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SoutteReview, Issue 8

Lamar Soutter Library, University of Massachusetts Medical School

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SoutteReview

Newsletter of The Lamar Soutter Library • University of Massachusetts Medical School • Issue 8

Open House

Following the great success of last year's event, The Lamar Soutter Library will welcome visitors to its second annual Open House, on Wednesday, April 12, from 11:00 AM to 3:30 PM. Our theme will be "Seeds of Knowledge: Electronic Resources for Medicine and Research."

This year, we highlight the many new electronic databases added to our ever-expanding sources of medical information. Representatives from companies such as Ovid, Elsevier, Academic Press, and MD Consult will demonstrate unique features that make their software products so useful to researchers and clinicians.

Also, instructors from the National Network of the Libraries of Medicine will demonstrate the new version of PubMed, as well as TOXNET, a collection of databases on toxicology.

The Open House will include tours of the Library as well as exhibits that focus on several new and improved services that it offers. Door prizes will be awarded. Worcester's Struck Café will provide gourmet food including tasty hors d'oeuvres and lavish desserts.

Come one, come all to our second annual Open House! *HF*

Library Privileges Expanding into Community

Customized Library Services is The Lamar Soutter Library's corporate member program. It is designed to address the information needs of patrons who are not affiliated with the University. Companies, private practice physicians, and health care professionals can now have access to Library privileges ordinarily reserved for UMMS faculty, staff, and students. In addition to buying a card that will enable them to borrow from our extensive collection, Customized Library Services also offers our patrons a wide range of specialized services.

The growth in electronic databases has made it easier to access information, but more difficult to home in on is the information that is most pertinent to one's needs. Oftentimes, busy professionals don't have sufficient time or

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LIBRARY HOURS

Monday - Thursday 7:00 am - 11:30 pm

Friday 7:00 am - 9:00 pm

Saturday 9:00 am - 10:00 pm

Sunday 10:00 am - 11:30 pm

Hours are subject to change due to exams, holidays, and weather conditions. Please call (508) 856-2511 for current library hours.

TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Circulation

(508) 856-6099

Reference Desk

856-6857

Document Delivery

856-2029

Interlibrary Borrowing

856-3302

Library Administration

856-2205

Government Documents

856-3290 or 856-2473

Journal Information

856-2388 or 856-2367

Acquisitions

856-1041

Uncle Sam Wants You Well

Times have changed a lot from the mid-twentieth century to now. No longer does Uncle Sam appear on public posters proclaiming to young men everywhere, "I Want You!" Instead, today's more benevolent Uncle Sam announces, "I Want You Healthy!"

Specifically, "Uncle Sam," through the Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion (ODPHP) in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, has launched phase two of a decade-old initiative to promote public participation in a bold, all-encompassing effort to substantially increase the over-all healthiness of Americans throughout the next decade.

Dubbed *Healthy People 2010*, it is a statement of national health objectives designed to identify the most significant preventable threats to health, and to establish national goals to reduce these threats.

Healthy People 2010 offers a simple but powerful idea—provide health objectives in a format that enables diverse groups to combine their efforts and work as a team. It is a roadmap to better health for all and can be used by states, communities, professional organizations, and groups to improve health.

Healthy People 2010 is designed to achieve two overarching goals: (1) to help individuals of all ages increase life expectancy and improve their quality of life, and (2) to eliminate health disparities among various segments of the population. It is a massive cooperative planning effort among individuals, public and private businesses and organizations, and government agencies, which continues to build on the previous decade's groundbreaking initiative, *Healthy People 2000*.

This new initiative establishes 10 new measures regarding the health of individuals and communities and provides 28 focus areas and 467 specific objectives. A few examples of the 28 focus areas: (1) Access to Quality Health Services; (2) Arthritis, Osteoporosis, and Chronic Back

Conditions; (3) Cancer; (4) Chronic Kidney Disease; (5) Diabetes; (6) Disability and Secondary Conditions; (7) Heart Disease and Stroke; (8) HIV; (9) Mental Health and Mental Disorders; (10) Nutrition and Overweight; (11) Respiratory Diseases; (12) Sexually Transmitted Diseases; (13) Substance Abuse; (14) Tobacco Use; (15) Vision and Hearing; (16) Immunization and Infectious Diseases; and (17) Injury and Violence Prevention.

Individuals, groups, and organizations are encouraged to integrate *Healthy People 2010* into their programs, special events, publications, and meetings. By selecting from among the national objectives, participants can build an agenda for community health improvement and can monitor results over time.

