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Season's Greetings from the UAMS Library

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Contributors: Margaret Johnson, Dena Plaisted,
Mary Ryan and Susan Steelman

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FROM THE LIBRARY DIRECTOR:
The Impact of Scholarly Publishing Changes

As many of you are aware, the UAMS Library is currently in the middle of a transition from the purchase of print information resources to the purchase or “leasing of access” to online information resources. The Library currently subscribes to approximately 2,000 online journals and 85 online books. Despite the fact that access to online resources is provided in various ways by different publishers/vendors, and may sometimes be confusing to the users the first time they access a particular resource, online seems to be the overwhelming choice of the Library’s users. Online access not only allows us to provide more convenient access to information for UAMS personnel on campus and at home, but also allows us to provide convenient access to resources for the Arkansas Children’s Hospital library, the AHEC libraries, and for distance education students.

We decided about four years ago to begin purchasing or leasing online access to information resources, and we usually kept the print subscriptions as well. Three reasons we kept many print subscriptions are as follows:

- publishers often would not let us drop the print subscriptions if we wanted online access (we had to pay for both or none — this is called bundled pricing);
- if we cancel an “online only” subscription later, we often will have no access to the years of journals we’ve paid for in online form only; and,
- we have no guarantees that the publishers will archive the electronic forms of the current journals for access many years from now (in other words, there won’t be libraries all over the country with print copies which can be borrowed on interlibrary loan).

However, because of budget cuts, we decided two years ago that we could not afford to purchase both print and online access, and that whenever allowed by the publisher, we would purchase online access only and cancel print subscriptions.

Besides the bundled pricing, lack of ownership to backfiles, and archival issues mentioned above, the purchasing or leasing of online resources has some other disadvantages for the Library and its budget. Publishers or vendors of online information resources

Unfortunately, much of the scientific publishing industry is increasingly being controlled by publishing conglomerates. The UAMS Library currently spends about 2/3 of its nearly one million dollar journal budget on products controlled by just two European conglomerates – Reed Elsevier and Wolters Kluver. Reed Elsevier owns about 1,500 journals, including those published by Elsevier, Harcourt, Saunders, and Mosby, and owns the MD Consult clinical information product. In 2003, the Library will spend about $338,000 for approximately 227 Reed Elsevier journals. Wolters Kluwer owns several journal publishers including Kluwer and Lippincott, Williams & Wilkins (LWW), and owns the Ovid company, through which we purchase 12 Ovid databases, 153 online journals, 12 online books, Clineguide (clinical pathways, drug database, etc.) and MedWeaver (differential diagnosis software package). Price increases for these products and for many journals purchased by the Library have been much higher than the consumer price index for the past several years.

The Library will continue to work with the campus administration to maximize the Library’s resources and, hopefully, avoid drastic cuts in the Library’s journal subscriptions.

Several initiatives have been established in recent years to address the escalating cost of scholarly publishing, and to try to change the publishing process to a more efficient one which makes information more quickly and widely available. BioMed Central (http://www.biomedcentral.com/info) and PubMed Central (http://www.pubmedcentral.nih.gov/about/intro.html) are two such initiatives. However, it will probably be several years before these initiatives are successful enough to make a significant impact on the Library’s budget.

Due to budget cuts two of the past three years, the Library’s current budget is at the same level that it was four years ago. Ten (21%) of the Library personnel positions have been cut, the book budget has been cut from $100,000 to $50,000, and the maintenance budget has been cut several times. One-time money has been used to help pay for journal subscriptions to prevent major cuts in the subscription list, the Library has participated in group purchasing with other libraries to get better pricing for online resources whenever possible, and, as mentioned earlier, has eliminated much of the duplication between print and online journal subscriptions. The Library will continue to work with the campus administration to
often will sell access to their online journals only in “big deals”, meaning we subscribe to the entire package of online journals offered by a publisher or none, or if we are allowed to selectively choose individual titles from a publisher’s list, we pay much more per title than we would pay in the “big deal”. A good example of this is what happened this year with our online access to Academic Press journals. Academic Press was purchased by Reed Elsevier, which incorporated the Academic Press titles into its Science Direct package of journals. We cannot afford to purchase the entire Science Direct package, so we have selected a list of 20 Academic Press journals to purchase individually from Reed Elsevier. We will pay the same price for those 20 journals for 2003 as we paid for the whole Academic Press package of 167 journals for 2002, and will lose access to the other 147 Academic Press titles.

