



University of Connecticut Health Center Library

u p d a t e

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The National Network of Libraries of Medicine, New England Region (NN/LM NE Region) is a federally contracted program located at the University of Connecticut Health Center. Staff administer National Library of Medicine (NLM) programs and services in the six New England states. The University of Connecticut Health Center Library is one of only 8 NN/LM libraries in the United States. Through a competitive process NN/LM's are awarded five year contracts to serve as such by the National Library of Medicine in Maryland. Any medical library interested in pursuing this goal, must write a proposal responding to a federal Request for Proposal, stating their objectives, methods, and expectations for fulfilling the obligations and commitments of a NN/LM library. The Lyman Maynard Stowe Library sought this contract in 1991, and was awarded the 3.5 million dollar contract in a New England region competition. Between 1981-1991, there had been no NN/LM in New England. Currently, the contract is up for renewal and the professional library staff are working even harder to be awarded the title of NN/LM-New England Region for an additional five years.

It is the responsibility of NN/LM staff is to ensure that all healthcare providers in their region have access to medical information and library services. Staff also provides outreach, educational, and technological services to healthcare providers throughout their region. These include outreach to underserved healthcare providers, demonstrations and training on Grateful Med, exhibits at their professional meetings, and technology awareness programs. Services provided to Network members include training and support of DOCLINE, NLM's electronic interlibrary loan system, a bi-monthly newsletter containing information on the latest developments at both NLM and the NN/LM, grant information assistance, workshops and training classes, and some Internet access.

NN/LM-New England Region staff have achieved milestones such as providing 20 hospital libraries in the Boston area with dial-up access to the Internet, and creating nationally distributed videos on how to use Docline, Grateful Med, and Loansome Doc. There has also been an initiative to improve New England osteopaths access to medical information. The NN/LM staff are active, dedicated professionals who travel throughout New England meeting with healthcare providers to determine what they need and the best ways to provide service. NN/LM staff co-sponsor forums, meetings, and fairs that bring the latest breakthroughs and technologies to New England. Some projects in the future include increasing Internet access and awareness for healthcare providers, improving access to consumer information, and developing a listserv for NN/LM network members in this region.

The NN/LM-New England Region program provides a unique opportunity to promote and showcase the Health Center across the country. The Health Center's Library is recognized as an institution with outstanding resources, professional staff, vision, and expertise. It deserves all our support and appreciation.



## Look What's New in the Library

### SELECTED BOOKS:

by Lorna Wright

**The bell curve : intelligence and class structure in American life** / Richard J. Herrnstein.

New York : Free Press, c1994.

Book Stacks **BF 431 H398 1994**

**The Coming plague : newly emerging diseases in a world out of balance** / Garrett, Laurie.

New York : Farrar, Straus and Giroux, c1994.

Book Stacks **WA 110 G239c 1994**

**Not All of Us Are Saints**/ David Hilfiker.

New York : Hill and Wang, c1994.

Book Stacks **WZ 100 H644n 1994**

**A surgeon's Civil War : the letters and diary of Daniel M. Holt, M.D.**/ Daniel M. Holt, ca. 1819-1868.

Kent, Ohio : Kent State University Press, c1994.

Book Stacks **WZ 100 H758s 1994**

**Medicine's dilemmas : infinite needs versus finite resources** / William L. Kissick.

New Haven : Yale University Press, c1994.

Book Stacks **W 84 AA1 K61m 1994**

**Children of choice : freedom and the new reproductive technologies** / John A. Robertson.

Princeton : Princeton University Press, c1994.

Book Stacks **WQ 205 R651c 1994**

**Evolution of infectious disease** / Paul W. Ewald.

Oxford <England> ; New York : Oxford University Press, 1994.

Book Stacks **WC 100 E94e 1994**

### SELECTED SOFTWARE:

by Lynn White

**Human Anatomy** is an interactive program comprised of 9,000 images of the human body in various stages of dissection. It allows students the ability to review the dissection process before or after their dissection lab.

**Embryonic Heart Development** provides the students with images and animation of the heart development. The program can either be self paced or narrated.

**The Complete Visible Human Male** images from the National Library of Medicine's and the University of Colorado's Visible Human Project are available on videodisc. It contains all of the anatomical and radiological images of the male specimen dataset, plus reconstructed images of coronal and sagittal cross sections derived from datasets. Software has not yet been developed to make use of the images, but they may be viewed as individual images using a barcode reader.