General information and links to related sites for the new initiative may be found at its website: www.health.gov/healthypeople. The more detailed 1,244-page Conference Edition of *Healthy People 2010* is also available at this site. **RK**

Micromedex Database Tips

Micromedex is a comprehensive web-based information system that is available on the Library website. This database offers a wealth of information on such topics as drug information, acute care, and toxicology. Searching on *Micromedex* is easy, for this database uses a comprehensive search engine called the *Integrated Index*. The *Integrated Index* allows the user to search all the available databases of *Micromedex* or selected databases of the system.

To begin a basic search on *Micromedex* using the *Integrated Index*, simply type in a word or so in the search box. **YOU DO NOT NEED TO USE BOOLEAN OPERATORS TO SEARCH THE DATABASE(S)**. For example, if you wanted to locate information on treating AIDS with the drug AZT, you would type in the search box AIDS AZT. You will then see the results of your search for these two combined topics. The results will be links that you click on to bring you to the desired information.

The main page of *Micromedex* displays the available databases of

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Official Documents for Joe & Joan Q. Public

If, for you, the term "document" seems restricted to impenetrable tomes from official offices intended only for the attention of officious officials, here is some good news!

The Lamar Soutter Library, as an official Federal Depository Library, has so-called "document" materials—in all sizes and forms—which may be helpful to you.

Newly published government documents arrive daily, varying in size from bookmarks outlining diabetes management or anti-drug messages for young people, to small pamphlets and booklets providing tasty and healthy cooking recipes, home

energy saving guidelines, or radon and carbon dioxide detection tips, to oversized hardcover books from the Library of Congress.

In addition, an increasing number of paper publications is transforming into electronic formats, including microfiche, CD-ROM's, computer diskettes, and videos.

The good news for all of us "Joe and Joan Q. Public's" is that all these "official" publications are intended for our use. So why not plan to peruse the Library's growing Government Documents collection during your next visit? You may just find something helpful! **RK**



A Dose of Reading: Paralysis

■ Baker, Louise. *Out on a Limb* (1946). Like novelist Denton Welch, for many years she suffered neurological problems caused by being hit by a car while riding a bicycle in her youth.

■ Barbellion, W.N.P. [Psud. of Bruce Frederick Cummings]. *The Journal of a Disappointed Man* (1919; reprinted 1984). Chronicles the thoughts of a British man during a five-year period (his late-twenties) when he was afflicted with Multiple Sclerosis.

■ Bauby, Jean-Dominique. *Diving Bell and the Butterfly* (1997). A victim of the rare locked-in syndrome that rendered his brain stem inactive, Bauby dictated the entirety of this book - a celebration of life - through coded blinks of his left eye.

■ Brown, Christy. *My Left Foot* (1954). The basis of an award-winning film of the same name, this inspirational memoir was written by the son of a Dublin bricklayer, though his body was wracked with Cerebral Palsy.

■ Dubus, Andre. *Broken Vessels* (1991). Among the essays in this collection are some powerful ones dealing with his incapacitation following a traffic accident. *Meditations From a Movable Chair* (1998). Further essays upon how he dealt with his physical disability, while exploring his feelings about faith and personal relationships.

■ Eareckson, Joni. *Joni* (1976). Dictated account of her survival from a girlhood diving accident that left her a quadriplegic.

■ Gallagher, Hugh Gregory. *Black Bird Fly Away: Disabled in an Able-Bodied World* (1998). Written twenty years after doing battle with polio and clinical depression, this volume is a collection of essays, journals, and other writings.

Among other accomplishments for the disabled, while working in Congress he helped develop the Architectural Barriers Act.

■ Heller, Joseph. *No Laughing Matter* (1986). The late author of *Catch-22* shares the true story of his battle against Guillian-Barre Syndrome.

■ Hockenberry, John. *Moving Violations: War Zones, Wheelchairs, and Declarations of Independence* (1995). Considered a classic, this is a deeply-felt reflection on the turns his life has taken since becoming a paraplegic at age 19 in a Pennsylvania car accident.

■ Roy, Travis. *Eleven Seconds: A Story of Tragedy, Courage, & Triumph* (1998). This is the courageous story of the Boston University hockey player whose neck was broken during his first collegiate game.

■ Nolen, Christopher. *Under the Eye of the Clock: The Life Story of Christopher Nolan* (1987). Thinly veiled account of this Irish poetis coming to terms with cerebral palsy. *JL*

The Lamar Soutter Staff to Present at MLA-Vancouver

The Lamar Soutter Library will be well-represented at the Medical Library Association annual meeting May 5-10 in Vancouver, British Columbia. (This will be the first joint meeting of the MLA and the Canadian Health Libraries Association.) Several staff members will be presenting papers or posters about successful projects here at UMMS.

