



Update

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MEDICAL INFORMATION: INCREASING ACCESS FOR PATIENTS AND CONSUMERS

by Alberta L. Richetelle, MSLS, MPH - Program Director, HEALTHNET

A young man approaches the reference desk at the Wethersfield Public Library and hesitantly asks the librarian for assistance in finding information about carpal tunnel syndrome. The librarian asks him to describe specifically what he wants to know so that she can help him find relevant information on his question. The young man relates that he has just been diagnosed with carpal tunnel syndrome and is interested in learning more about it. He wants to know what causes this condition, how it is usually treated, whether surgery is always necessary and whether it's effective, and how long the recovery period is after surgery. He states that he wants to become more knowledgeable about treatment options before going ahead with the surgery his doctor has recommended.

This scene is typical of many occurring on a daily basis in public libraries throughout the state of Connecticut. Although health has always been an important interest of the public, interest in matters related to health has increased dramatically in the last several years. Managed care, the aging of the large generation known as baby boomers and proliferation of electronic resources found via the Internet have all been factors influencing the public's demand for accurate, up-to-date health and medical information. A daily flood of news about new treatment breakthroughs, new health risks, advice on nutrition, exercise, and other lifestyle topics has whet the public's appetite for even more information to help promote better personal health and increase their quality of life. Individuals are now taking more responsibility for seeking reliable information that can affect their

health, and that of their loved ones, and the quality of medical care they may receive.

Libraries have had a long tradition of providing professional assistance and high quality information to individuals seeking answers to their personal medical questions. Since 1985, librarians from UCHC have been helping public libraries in Connecticut provide consumer health information services for their library patrons.

HEALTHNET: Connecticut Consumer Health Information Network was established in 1985 to provide services to public libraries which would foster the provision of accurate, authoritative and up-to-date health information to the citizens of Connecticut. Many hospital and health science libraries throughout the United States have used the Healthnet model to develop similar programs in their local communities and regions.

Recently, I was asked to give a presentation on Healthnet's program and services to a group of senior managers at the National Library of Medicine (NLM), located in Bethesda, Maryland. Roxanne Cox, a health science librarian from McGoogan Medical Library at the University of Nebraska, was also invited to talk about their consumer health program. Both libraries have been providing consumer health services to public libraries for fourteen years - the two longest-operating statewide consumer health information programs in the United States!

At this meeting, staff from NLM were specifically interested in learning from our experience about the reasons why people seek health information, the types of questions most often asked, and what resources are used to answer these questions. They also wanted to learn about special challenges our libraries confronted in developing these programs, what issues we currently face in providing consumer health information services, and any information needs of consumers which are not being met currently.

Traditionally, the NLM has focused its programs and services on the information needs of physicians, researchers and other health professionals. In the past two years, however, the NLM has been actively expanding its role to include the provision of medical information to the public. In June 1997, MEDLINE, the premier index of worldwide medical and scientific journal articles, became available free of charge on the World Wide Web at the following URL:

<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/databases/freemedl.html>

More importantly, since NLM recently started to index prestigious consumer health newsletters, such as the Harvard Health Letter, the Mayo Clinic Health Letter, and the Johns Hopkins Medical Letter, MEDLINE has become an even more valuable source of information for the consumer. NLM's director, Donald Lindberg, recently noted in a news release that the number of MEDLINE searches increased from 7 million a year to 120 million annually. He pointed out that about one-third of these searches are being done by consumers seeking information for themselves or family members.

In July 1998, NLM launched a multi-state pilot project to increase public awareness of, and access to, health information from MEDLINE and other Internet-based resources. Thirty-nine public libraries in nine states (Alabama, Georgia, Maryland, New York, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas and Virginia) and the District of Columbia were selected to test the feasibility of mounting similar programs in public libraries nationwide. In October 1998, the NLM launched **MEDLINEplus**, its new consumer health web site, which can be searched at the following URL: <http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus>

Targeted toward the layperson, MEDLINEplus provides access to the MEDLINE database as well as links to National Institutes of Health consumer health information resources, other federal government sources, national self-help groups, clearinghouses, and health-related organizations. [See article on page 3 for more information on MEDLINEplus.]

