th century history of medicine and science, and literature and medicine, drew speakers and attendees from across the United States and Canada. Duke was well represented by Drs. Jeffrey Baker, Peter English, Edward Halperin, Margaret Humphreys, and Seymour Mauskopf, as well as emeritus professor Nicholas Gillham and degree candidates, Stephen Inrig and Captain Clay Mountcastle.

The conference will next be held in Augusta, Georgia, on February 27-28, 2004. The Medical College of Georgia and Augusta State University will share responsibilities as hosts.

The Four Seasons of Human Life: Four Anonymous Engravings from the Trent Collection was recently reviewed in the *Journal of the American Medical Association* by John E. Skandelakis, M.D., Emory University School of Medicine. The folio volume, with an accompanying CD-ROM, was edited by HFJ Horstmanshoff and twelve other European scholars, and jointly published in 2002 by Erasmus Publishing and the Trent Collection. The American distributor is Balogh International, Champaign, Illinois.

A Virtual History of the Physician Assistant Program

Charlie Lackey, Cataloging/Bibliographic Services and Stephanie Holmgren, Information Services

In 1965 Duke University Medical Center established the first formal program to educate physician assistants in the United States. Since its inception, the Duke program has inspired the launch of 131 accredited educational programs, with 10,000 physician assistant (PA) students enrolled annually and 43,000 clinically active PAs.

The history of the Duke Physician Assistant program, as well as the development of this vital health profession, have been documented in personal papers, photographs, newsletters, oral history tapes, posters, etc. The Duke University Medical Archives houses over 50 linear feet of these historical materials.

Due to the efforts of Pat Thibodeau and Dr. Reginald Carter, Department of Community and Family Medicine, the Medical Center Library was awarded a Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) grant to build an illustrated PA History Website, with a searchable database of archived materials. One thousand items that best capture the professional development of physician assistants and their contributions to quality health care services will be digitized. This virtual repository will act as a resource for health professionals and an informational tool to raise awareness of the profession among the general public.

Thomas Clark, knowledge management consultant with experience in business and academic environments, is manager of the PA History project. He and student assistants, library staff, and Dr. Carter, are working to complete the first segment of the project by June, 2003.



Thomas Clark

PubMed Database Now Supported

Pat Thibodeau, Associate Dean for Library Services

While we have primarily focused on using MEDLINE through the Ovid database system, the Library will also support the PubMed version of MEDLINE, the premier medical database produced by the National Library of Medicine (NLM). Since PubMed was released as a free version of MEDLINE several years ago, NLM's National Center of Biotechnology Information (NCBI) has continued to develop and expand the interface, and many new features and functions have been added. Following are some of the reasons why supporting PubMed makes a lot of sense.

- Currency – the PubMed database is more current than Ovid MEDLINE
- Content – additional scientific materials are included and it provides links to a number of genomic resources for researchers and clinicians
- Linkout – articles now link to electronic full text journals
- Cubby – searches can be created and saved for future updating
- Search engine – the interface uses a more natural language approach similar to Internet searching, with an intelligent search engine behind the scenes
- MeSH – the *MeSH* browser allows quick identification of subject terms for precise searching
- Citation Matcher – provides a simple way to find complete citations from incomplete information
- Special features – Clinical Queries, easy search limits, and other features exist
- Single interface – many of the NLM databases (i.e., AIDSLine, BioethicsLine, HealthSTAR) have been integrated into MEDLINE through the PubMed platform
- Supporting materials – online help and tutorials assist you in learning more about PubMed
- Performance – the system has excellent response time and is extremely reliable
- Cost – National Library of Medicine provides access free of charge

A “Database Comparison Chart” is included on page 5 of this issue for those interested in how PubMed compares to our traditional Ovid version of MEDLINE. The chart also includes features of the Ovid database, EBM Reviews, and the Institute for Scientific Information's Web of Science database.

