Library Notes

Galter Health Sciences Library
Northwestern University
www.galter.nwu.edu

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What's Going On With Medline?

James Shedlock, A.M.L.S., Director, j-shedlock@northwestern.edu

It seems appropriate to give our users an explanation for the recent MEDLINE situation at the Galter Library. Here I am referring to various delays that prevented us from updating our Ovid MEDLINE and the other Ovid databases during the past six months. The following explanation also refers to the library's announcement of a change in the way we will access Ovid databases in the future. The change is our recommended solution to solving our MEDLINE problems and is an exciting one at the same time – see the accompanying article! We believe we are making a big leap toward improving information access for our users as we switch to a new online database operation.

The library's MEDLINE situation resulted from many factors occurring at the same time or close to one another in time. One major time factor was a change in Galter system personnel. Our new Head of Information Systems, Steve Hunt, took over as the department head on May 1, 2000. However, our previous department head left the library in February, but Steve, as our preferred candidate for the position, could not take over the department and deal with the MEDLINE update until his position on an National Library of Medicine contract expired on April 30, 2000. So, one factor in holding up MEDLINE updates, was limited personnel to handle the workload.

At the same time as our changes in system personnel, there was another factor that needed to be addressed: what to do about our aging MEDLINE server? Do we replace it, or find an alternative means of accessing the Ovid databases? This machine was purchased in the fall of 1992, and given its length of service, many advisors recommended replacing the server before it collapsed completely. The problem here was cost: a new server would be expensive in the middle of a fiscal year. Given this challenge, staff needed time to explore alternatives, namely Ovid's online service via the Web. Ovid has been promoting its online connection to its own servers using only a Web client as a viable alternative to mounting and supporting a local MEDLINE operation. Helping to make the decision on a server purchase versus alternative Web access to Ovid easier was Ovid's own announcement that they would no longer support their Windows or Java clients. Therefore, it seemed obvious to us to make the decision to switch our Ovid service from local to remote using the Web as the only means of information delivery. This is the new service we started on August 1.

Still another factor weighing on us at the same time was what to do about Ovid's slow response for delivering full-text journals. We asked ourselves in planning meetings whether users would tolerate a slow MEDLINE service given the poor experience in accessing e-journals over the Web. This issue has been particularly vexing given that we do not experience any degradation in Internet connectivity for any other electronic service. In exploring this issue, we discovered that the university's ISP does not communicate very well with Ovid Technologies' Internet Service Provider. Consequently, we have invested in a T1 line to connect Northwestern directly to Ovid's servers in Utah. However, getting the T1 line installed proved to be time consuming and frustrating to us because the major telecommunication companies refused to work with each other on their customers' behalf. This 'haggling' over installation issues caused still more delays in getting MEDLINE updated! In the tests so far, we believe the new T1 line will greatly

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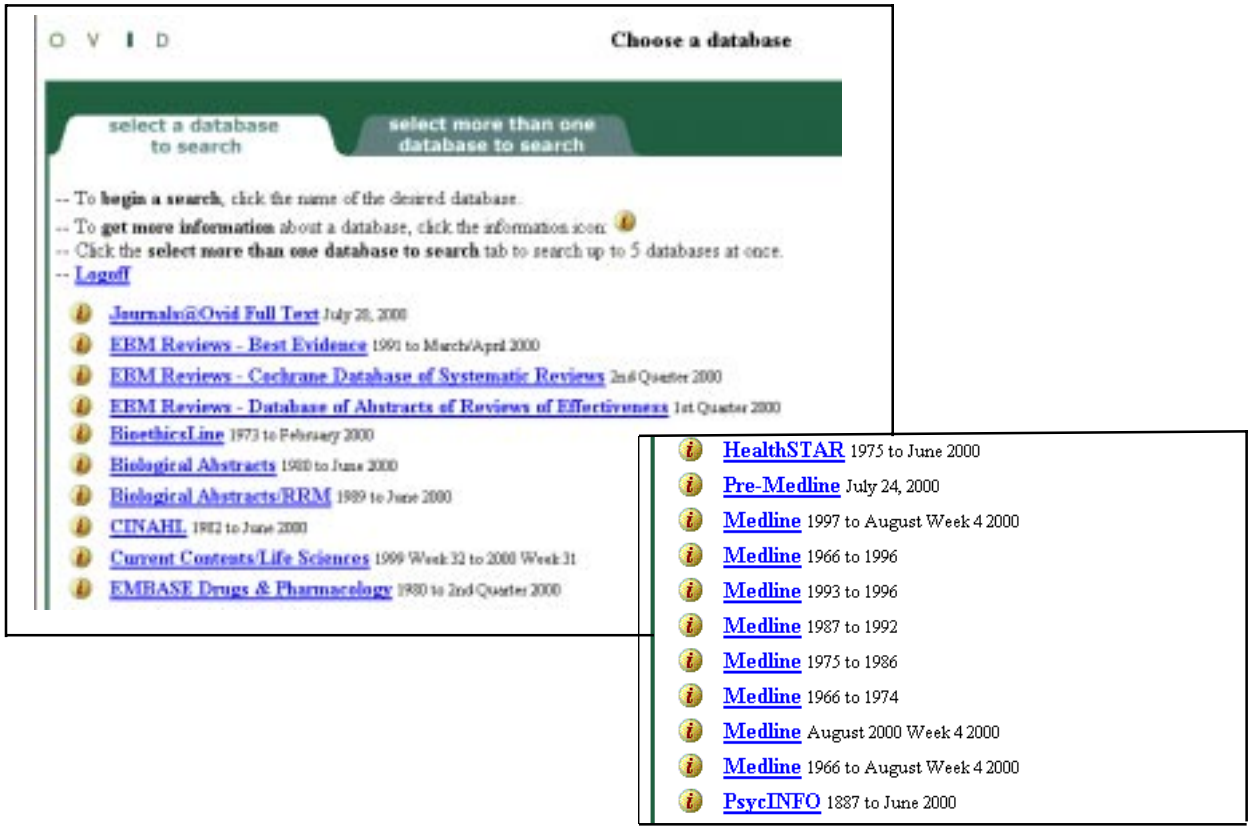
New Ovid Features