The Internet has been a powerful tool in helping consumers and patients become well informed about important issues they face regarding their personal health and medical care. The initiatives of the National Library of Medicine have been much-needed additions to the growing number of Internet resources for consumers. These resources, coupled with the many new consumer health programs being offered by libraries on a local, state, and regional level, will make it easier for consumers to access high quality, authoritative, and current medical information. Comments or suggestions regarding consumer health should be directed to Alberta Richetelle at 860/679-4055 or by email to RICHELLE@NSO.UCHC.EDU.



CONSUMER AND PATIENT EDUCATION SITE -- NOW ON THE UCHC WEB PAGE

by Judith Kronick, MLS - HEALTHNET Librarian

"Navigating the Health Care System; a Resource Guide for Consumers" is now available at the Healthnet home page on the UCHC Library website, at: <http://www3.uchc.edu/~uchclib/departm/hnet/>. This site is intended to assist individuals gathering information on health care services and insurance. Its focus is on Connecticut resources when they are available. National resources are included as well. The Resource Guide includes information on books and brochures that may be requested or downloaded from the Internet and direct Internet links to government and organization websites. Many of the books listed are part of the Health Center Library's collection. Others may be borrowed from area public libraries. Among the topics included are Evaluating Hospitals, Communicating with Your Doctor, Comparing Managed Care Plans, Understanding the Medicare System, Obtaining Health Insurance, and Long Term Care Options.

OBITUARY FOR MRS. STOWE

by Ralph Arcari, MLS, Ph.D. - Library Director

A memorial service for Mrs. Lois Stowe, widow of Lyman Maynard Stowe, M.D., for whom the library is named, was held on January 9, 1999 at the Unitarian Meeting House, on Bloomfield Avenue in Hartford. Mrs. Stowe, who lived in Farmington, passed away in December, 1998. She had been a nurse associated with the Visiting Nurse Association. In her will, she left a bequest to provide for a portrait of her husband to be placed in the UCHC Library.

Y2K-READY MICROMEDEX !

Drug information from **MICROMEDEX** is available for all UCHC staff. You can access MICROMEDEX from the UCHC Web page, at: <http://micromedex.uchc.edu/mdxdocs/mdxhome.html>. In January 2000, there will be NO more DOS access to this database! Please call Sheryl Bai, Network Systems Librarian, at 860/ 679-8371 if you need further information about this important database.

INTRODUCING... MEDLINE*Plus*

By Marion Holena Levine, MA, MLS – Associate Library Director

The National Library of Medicine has recently launched a website designed to direct the general public to carefully selected patient education resources that will allow them to research specific health questions over the Internet. Called **MEDLINE*plus***, it can be found from the NLM Web site, at:

<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/>

On this one website, you will find links to information on common diseases and conditions; a medical dictionary to assist with the definitions of medical terms; health organizations and clearinghouses which will send out even more information on a topic; health libraries who will serve the consumer seeking information; directories for finding doctors and hospitals in the U.S.; full-text health publications, e.g. the A.M.A.'s **Atlas of the Human Body** and the **Iowa Health Book**; and databases, including the premier medical database, MEDLINE, to search for journal articles on any health-related topic. Should you need information for a particular patient, this site can link you to easily readable, authoritative information which can be printed out for them to take home. One of the databases linked to this page is **NOAH: New York Online Access to Health** where you can find health information in both English and Spanish. For further information on MEDLINEPLUS, contact Information Services at 860/ 679-2942.



WEB WATCHER : SEARCHING THE WEB GOT YOU DOWN?

by Kathleen Crea, MLS, 6th Year, AHIP - Information Services Librarian

Junk searches on the Web wasting your time? Do you need to find some **better Web search tools** for locating timely, high-quality medical information from a clinician's point of view ? The URL listed below was written for a class on **medical search engines** that I taught for Connecticut health science librarians earlier this year. Standard selection criteria considered in selecting this list included issues of quality such as: scope and content of the site, target audience, reliability, authentication of sources or authors cited, fairness or lack of bias in presenting information, timeliness, comprehensive presentation, frequent updates, good overall site design and ease-of-use.