Taking their cue from the meeting's theme, "Demystifying the Dragon: Strategies for 2000 Plus," a paper entitled "Laptops: No Dragon Wires with Wireless Technology" will be presented by Deputy Director Debbie Sibley, Systems Librarian Mary Piorun, and Access Services Librarian Mary Ann Slocomb. This paper describes the implementation of wireless technology for access of the Library's collections to the University's campus-wide electronic backbone. Laptops are now available at the Circulation Desk for checkout to students within the Library. The

wireless network has increased the total number of computers from 59 to 84 without impacting the 30-year-old building's structure.

Associate Director Jim Comes and Systems Librarian Mary Piorun will present an electronic poster entitled "From a Paper-Based System to a Database: Using Microsoft Access to Track Reference Desk Usage." This electronic poster will describe the transition from a paper-based tracking system for collecting reference statistics to the design and implementation of an electronic tracking system using Microsoft Access. A component to collect circulation statistics has recently been added. The display will include a PowerPoint™ presentation describing the planning and design process to build a user-friendly database. A copy of the database will be available for data input and manipulation, and to demonstrate dropdown windows, button navigation, pre-formatted

queries, and sample reports.

"The Evolution of an Evidence-Based Medicine (EBM) Web Site" is the title of a poster prepared by Reference Librarians Margaret Spinner and Robert Vander Hart. It demonstrates the outcome of a collaborative effort between a faculty member from the Department of Family and Community Medicine and librarians. The project uses web technology to teach evidence-based medicine to medical students. Second-year students use the site as a basic introduction to EBM, and third-year students use the site as a review and reference during their community clerkships. The website also serves as the beginning of a distance learning initiative for family medicine.

The meeting in Vancouver is the first joint meeting of the Medical Library Association and the Canadian Health Libraries Association. *BI*

SoutteReview

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the system under various categories. For example, under the category of **Toxicology** we see the databases *Poisindex*[®] and *Identidex*[®]. *Poisindex*[®] can identify ingredients used in thousands of pharmaceuticals, commercial substances, and biological substances. The *Identidex*[®] database offers descriptive information on pharmaceutical capsules or tablets. This information includes imprint code and physical characteristics of the substance, such as color and shape. There is also a "street lingo" glossary for drug substances on this database.

Both basic and comprehensive information about pharmaceuticals can be found under the category **Trade/Generic Drugs**. The two databases under this category are *Drugdex*[®] and *Martindale's*. The information found in *Drugdex*[®] is intended to be unbiased. Drug evaluations and drug consults are part of this comprehensive database. An editorial board from the *Micromedex* system reviews the information found on this database. The *Martindale* database is the electronic version of the standard British reference book published by the Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain. The wealth of information on this database is extensive. Included are over 5,300 drug monographs, 6,000 drug manufacturers,

over 600 disease treatment reviews, 200 herbal medicine monographs, and over 5,000 herbal preparations.

Information on drug reactions abounds in the database *Drug-Reax*[®]. This database can be searched in a variety of ways; a detailed help screen is available for the user to get the most out of locating information on this database. The search screen will have two radio buttons: **ADD as Drug Profile** or **Patient Allergy**. The user can enter a substance or medication to search for, then add another, and then combine them. The results that follow provide the user with information about the reactions that the combined search terms have.

The *Dosing and Therapeutic Tools* category offers the searcher a wealth of information in such areas as **Dosing Calculators**, **Differential Diagnostic Calculators**, and **Diagnostic and Therapeutic Pearls**, as well as other important clinical information. The **Differential Diagnostic Calculators** are arranged by topic. The searcher can either click on a display of the first letter of the symptom in the topic index or go directly to the provided list of symptoms. For example, to see if there is a differential diagnostic list for the symptom of hiccups, either click on the letter **h** in the letter index or scroll the list to see if hiccups is on the list. Concise tables

are then displayed listing causes of hiccups and a brief list of references. The **Diagnostic and Therapeutic Pearls** are similarly arranged and also contain information in tabular form.

The *Micromedex* system thus offers much information for clinicians, students and health professionals. Its web based interface offers the searcher a facile way to locate information on pharmaceuticals and other clinical information. Check it out in the library and do not hesitate to ask for help at the Reference desk. *PJ*

Library Privileges cont. from page 2

knowledge to track down the data they require. Now, however, they can benefit from the experience and expertise of the librarians at The Lamar Soutter Library. Kelly McManus, our Corporate Librarian, conducts literature searches from the simple to the complex.

She also offers customized training sessions, advice, and consultation about searching or other Library issues. In addition, Kelly coordinates the Loansome Doc program, which allows PubMed and Internet Grateful Med users to order articles from their desktop.

For more information about services and prices, please contact Kelly McManus at (508) 856-2458 or kelly.mcmanus@umassmed. *KM*