Watch for more information over the next several months as the Library develops handouts, guides, and other resources for those using the PubMed system or for those who would like to try it. We will also be creating a special Medical Center Library logo to identify electronic journals that are available to the Duke community through PubMed.

Please give PubMed a try if you have not done so. To access the database, connect to DUMCL Online (<http://www.mclibrary.duke.edu>) and choose “PubMed” from the *Databases* dropdown menu. NLM and NCBI have done an impressive job in building a new and responsive interface to the traditional MEDLINE database.



Database Comparison Chart

	Ovid MEDLINE	PubMed MEDLINE	EBM Reviews (Ovid)	Web of Science
Content	1966+ Biomedical journal articles	1966+ includes pre-indexed citations: biomedical journal articles	ACP Journal Club, Cochrane Systematic Reviews	1978+ journal articles; multidisciplinary
Updated	Weekly	Daily	Bi-monthly/Quarterly	Weekly
How it Searches	Helps create a precise search strategy. -presents user with list of possible subject headings and subheadings -displays narrower headings and gives user option to "explode" -displays all search sets so they can be easily combined -presents common limit options (English, human) on main search page	Automatically formulates a broad search strategy from the words user types: -finds articles that match subject heading as chosen by PubMed or articles with words in title or abstracts -automatically "explodes" to include all narrower terms -"MeSH Browser" with options to guide user through narrower headings and subheadings	Search by keywords: - need to consider synonyms -need to use truncation for plural and variable forms of words	Search by keywords in title or abstract: -need to consider synonyms -need to use truncation for plural and variable forms of words -search by cited reference with author and year of publication
Combining Sets	Combine sets with "and" "or" and "not"	Search sets can be found under HISTORY. Sets must be combined with set numbers preceded by the # sign. "AND", "OR", and "NOT" must be CAPITALIZED.	Combine sets with "and" "or" and "not"	Combine sets with "and" "or" and "not"
Limits	Common limits are at bottom of main search page. Other limits available by clicking on "Limits" icon.	All limits are accessed from LIMITS link. These remain turned on for all subsequent searches until turned off.	Common limits are at bottom of main search page. Other limits available by clicking on "Limits" icon.	Basic search limits on main search page.
Search for Related Articles	Not available	Click Related Articles link; algorithm compares words in titles, abstracts, and MeSH headings	Not available	Displays articles whose cited reference lists include at least one of the sources cited by the original article.
Citation Matcher	Not available as separate function but incomplete citations can be verified with appropriate information	Fill in any of the boxes to find incomplete citations	Not available as separate function but incomplete citations can be verified with appropriate information	Not available as separate function but incomplete citations can be verified with appropriate information
Emailing Citations	Available from Citation Manager menu	Cut and paste into email message or save as text file and send as attachment	Available from Citation Manager menu	Available from Marked Records List
Links to Full Text and Library Holdings	Yes – links from citations to full text or Library Holdings	Yes – links from abstracts to full text, but not all full text linked; must also check E-Journals page	Yes – links from citations to full text or Library Holdings	Yes – links from abstracts to full text, but not all full text linked; must also check E-Journals page
EBM	Links to ACP Journal Club (Article Review) and Cochrane Systematic Review (Topic Review)	Clinical queries use EBM filters for therapy, etiology, diagnosis, prognosis and systematic review		Not available
When to Use	Comprehensive search	Comprehensive search	Quick: EBM reference	Track cited references

Adapted from Carpenter Library News, Fall 2002, Wake Forest University/Baptist Medical Center. 4/3/2003

Staff News

Connie Schardt, Acting Associate Director, Public Services, co-presented a workshop with Grace Thrall, M.D., Duke Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, at the Annual Meeting of the American Association of Directors of Psychiatry Residency Programs. The workshop topic was “Creating an Evidence-based Case Conference.”



We Need Your Help!

As part of the strategic planning initiatives for the Medical Center Library, a Website usability study of DUMCL Online (<http://www.mclibrary.duke.edu/>) will be conducted in the coming months. When you see the call for volunteers, please consider answering it. We need your help to continuously improve our site and your access to our resources and services.