If you've been frustrated by the quality (or sheer number!) of search retrievals using standard Web search engines such as HotBot, Infoseek or AltaVista, give these sites a try next time you're looking for health science information. They have been tested by librarians and proven reliable. To "test-drive" any of these **featured medical search engines**, turn your browser to the following site on our Library Home Page: <http://www3.uchc.edu/~uchclib/eduoff/medsites.html>. **Happy hunting!**

NEW SOFTWARE IN THE COMPUTER EDUCATION CENTER

Fundamentals of human embryology.

St. Louis, MO: R. Peterson Publications, 1997.

QS 604 F979 1997 CAI

Demonstrates through animation changes which transform a fertilized ovum into a human embryo.

Muscle alive: an interactive study of muscle physiology.

Toledo, OH: Medical College of Ohio, 1996.

WE 500 M985 1996 CAI

An interactive program which demonstrates how skeletal, smooth, and cardiac muscles contract and relax using views of muscle components that range from the microscopic to the molecular level.

Sobotta atlas of human anatomy.

Baltimore: Williams & Wilkins, 1998.

QS 17 S677a 1998 CAI

Diabetes and weight management.

Chapel Hill, NC: University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, 1998. **WK 835 D536w 1998**

CAI

Discusses the mechanisms involved in the how diabetes mellitus develops, resulting aberrations in glucose metabolism, steps involved in assimilation of dietary carbohydrates for use as fuel, and describes specifics of how obesity causes pathology of glucose and lipid metabolism.

Cross-sectional anatomy tutorial.

Rochester, MN: Mayo Foundation for Medical Education & Research: R.R. Peterson, 1997.

QS 18 C951 1997 CAI

An interactive anatomy program for the study of the human body in cross sections. All 25 cross sections display their information in an atlas format and in a quiz format.

UPDATE ON E-TEXTS AND E-JOURNALS IN THE LIBRARY

by Arta Dobbs, MSLS - Collection Management Librarian

Many new monographs, textbooks and journal issues available at UCHC Library are now accompanied by supplementary material in microfiche, diskette, and CD-ROM format. Beginning in March 1999, the library is providing equipment and a special area of the library in which to use these special materials. Located on the main floor, next to the daily journal receipts table and the new book shelves, you will find a fast new Gateway PC, laser printer and a microfiche reader/printer. The microfiche reader/printer can be used for the supplementary materials arriving with the Journal of the American Chemical Society and the Journal of Organic Chemistry, as well as Journal Citation Reports from ISI which can only be purchased in microfiche format. The Gateway PC and laser printer can be used for textbooks and journal issues that have accompanying diskettes and CD-ROMs. Currently the CD-ROMs are shelved behind the Circulation Desk; you must check them out in order to use them on the new PC/printer. The 3-1/2" diskettes and/or microfiche are shelved with the texts or journals in their respective stack areas. Next time you are in the library, **take a look at -- or try out -- these new pieces of equipment.**

Meanwhile, the **dynamic electronic journals** just keep getting better and better! Start at the Library web page for access to some special e-journal articles by clicking on: <http://www3.uchc.edu/~uchclib/> then select "Electronic Journals and Texts" from the left-hand column. Two e-journals have added videos in recent articles. One example is in Molecular Biology of the Cell : v.10, no.1 (1999:Jan) on pp.1-4, pp. 5-8 and pp. 197-210. Another example is from Journal of Cell Science : v.112, no.6 (1999:Feb 25) pp.877-886. Note that all of these videos require you to load Quicktime as a plug-in to your favorite web browser before viewing. For questions about these e-journals, contact Arta Dobbs at 860/ 679-2432 or email to DOBBS@NSO.UCHC.EDU.

Check out the **newest additions** to our e-journals list by visiting the Library's Electronic Journals and Texts Collection, at this URL: <http://www3.uchc.edu/~uchclib/departm/techserv/joulink.html>

NEW BOOKS IN THE UCHC COLLECTION

by Helen Madden, MLS, Catalog Librarian

THE GOSPEL OF GERMS: Men, Women, and the Microbe in American Life.

Author: Nancy Tomes. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1998. **WA 11 AA1 T656 1998**

A social and medical history of the war on germs in America, beginning with the findings of late-nineteenth-century bacteriology, then spreading from the laboratory to the lavatory and kitchen, with public health reformers spreading the word and women taking up the battle on the domestic front. The work is a look into our obsession with germs, and the impact of that on our culture and society.