Mary L. Ryan
UAMS Library Director

maximize the Library's resources and, hopefully, to avoid drastic cuts in the Library's journal subscriptions.
NEW ELECTRONIC RESERVE SYSTEM COMING SOON....

The UAMS Library has purchased Docutek ERes for our electronic reserves management system. It is one of the world's best electronic reserve systems and is very popular with faculty and librarians because of its simplicity.

Faculty can easily create course pages and attach documents to them; students can easily find the course pages and read or download documents. It also provides a method for faculty to fax documents directly into the system and have them converted to PDF files.

The system will accommodate all types of materials including PowerPoint, video, sound files, and links to electronic materials. It provides location information for original materials. The course page also offers chat room and bulletin board functions and the opportunity to send email messages to the instructor.

An additional feature is Copyright-Protected Document Management. This feature manages copyright protected documents, including automatic generation of permission requests letters. To learn more about this exciting new service, please view the video at http://www.docutek.com/products/eres/video.html.

The Library is seeking faculty members who will work with us to initiate the new service. If you are interesting in volunteering or would like additional information, please contact Dena Plaisted, Chair, Document Access Services at plaisteddenak@uams.edu (686-6743) or Jan Hart, Chair, Education and Reference Services at hartjank@uams.edu (686-6751).

Dena Plaisted,
Chair Document Access Services
LIBRARY HOLIDAY GIFT IDEAS

How would you like to give a gift that honors someone and benefits the Library collection at the same time?

- You can accomplish this with a donation of a book to the Library regular collection, or the History of Medicine collection. Donated books will have a bookplate that acknowledges the honoree and the donor. The honored person will receive notice of your donation.
- You can “adopt” a historical book in the History of Medicine collection through the Adopt-A-Book program of the History of Medicine Associates by paying for needed conservation treatment. Donors receive adoption packets with pictures of the books before and after treatment. Commemorative bookplates are placed inside the books indicating the donor and honoree.
- An excellent gift would be a membership in the History of Medicine Associates. The Associates are a support group for the Historical Research Center of the Library. They sponsor the Adopt-A-Book program, provide a yearly research grant to promote the history of the health sciences in Arkansas, and provide a lecture series at UAMS on the history of the health sciences. Each year a dinner meeting is held with an invited speaker. Members receive newsletters and an opportunity to participate in the various activities initiated and supported by the group.

For information on gift donations of books to the regular collection contact Mary Hawks, Collection Management, 686-6749, or e-mail hawksmarys@uams.edu.

For information on donations to the History of Medicine, Adopt-A-Book, or membership in the History of Medicine Associates, contact Margaret Johnson, 686-6733, or e-mail johnsonmargareta@uams.edu.

Margaret Johnson,
Head, Historical Research Center

SOME ONLINE RESOURCES TEMPORARILY UNAVAILABLE

The Library's servers will be shut down from 9:00 pm on Sunday, December 22 until Thursday, December 26 at 7:00 am while utility ducts are being constructed for the new College of Public Health building next to the Library. The electricity will be turned off and on several times (unpredictably) for extended periods of time while the construction is being done, and we do not think that it would be wise to bring the servers up and down several times in one day, or to have employees here while there are no lights and heat in our building.

The unavailability of the servers means that the Library’s website, catalog, Ovid databases, online journals, and ILLiad and Ariel interlibrary loan systems will not be available. However, UAMS personnel will be able to access Ovid databases and the full-text journals we purchase through Ovid by requesting a password and ID from the Library (call 686-6734 before 6 pm Friday, December 20) and going directly to the Ovid website at http://gateway.ovid.com. Also, Medline and other National Library of Medicine databases are available at http://pubmed.gov. Unfortunately, online journals purchased by the Library from vendors other than Ovid will not be available during this time because they must be accessed through the Library's online catalog, which resides on one of the servers being shut down.