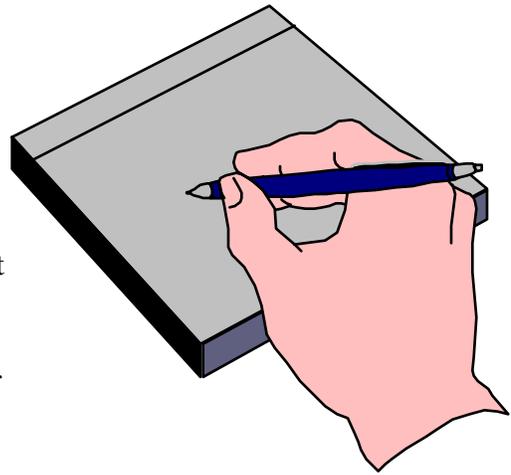
We have also updated all our Keyboard Publishing programs including histology, pathology, microbiology, and hematology. These programs consisting of textstacks, quizbanks, and videodisc indexes have proven to be invaluable for study purposes.

The staff of the CEC is available for assistance, and all programs may be viewed by valid UCHC library card holders in the CEC.

## MAKE A NOTE!

If you search the LYMAN online catalog and find that the book you want is already checked out, just get out your library barcode, call the Circulation Desk at x2839, and ask them to put a hold on the title for you. If you would like to recommend purchase of a title for the library collections, you may email the title to me at [wright@nso.uchc.edu](mailto:wright@nso.uchc.edu).

Lorna Wright, Technical Services

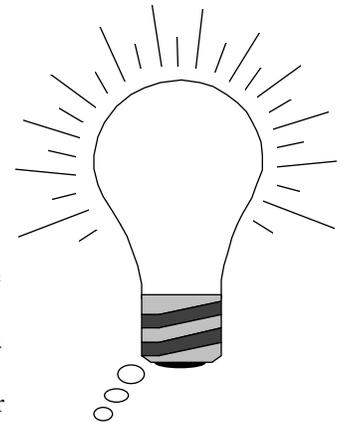


The Information Services Department of the UCHC Library is pleased to announce the availability of CD Plus MEDLINE on the UCHC network. As of February 10, 1995 the entire MEDLINE file (1966 to the present) has been available for searching at any desktop workstation connected to the UCHC network. Please send an e-mail message to [connor@nso.uchc.edu](mailto:connor@nso.uchc.edu) for additional information, or stop by the Reference Desk in the library between 9 am-4pm Monday through Friday. Licensing agreements prevent us from offering passwords to persons who are not affiliated with UCHC.

## Books and Bytes: Libraries in Transition

Ralph D. Arcari, Ph.D.  
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One of my former students noted recently how much the library has changed since she began medical school four years ago. Computer equipment and resources have become increasingly prominent in the library. The online catalog and the electronic reference area have been in place for almost eight years. Although a New Yorker piece last year bemoaned the demise of the card catalog, few UCHC library patrons have brought similar complaints to my attention.



Libraries served for centuries as archives and inventoried collections of recorded knowledge with minimal change. In the past decade, however, libraries have gone from traditional print collections with perhaps a modest commitment to audiovisual programs, to organizations for coordinating and centralizing computer-based resources including access to local, regional, national and international data networks, microcomputer software collections, local area networks with compact disc data sets and, most importantly, staff-prepared training and instructional courses.

The Computer Education Center, established in 1988, has been joined this year by an End User Support Center operated in the library through the UCHC Network Systems Office. The next development will be the installation of multimedia authoring equipment in the CEC, for the preparation of self-instructional interactive computer-based programs. As of February, MEDLINE can now be searched on the public computer workstations in the library, as well as on any computer linked to the UCHC network. The most singular development in information technology has been the advent of the Internet. Library workstations through which LYMAN, the online catalog, can be used, are also configured to access the Internet.

continued on next page

(Books and Bytes continued)

During this time of change, however, maintenance of traditional printed book and journal collections are still significant responsibilities for the library. Print publication continues to be the dominant form of information communication. After reviewing the advantages and disadvantages of print pages versus digital screens, Edward Valauskas concludes "Reading from a computer screen will not be the same experience as reading from paper for the foreseeable future. We should not fall into the seductive trap of thinking that all books will become electronic and that paper is dead. It has been a slow and painful death for the myth of the paperless office. It contains a lesson for all of us who imagine the virtual library is right around the corner".(1)

Nevertheless, certain trends appear to be emerging. Publishers Weekly reported in its issue of 20 March 1995 that while book title production continues to increase, the average price for hard cover books published in 1993 decreased significantly. These decreases were particularly notable in science, medicine and technology. The average hardcover book cost \$45.05 in 1992; in 1993, this price was \$34.98. Price decreases were associated with fewer titles published in these subject areas.

Revenue for business and professional magazine publication was \$1.85 billion in 1992, down from \$1.91 billion in 1990. Revenue from interactive digital media, however, was up from \$2.4 billion in 1990 to \$3.4 billion in 1992.(2) Interactive digital media, of course, includes computer games. Use of technology for entertainment is regarded as an indicator of a technology's cultural acceptance.