DRUGS, THERAPY, AND PROFESSIONAL POWER: Problems and Pills.

Author: Ernest Keen. Westport, CT: Praeger, 1998. **WM 402 K26d 1998**

The author's thesis is that current practices of prescribing psychotropic drugs are both inconsistent and irrational and overprescription is epidemic, driven by popular demand and professional convenience. He suggests other ways for treating the mentally ill to balance pharmacotherapy with psychotherapy.

BEYOND CONSENT: Seeking Justice in Research. Editors: J. Kahn, A. Mastroianni, J. Sugarman. New York: Oxford University Press, 1998. **W 20.55 .H9 B573 1998.**

Examines the ethics of human experimentation in an era where patients are clamoring for access to clinical trials and where federal policies, which once emphasized protecting people from dangerous research, now promote greater access to it. The work focuses on specific research populations such as emergency room patients, cancer and AIDS patients, children, women, prisoners, and racial minorities.

RUNNING ON RITALIN: A Physician Reflects on Children, Society, and Performance in a Pill. Author: Lawrence Diller. New York: Bantam Books, 1998. **WS 350.5 A8 D578r 1998.**

A physician speaks out on the epidemic level of diagnoses of attention deficit hyperactivity disorder and the overuse of Ritalin to treat it. He offers treatment options which address not just the symptoms but the individuals in their social context, and discusses related issues such as "nature vs. nurture", free will vs. societal responsibility, whether ADHS is a disability or not, whether a pill can create motivation, and if there is a place for 'childhood' in contemporary, performance-driven America.

TELEMEDICINE: Practicing in the Information Age. Editors: Steven Viegas, Kim Dunn. Philadelphia: Lippincott-Raven, 1998. **W 83.1 T268 1998**

This is a guide for physicians and healthcare organizations on effective use of telemedicine in clinical practice and for professional education. Individual chapters cover most areas of medical specialty, as well as telemedicine with prison populations.

PRESENCE IN THE FLESH: The Body in Medicine. Author: Katharine Young. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1997. **GN 298 Y73p 1997**

The book provides insights into the constant negotiation of interaction that occurs during a routine exam, surgery, or even an autopsy, where distinctions between public and private, inside and outside, assume new meanings and boundaries.

THE HAND: How its Use Shapes the Brain, Language, and Human Culture.

Author: Frank Wilson. New York : Pantheon Books, 1998. **WE 830 F748h 1988**

This book looks at the way our hands have shaped human development with neurology, anatomy, and evolutionary theory; with experiences and insights from such unlikely companions as musicians and mathematicians, surgeons and car mechanics, jugglers and anthropologists. It shows how using our hands influences learning and how we, in turn, use our hands to leave our personal stamp on the world.



The History of Medicine goes MODERN

by Jill Livingston, MLS - Information Services Librarian and Webmaster

With the creation of websites for the **Robert U. Massey History of Medicine Society** and **The Hartford Medical Society**, the Lyman Maynard Stowe Library has put a modern spin on some very old material. The Hartford Medical Society Web page contains information about the Hartford Medical and Dental Societies. It highlights some of the unique holdings in their library, museum and galleries, including their collection of materials relating to Horace Wells, the history of anesthesia, and the history of medicine in Connecticut. The online images of medical equipment dating back to the 17th and 18th centuries are sure to delight all! Check it out, at: <http://www3.uchc.edu/~uchclib/hms/>

The Robert U. Massey History of Medicine Society page, at <http://www3.uchc.edu/uchclib/history/> contains information about the Society's affiliation, how to become a member, and best of all, its schedule of free presentations. The presentation series for 1999 contained such fascinating topics as "The White Plague Goes to College", "Yellow Jack in the Civil War", and "1966: The Birth of Modern Emergency Medicine".



