PUBMED LINKOUT BETA TEST

The Houston Academy of Medicine-Texas Medical Center (HAM-TMC) Library is one of a few libraries participating in the National Library of Medicine’s Beta test of the PubMed Linkout service. Linkout is designed to allow a researcher to go directly from a PubMed abstract to the full text of the article cited in the abstract.

Those who access PubMed via the HAM-TMC Library website (www.library.tmc.edu) will be able to take advantage of Linkout by clicking on the blue HAM-TMC Library icon that appears in the abstracts of articles accessible via Linkout.

“This is a significant step towards putting information in the hands of our constituents at the time and place of need,” says Dr. J. Robert Beck, HAM-TMC Library Interim Executive Director. “It’s a good example of our commitment to be early adopters of technologies that provide effective access to our users.”

Because only 383 of the HAM-TMC Library’s 1,400-plus electronic journals are included in the Linkout Beta test, Library users will still need to visit the HAM-TMC Library’s E-journal Webpage (www.library.tmc.edu/ ejournals.html) to determine for certain if a journal is or is not available online.

Linkout FAQ

Q: How do I use Linkout?

A: Go to the HAM-TMC Library website (www.library.tmc.edu), click on any link to PubMed, and search PubMed as you normally would. If, when you look at the abstract of an article, you see a blue HAM-TMC Library icon, it means the full text of the article is available. Click on the HAM-TMC Library icon to access the full text.
**Q:** Will I need to use a computer with a Texas Medical Center Internet address or the HAM-TMC Library’s Remote Access Services to access the full text of Linkout journals?

**A:** Yes. You will be denied access to full text unless you are using a computer with a Texas Medical Center Internet address or using the Library’s Remote Access Service.

**Q:** Does Linkout provide access to the full text of every article indexed in PubMed?

**A:** No. At present, only a small portion of the articles indexed in PubMed are accessible via Linkout, and then only articles from those Linkout journals to which the HAM-TMC Library has subscriptions will be accessible as full text.

**Q:** Is the full text of every electronic journal on the HAM-TMC Library’s E-journals Webpage accessible via Linkout?

**A:** No. At present, only 383 of the Library’s 1,400-plus electronic journals are part of the Linkout service.

**Q:** If a journal is part of Linkout, will every article from that journal be accessible?

**A:** No. In general, the full text of articles published before the mid to late 1990s are not accessible. Some very recent articles may not be available because they have not yet been placed on the Web by their publishers.

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**LIBRARY RECEIVES PROGRAMMING SUPPORT FOR NEW MOYERS PBS SERIES**

The HAM-TMC Library is one of 12 libraries nationwide selected to receive funding for local programming related to a new Public Broadcasting Services (PBS) series by Bill Moyers called *On Our Own Terms.*

Produced by Public Affairs Television, New York, the series seeks to expand the American conversation on how we deal with dying and care at the end of life. From interviews he has conducted across the country, Moyers will recount remarkable human stories of the dying, their families, and their caregivers as they struggle to balance medical intervention with comfort and humanity at the end of life. Local programming is supported by grants from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the Kettering Foundation, Dayton, Ohio to the American Library Association.

The Library will take part in a national outreach effort that includes PBS stations, caregiving organizations, medical personnel, foundations, newspapers and other media, ethics groups and clergy. With the help of a local programming group that includes representatives from KUHT Houston Public Television, medical organizations and the educational sector, the HAM-TMC Library will sponsor four public programs related to the series. More information will follow in the next issue of *Library Lines.*

Programs will include a reading and discussion session; a panel presentation featuring community representatives from caregiving organizations, educators and others; a Kettering Foundation National Issues Forum debate about options at the end of life; and a community meeting to examine local opinion on topics raised in *Our Own Terms.* The local group will also plan further activities to continue the conversation on care at the end of life.

*On Our Own Terms* will be broadcast on PBS stations across the United States on four consecutive evenings, September 10-13, 2000, 8:00 - 9:30 pm. *Program I: Living with Dying; Program II: A Different Kind of Care; Program III: A Death of One’s Own; Program IV: A Time to Change.*

For more information contact Beatriz Varman at beatrizv@library.tmc.edu or (713) 799-7169.
NEW ELECTRONIC JOURNALS

The following Karger journals have been added to the library’s list of electronic journals. Note: All of these are Linkout journals.

- Cardiology (1999-2000)
- Cells Tissues Organs (1999-2000)
- Chemotherapy (1999-2000)
- Dementia and Geriatric Cognitive Disorders (1999-2000)
- Dermatology (1999-2000)
- Developmental Neuroscience (1999-2000)
- Digestion (1999-2000)
- Digestive Diseases (1999-2000)
- European Surgical Research (1999-2000)
- Experimental and Clinical Immunogenetics (1999-2000)
- Fetal Diagnosis and Therapy (1999-2000)
- Gerontology (1999-2000)
- International Archives of Allergy and Immunology (1999-2000)
- Intervirology (1999-2000)
- Natural Immunity (1999)
- Oncology (1999-2000)
- Pediatric Neurosurgery (1999-2000)
- Pharmacology (1999-2000)
- Psychopathology (1999-2000)
- Psychotherapy and Psychosomatics (1999-2000)
- Respiration (1999-2000)
- Urologia Internationalis (1999-2000)
- Vox Sanguinis (1999-2000)

MD CONSULT STATISTICS

The Library’s total number of registered MD Consult users as of March 31, 2000 was 5,456, compared to 3,300 at the end of August 1999. Here is a breakdown of usage by professional designation: resident (25%), physician (24%), medical student (24%), other health professional (8%), other non-health professional (8%), nurse practitioner (4%), pharmacist (3%), registered nurse (3%), physician assistant (1%).

Usage information. The Library’s MD Consult license allows 15 simultaneous users. Since January, we have maxed out the number of simultaneous users on just one day each month, resulting in some users not being able to log on. As for low use days (5 or fewer simultaneous sessions), there were six in January, three in February, and three in March.
NOTEWORTHY

FELLOWSHIPS
Deborah Halsted, MLS, MA, Director of Library Operations, was a recipient of the 2000 Fellowship Award sponsored by the National Library of Medicine to attend the Medical Informatics course at the Marine Biological Laboratory in Woods Hole, MA.

STAFF NEWS
On April 16, 2000, the Library held a picnic for employees and their families at Brazos Bend State Park. The weather was very good, everyone enjoyed the food and had a great time.

FAREWELL
Vaik Yousefi, MLS, Education Librarian, will be moving to San Antonio in June. He will be working at the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio Briscoe Library.

WELCOME
Shirley Dickerson, MLS, is head of the Photocopy/Interlibrary Loan Department. She is a native Texan, returning home after living 18 years in Shreveport, LA. Shirley was the User Access Services Section Head at LSU Health Sciences Center-Shreveport, Louisiana for 10 years. She also worked as a Children’s Librarian and Storyteller at the Shreve Memorial Library System. She began her library career as a Library Assistant in the Interlibrary Loan/Photocopy Department at Stephen F. Austin in 1976. Shirley received her Bachelor of Fine Arts, from Stephen F. Austin State University, Nacogdoches, Texas in 1976 and her Masters of Library Science from Texas Woman's University, Denton, Texas in 1980.

LIBRARY LINES
Library Lines is published six times per year. Please call (713) 799-7169 to be placed on our mailing list.

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