Valauskas' forecast is in high contrast with that of Nina Matheson, a respected authority on the role of computer technology in the academic health sciences library. Ms. Matheson predicts that the lifespan for the book will be about a decade. "Eighteen months ago, the book might have been the cheapest, most convenient, and most efficient technology for delivering information. But with the widespread distribution of Mosaic software, the establishment of the World Wide Web, and the expansion of the Internet, the equation has changed irrevocably. . . More has happened to advance the use of information technology in the academic workplace over the last ten months than in the past ten years. . . Using Mosaic software, H.G. Wells' idea of the World Brain is realistic and achievable over the next decade." (3)

When informed commentators on the role and future of the printed word differ so sharply, the challenge for today's health sciences librarian is to balance contemporary requirements for both print and electronic information. This feat is to be accomplished in an economic environment, emphasizing institutional downsizing through managed care and more limited research funding from the National Institutes of Health. At the same time, rapidly changing information technology increases user expectations for library services, e.g, student Internet access codes and color photocopiers.

In his Idea of a University, John Henry Newman wrote, "How much more profitable for the independent mind, after the mere rudiments of education, to range through a library at random, taking down books as they meet him, and pursuing the trains of thought which his mother wit suggests!" (4) The idea of a library may be in a state of transition; however, the intellectual curiosity which Newman credits as the foundation for self-education will continue to be the basis for librarians to assemble knowledge-based resources, now in a variety of formats. Increasingly librarians are distributing these resources to sites convenient for the learner and information user through networks of computer networks. Librarians then serve as guides so that information technology will facilitate the serendipitous random access to information which Newman encouraged as fundamental to learning.

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- (1) Edward J. Valauskas "Reading and Computers", Computers in Libraries, January 1994, vol. 14, p.46.
- (2) Statistical Abstract of the United States. 1994. Washington, D.C., Government Printing Office, 1994. p. 568.
- (3) Nina W. Matheson "The Idea of the library in the twenty-first century", Bulletin of the Medical Library Association, January 1995, vol. 83, p. 5.
- (4) John Henry Newman. The Idea of a University (1852) New York, Longmans, Green, 1947, p. 132.

## THE FUTURE AS I DON'T KNOW IT

by Elizabeth Connor, MLS, AHIP  
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Libraries serve as favorite targets for armchair futurists. *Someday soon*, such pundits intone, *books as we know them will disappear and devices as small as Dick Tracy's wrist-watch radio will replace libraries*. Books as we know them? According to A. D. Cawkell, "People considering the demise of the book are carefully vague about a date." I believe that incremental changes punctuated by occasional breathtaking breakthroughs will revolutionize our attitudes about books and libraries.

Since I graduated from library school in 1978, the role of the librarian, particularly in biomedicine, has evolved from warehouse of expensive and often under-utilized materials into provider and facilitator of information access and transfer. In plain English, librarians have progressed from collecting and sorting paper materials to pinpointing and filtering electronic data. Although the bulk of the medical literature and library reference tools will never be converted into electronic form, effective telecommunications links and collaborative partnerships will distinguish actual static collections from virtual dynamic collections. Imagining the future beyond this year's budget is further complicated by the human tendency to measure tomorrow's needs with today's yardsticks. Who would have imagined that today's five dollar solar-powered calculator would exceed the computational abilities of the early room-sized computers?

If the idea of eliminating the book or an entire library is upsetting, consider the actions needed to develop a first-rate biomedical library in a short period of time. If we were asked to build a new library for a new medical school, what would we do? Would we patiently build a new collection journal issue by journal issue, book by book and recreate manual files and ordering systems? Probably not. Instead, we would take advantage of existing telecommunications links and emerging technologies, and forge new directions. There would be no need to follow the historic development of present day libraries.

The creative uses of electronic resources and just-in-time purchasing principles reduce the time needed to build a responsive collection. And in 1995, would that collection still take the shape of printed journal issues and books? Maybe, maybe not. Again, if this scenario of a library with few print resources disturbs our sensibilities, let's ask ourselves why. Is it because our experiences with electronic resources have been fraught with peril? If lightbulbs were prohibitively expensive and we could not afford to purchase spare bulbs, trying to read after sundown may prove perilous as well. Yes, we keep candles in case of emergencies, but if we had planned to read for several hours, a blown out bulb could be

disastrous. Someday, computer parts and supplies will be as easy to replace as burned-out lightbulbs. Instead of spending ten years purchasing recommended texts and journals for our new library proto-type, we could acquire information and materials on an as needed basis. As a result, efficiency, quality, timeliness and customer satisfaction could be the norm rather than the exception.