NEW FACULTY PUBLICATIONS DATABASE HIGHLIGHTS UCHC'S "VERY OWN"

By Sheryl Bai, MLS, Network Systems Librarian and Pamela Kelly, MS, Library Intern

Every year, Information Services librarians search multiple electronic information sources in order to develop a current list of publications by full-time UCHC medical and dental faculty for the Office of Assistant Vice-Chancellor for Research. This spring, the faculty publication list became an interactive database on the Web! Check out this new resource, "Faculty Publications", at: <http://libdatabase.uchc.edu/publication/> or by linking directly from our Library Web Page. Developed by Sheryl Bai, Network Systems Librarian, with the assistance of Pamela Kelly, a student intern from the MLS degree program at Southern Connecticut State University, the creation of the Faculty Publications database was supported by many UCHC offices including Network Systems Services, Office of Assistant Vice-Chancellor for Research, and the Dean's Offices of both the Medical and Dental Schools. Input was also received from the Library Director and head of Information Services.

Currently the database includes only **1996** and **1997 publications**, but in the near future, citations from previous and subsequent years will be added. The information can be searched by author name, title of article, the title of journal, year of publication or by department. Results can be sorted by author's first name, last name, article title, journal title or year. When search results are obtained, a click on the author's name will lead to an additional feature of this database, a link to a brief author "Curriculum Vitae". Included on this CV page are the author's name, educational degree, current title, department, location, mail code, telephone extension, fax number, e-mail address, and a link to the author's personal Web page (if one exists). In addition, this page will list that particular author's publications exclusively. Maintenance of the database will be managed through two Web links, one designed to allow faculty to submit their own 1996 and 1997 publication information for inclusion in the database, and the other link which will allow faculty to forward corrections for processing by e-mail.

The database was created using Microsoft Access and SQL. Plans are already underway to increase the search power through the use of VBScript and ASP. Anticipated benefits of using this new database include improved communication of faculty research results among the UCHC faculty and students, increased ease of access to faculty research by library users or the public, and promotion of UCHC research throughout the larger medical research community. Comments or questions regarding the faculty publications site should be directed to Sheryl Bai at 860/ 679-8371 or via e-mail to BAI@NSO.UCHC.EDU.

CJK VIEWER... A New Bilingual Tool for the Library

by Hongjie Wang, MLS, MA - Head, Information Services

Exciting things are happening at the Library! A dedicated multilingual computer has been set up in the Reference area for public use - thanks to the recent purchase of multilingual computer software. This new application, **CJK Viewer**, is designed to enable any Windows program to display and print Chinese, Japanese, and Korean characters under the standard English and Western Windows environment. A great tool for browsing Chinese, Japanese and Korean Web pages, CJK Viewer is automatically launched from Netscape when the CJK Web pages come up. Come to the Library and check it out! The Library plans to buy more multilingual computer applications of this kind in the future. Questions and suggestions should be directed to Hongjie Wang at 860/ 679-4053 or send an e-mail message to WANG@NSO.UCHC.EDU.



COMING SOON -- A NEW ONLINE CATALOG

by Lorna Wright, MLS - Head, Technical Services

Coming this summer-- **Web access to the UCHC library catalog!** Over the next four months, the library staff will install a new automated system which will provide Web access to our catalog of books, journals, software and Internet resources.

The vendor of this system, **Endeavor**, is also installing circulation systems at the National Library of Medicine, the Library of Congress and the UConn campuses. If you would like to try out the interface, type in any of the following URLs (or if you're reading the newsletter on the library web site, just click on the link).

- University of Pennsylvania - <http://www.franklin.library.upenn.edu>
- Tulane University - <http://voyager.tcs.tulane.edu>
- The Medical College of Georgia provides a catalog which is similar in size to ours at the Health Center, at: <http://gil.mcg.edu/>

SELECTED ONLINE RESOURCES AVAILABLE FROM OUR LIBRARY HOME PAGE

by Hongjie Wang, MLS, MA - Head, Information Services

Below is an updated list of electronic databases available to all members of the UCHC academic community.

Evidence-Based Medicine Reviews	1991-present
CINAHL (Cumulative Index to Nursing & Allied Health Literature)	1982-present
Current Contents-Clinical Medicine	1-yr rolling file
Current Contents-Life Sciences	1-yr rolling file
HAPI (Health & Psychosocial Instruments)	1985-present
MEDLINE	1966-present
Micromedex	1974-present
PsycINFO	1984-present
Science Citation Index	1996-present

For more information on any of these resources, call Hongjie Wang at 860/ 679-4053 or send an e-mail to: WANG@NSO.UCHC.EDU.



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