June Carter, M.I.L.S., Education Librarian, j-carter@northwestern.edu

Galter Library is pleased to announce access to a faster, more current and more advanced Ovid database service, thanks to a new T1 connection with the Ovid Technologies server. This new service is completely web-based. As a result of accessing Ovid directly, we have gained two new databases. In the Evidence Based Medicine Reviews suite we now have access to Database of Abstracts of Reviews of Effectiveness (DARE). Also, Pre-MEDLINE is available containing MEDLINE citations so new they have not yet been assigned Medical Subject Headings (MeSH).



Access to the new Ovid Web is available by clicking on "MEDLINE" at the top of the Galter Library home page. Then, choose "Connect Now" to automatically log in. If you have been using a Personal Ovid Account ID and password, they will not work with the new Ovid. Call or e-mail the Galter Library Reference Desk to find out how to easily obtain an account for the new system via the Web (3-8109, ghsl-ref@northwestern.edu). With your new account, you will again be able to save searches, receive e-mail alerts, and access full-text journals.

Because of our new connection to Ovid Technologies, database content is now updated directly. There is no longer a delay for CD updates to be produced, mailed to the Galter Library, and loaded onto the Galter Library server. The connection has also greatly improved the speed of access to Journals@Ovid.

With our direct connection, we are also able to access a newer version of the Ovid search interface software. One exciting new Ovid feature of this software is the ability to search up to five different databases simultaneously. This feature is very useful for keyword, title or author searches. Beneath your search strategy will be the number of results coming from each database. For advanced topic searching, it may be best to stick to one database at a time due to differences among databases in their use of indexing terms and their ability to map to preferred subject headings.

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New Resources for the Library

Linda Walton, M.L.S., Associate Director, ljwalton@northwestern.edu

New Databases

The following new databases can all be accessed by Northwestern affiliates from the Galter electronic library at <www.galter.nwu.edu> and clicking on Databases.

PreMEDLINE: Updated daily, PreMEDLINE is the National Library of Medicine's in-process database for MEDLINE. It provides basic citation information and abstracts before the citation is indexed with medical subject headings (MeSH) and added to MEDLINE. Records will appear with the tag "MEDLINE record in process" until they are available in full form in the MEDLINE database. PreMEDLINE can be accessed through the Ovid system or through PubMed. Just click on the library's Database page and select PreMEDLINE from the Ovid page or search PubMed that automatically includes PreMEDLINE in its database.

DARE (Database of Abstracts of Reviews of Effectiveness): This database, available through the OVID system, covers topics such as diagnosis, prevention, rehabilitation, screening, and treatment in the area of evidence-based healthcare. This is a full-text database containing critical assessments of systematic reviews with links to and from Ovid MEDLINE.

Dissertation Abstracts: This database provides access to doctoral dissertations (and some master's theses) from accredited North American universities and selected International universities. Dissertation Abstracts is now available on the Web and is accessible on the Chicago campus thanks to the University Library.