Recent Additions to DUMCL Online

<http://www.mclibrary.duke.edu/>

E-Resources By Subject

NEW

<http://www.mclibrary.duke.edu/cgi-bin/texis/resources/eresources>

Our electronic journals and books can now be displayed by subjects ranging from Allied Health to Veterinary Medicine. This new “Electronic Resources By Subject” page can be accessed from the main Web page under the Collections or Subject Guides menus. There are also links “By Subject” from the E-Journals and E-Books pages.

NC Health Info

NEW

<http://www.nchealthinfo.org/>

NC Health Info is a collection of Websites of health care providers, services, and programs in NC with direct links to authoritative health information from the National Library of Medicine’s MEDLINEplus consumer health Website. The site is also accessible from DUMCL Online via the Subject Guides, Consumer/Patient Health and Lists of Medical Lists.

Spotlight on ... Library Staff

One of the greatest resources in our Library is the staff. While many of you use the Library’s resources and services, not everyone is aware of all the staff members who work on your behalf ensuring that information is current and easily available. In future issues of our newsletter, this new column will introduce you to these staff members and describe how they serve you through their various tasks and responsibilities.

Our vision of the “best way to the best information” requires a lot of behind-the-scenes work that is rarely visible to or acknowledged by anyone outside the Library. Many of you have met our Reference, Circulation, and Education Services staff. But most have not had an opportunity to talk to the staff who maintain our electronic resources links, negotiate new electronic journal licenses, ensure that you can find new books in the catalog, add new materials to our Web pages, or keep our public workstations functioning. A tremendous amount of skill and expertise can be found in the staff who provide seemingly easy access to thousands of resources and keep our library running smoothly every day.



Duke University Medical Center Library Staff



Library Educational Offerings

*The Medical Library Education Center (MLEC) is located
in Room 104 on the Lower Level of the Library.*



Individual and Group Sessions

*Please contact the topic instructor
to arrange for a session*

MEDLINE

Using the Ovid Web Gateway

Call Library Service Desk

919-660-1100

PubMed

Anne Powers, 919-660-1128

Basics of Library Use

Betsy Adams, 919-660-1131

Grant Information on the Web

~ COS and Other Resources ~

Anne Powers, 919-660-1128

Introduction to EndNote

Ginger Carden, 919-660-1184

Introduction to Reference Manager

Ginger Carden, 919-660-1184

Introduction to Sources for Health Statistics

Hattie Vines, 919-660-1125

Searching the Internet

Connie Schardt, 919-660-1124

Self-Instruction

Ovid Web Tutorial

*Interactive, 40-minute tutorial designed to show
you step-by-step the basic components of a
MEDLINE search using the Ovid Web Gateway*

<http://www.mclibrary.duke.edu/respub/guides/ovidtut/>

EndNote Tutorial

*Tutorial designed to assist users who have completed
a search in the Ovid Web version of MEDLINE and
would like to import citations into EndNote*

<http://www.mclibrary.duke.edu/respub/guides/endnote/>

EBM Tutorial

*Tutorial which identifies the steps in the EBM
process and key issues related to critical appraisal*

<http://www.hsl.unc.edu/lm/EBM/index.htm>

Internet Tutorial

*Web-based tutorial designed to introduce you to the
Internet and searching for information on the Web*

<http://www.mclibrary.duke.edu/respub/guides/intertut/>

Electronic Resources Tutorial

*Tutorial designed to familiarize users with some
of the electronic resources offered through
DUMCL Online, the Library's Website.*

<http://www.mclibrary.duke.edu/respub/guides/elecres/>

Virtual Tour of the Library

*Online tour which provides information about the
Medical Center Library, its collections and
services, and where to find them within the building*

<http://www.mclibrary.duke.edu/about/vt/>

**For more information about these offerings, connect to the Library's Website at
<http://www.mclibrary.duke.edu/services/schedule.html>.**

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