Also, UAMS faculty can always gain access to the Library when it is closed by calling the UAMS Police at 686-7777. Upon presentation of a UAMS ID, the police will lock the faculty member inside the Library. When the faculty member wants to leave, he or she can call the police and they will unlock the door. Materials may be checked out by following the instructions left on the circulation desk whenever the Library is closed. A sign with instructions about accessing the Library when it is closed is always posted on the front door of the Library.

This is the first time, in many years at least, that the UAMS Library will be closed for five days in a row. We originally made the decision to close these days because of low usage statistics during the holidays the past few years, because of limited staffing (we've cut 10 of our 48 positions in the past 3 years), because faculty can use the Library when it is closed, and because we thought all of our online resources would be available remotely as well as on campus. We did not foresee the problems with limited access to some of our online resources caused by the construction. We're sorry for the inconvenience.
If you have any questions, feel free to call Library Administration at 686-6730 or email ryanmaryl@uams.edu.

Mary L. Ryan
UAMS Library Director
OUTREACH NEWS:
MEDLINEplus – Ever Improving

MEDLINEplus is the premiere consumer health web site from the National Library of Medicine. Since its inception, MEDLINEplus has maintained a constant rate of change and improvements. December saw another major advancement as NLM changed the web site to enhance people’s ability to navigate the site.

The site now sports three columns with the main sections located on the left. These include health topics, drug information, medical encyclopedia, dictionaries and more. The middle column contains news, the featured site and a new In the Spotlight section.

The third column provides a link on the top level of the site to the 150+ interactive tutorials available on MEDLINEplus. These tutorials provide easy to understand programs outlining certain diseases and conditions, tests and diagnostic procedures, surgery and treatment procedures and sections on prevention and wellness. Each tutorial provides text with or without audio. This is tremendously helpful for patients with literacy or sight problems. Most tutorials discuss the anatomy of the area, what happens during a procedure, discusses risks and more. For example, if a patient wanted to learn more about LASIK surgery for reshaping the eye, the tutorial would take him through the anatomy of the eye, outline preparations the patient will go through prior to surgery, discuss the procedure, and cover risks and possible complications.

Another major advancement is the creation of a Spanish language version of MEDLINEplus. The espanol link in the top right corner leads users to information on health topics and interactive tutorials in Spanish.

The MEDLINEplus web site is available at http://medlineplus.gov or via the Arkansas HealthLINK consumer health web site at: http://www.arhealthlink.org.

If you would like additional information or a full demonstration of MEDLINEplus please contact Susan Steelman at 501-686-6737 or email SteelmanSusanC@uams.edu.

Susan Steelman, MLIS
Please note that free PubMed classes are being offered each month. These classes are open to any practicing health care professional in Arkansas. If you would like to register for one of these classes or schedule an individual, customized class, please contact Susan Steelman, M.L.I.S. at 501-686-6737 or SteelmanSusanC@uams.edu.

Note: On-site classes are available for any Arkansas hospital or clinic where 4 or more health professionals are registered to attend.

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>January 10</td>
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<td>February 21</td>
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Online guides to library resources are now on the library’s web page. You can find help with searching Ovid databases, the web, and many others. Some guide examples are:

- Finding Journals (print and electronic) via the catalog,
- Quick Guide to Ovid Searching,
- Using Explode, and
- Web search engine differences.

So the answer to your question may be just a click away! To get to these tips, use the How To….link on the top navigation bar or this url: http://www.library.uams.edu/library_pubs/library_edu/index.htm.

The UAMS Bookstore staff filled the exhibit cases in the Library with items that would make excellent holiday gifts. These products are presented in this central location for the benefit of campus staff and students. If you have questions, please contact Margaret Johnson at 686 –6733 or johnsonmargareta@uams.edu.