In a proto-type seamless electronic library, a strong central core collection augments wide-area network access to various full-text and bibliographic databases. User interfaces are dictated by human expectations rather than computer limitations. Ubiquitous computing follows work patterns. As wireless technologies emerge, systems are planned for geographically distant and nomadic users. Researchers who need to "visit" the library will park their pocket digital devices in network-connected workstations. Librarians will collaborate with biomedical research teams. Each research project will include library line items to fund information management positions and future initiatives.

With this attitudinal shift, although the library continues to serve as an intellectual refuge, gradually it ceases to exist as a physical place. Library staff members will create tools for intellectual access and extend their influence throughout the organization. The library will resemble mission control just before takeoff instead of a photocopy machine or office supply warehouse. Instead of expending valuable human and financial resources to purchase materials just in case they are needed, materials are purchased or acquired just in time. Just in time purchasing principles reduce production costs by reducing inventories and simplifying routine ordering cycles. Energy and funds are used to identify and procure precisely what is needed at precisely the time it is needed. Under certain circumstances, more funds are expended to acquire a document or file within hours or days rather than weeks or months.

Rather than relying on traditional book and journal budgets, the future's information resources budget purchases information regardless of format, upgrades existing software/hardware as budget line items (not capital equipment) and provides point of service access to document delivery vendors.

A library without walls requires experienced librarians, state of the art workstations, efficient networks, flexible budgeting and responsive purchasing personnel. Exceeding user expectations and flattening our vision of libraries will allow librarians to improve access, serve as information management experts, offer value-added services and focus on quality and client satisfaction.

# Net News

**“The growth of the World Wide Web has been astronomical. In just three years the number of Web sites has risen from 100 to more than 10,000, and about 40,000 should be online by the end of this year. The Web’s format and the opportunity to reach millions of potential customers on the Net are conspiring to attract all types of commercial ventures-malls, catalogs, pizzerias , in true gold rush fashion. Many companies are aiming to use the Web as a marketing medium, and browser-based technology is being developed to make secure Internet transactions possible.”**

Internet World April 1995, vol. 6, p.4



**We shall not cease from exploration, and the end of all our exploring will be to arrive where we started and know the place for the first time.-- T.S. Eliot**

**Lyman Maynard Stowe Library celebrated National Library Week, Sunday April 9-Saturday April 15, 1995 by demonstrating various electronic databases, including the Internet. The week long events were a huge success. People throughout the Health Center came to learn how to search the online catalog, PSYCINFO, MEDLINE, and the Internet using Netscape, Mosaic, and gopher. The theme for the celebration was "Librarians as Guides through the Information Jungle." Thanks to all of those who participated, donated their time and interest, and made the week truly memorable.**

## **The Editor's Top 10 Uniform Resource Locator's (URL's)**

Remember URL's are case sensitive. When you are typing one in the Mosaic or Netscape URL window, be sure to type it exactly as you see it here.

**<http://cortex.uchc.edu/~libweb/libpg1.html>**

**Lyman Maynard Stowe library's very own homepage**

**<http://www.med.nyu.edu/nih-guide.html>**

**NIH-Guide to Grants and Contracts Database**

**<http://vh.radiology.uiowa.edu/>**

**The Virtual Hospital**

**<http://pharminfo.com/phrmlink.html>**

**Pharmacy Related Internet Resources**

**<http://hinet.medlib.arizona.edu/opa/shrp.html>**

**The University of Arizona School of Health Related Professions**

**<http://www.gnn.com/gnn/wic/med.12.html>**

**The National Library of Medicine**

**<http://zcias3.ziff.com/~pcmag/>**

**PC magazine on the Web**

**<http://www.dircon.co.uk/networks>**

**North London Networking Service-offering you the Funky Site of the Day**

**<http://www.eng.hawaii.edu/Contribs/justin/Archive/Index.html>**

**Your Sunday favorites, Calvin and Hobbes homepage**

**<http://seds.lpl.arizona.edu/nineplanets/nineplanets/nineplanets.html>**

**A multimedia tour of the solar system**

Update is published four times a year.  
If you have any comments, questions, or submissions for the newsletter please refer them to Melissa A. Wisner, Editor  
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Thanks for reading!

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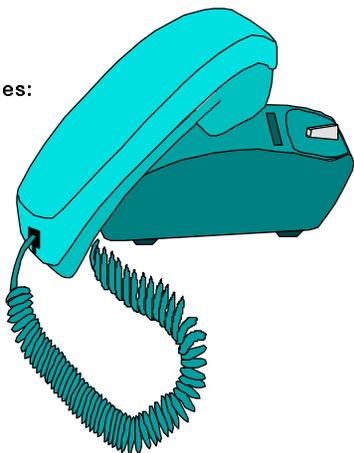
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**Update** spring 1995

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