Health Source Plus: This new database is the larest general health (consumer health) database available. This resource provides access to over 250 full-text periodicals, nearly 1,200 full-text pamphlets, 23 full-text books published by the People's Medical Society and 7,000 *Clinical Reference Systems Reports*. *Health Source Plus* contains content form full-text resources ranging from general health periodicals such as *Prevention* and *Women's Health Weekly* to academic journals such as *Lancet* and *British Medical Journal*. This database, developed by EBSCO, is provided to the Galter community through a new Illinois venture called IDAL (Illinois Digital Academic Library).

Galter Library participates in IDAL

The Illinois Digital Academic Library (IDAL) provides resources and services to 150 public and private academic libraries serving over 750,000 students and faculty. IDAL is funded for the benefit of the statewide academic community by the Illinois Board of Higher Education.

The goal of the IDAL initiative is to provide a high quality collection of full-text and image digitized resources that supports instruction, study, and research by students, faculty, and staff in all eligible Illinois higher education institutions.

The Galter Library will be taking advantage of two resources from IDAL: 1) *Health Source Plus*, a full-text database covering consumer health and 2) *NetLibrary,* a service that provides access to electronic books. Watch for more information on *NetLibrary* in future issues of the newsletter. *Health Source Plus* can be accessed through the library's web site under Databases.

New E-Journals

The library is continuously adding new electronic journals to our collection. These journals can be accessed from our e-journals page or from NUcat, the online catalog. Recently we have added the Elsevier Press titles (*Science Direct*) such as *Brain Research*. Elsevier Press titles can be accessed on a rolling 9-month basis (soon to change to 12-month). This means that archived issues of the journals are only available in print, but recent issues of up to 9 or 12 months can be viewed electronically. Other miscellaneous titles have been added as electronic versions of our print subscriptions have been released. Check the web site for your favorite journals, since you never know when they may become electronic.

Be sure to note that articles from over 40 titles are available through Ovid with a link from the MEDLINE citation. With the new T1 line, access to these articles is fast and efficient. In addition, there are also links to several hundred journals through PubMed. When searching via PubMed be sure to see if the option to link to a full-text journal is available. In many cases we have registered the journals with the publisher so that users can go directly to the full-text from their MEDLINE citation.

New E-Books

MD Consult recently added the electronic textbook, *Anesthesia*, edited by Ronald D. Miller to its collection. *MD Consult* is a service that provides access to almost 40 electronic versions of major textbooks, as well as other medical information. To get to *MD Consult* on our web site <www.galter.nwu.edu> click on E-Books, then click on *MD Consult*.

Galter Library

August Classes
MEDLINE Month

Intro to PubMed

An introduction to PubMed, the National Library of Medicine's web access to the MEDLINE database. Learn about linking through PubMed to online journals. Find out about saving search strategies as Bookmarks.

Mon 8/7	**3-4pm**
Thurs 8/10	**11-Noon**
Tues 8/15	**Noon-1pm**

New Ovid MEDLINE

An introduction to various aspects of searching and effective use of the new, updated web-based Ovid MEDLINE. New features include multi-database searching and faster links to full-text journals.

Tue 8/8	**10-11am**
Thur 8/10	**2-3pm**
Thur 8/17	**Noon-1pm**

To register, call the Reference Desk at (312)503-8109, or email **ghsl-ref@northwestern.edu**.

Medline - continued

enhance the delivery of databases and full-text information to all Northwestern users.

All of the above issues have impacted on our ability to provide timely and efficient delivery of scholarly health information to the Northwestern community. We sincerely apologize for the lack of communication and the many delays in delivering MEDLINE, related databases and full-text journals to you! At many times in the last six months or so, we really believed we were about to solve our MEDLINE problems, but before we could settle on one issue, a new situation interfered with a more timely solution. We believe we are now on track to providing our users with an improved MEDLINE and related database service (though we will no longer be surprised by Murphy's Law). We will work better at clearing the way of these potential problems and alert you about impending changes to our service. Many of you expressed your concern about what was going on, and we appreciate your effort to communicate with us. Please keep doing so! Again, we apologize for the months of limited service. We aim to do better! If you wish to communicate more on this topic or any other, please contact me at j-shedlock@northwestern.edu or call 3-8133.

Ovid - continued

A second related feature is the ability to delete duplicate citations. After searching multiple databases, select "Remove Duplicates." You may pick a preferred database and field preferences for the citations that will be kept. "Has Abstract" is the default field preference.

For those who would like to be able to view all brief citations at once, this is now an option. "Customize Display" appears on a small yellow tab above your initial set of search results. You may select which fields and the number of citations to display on each screen.

An additional feature new to Ovid Web is the ability to jump to any citation in your results list. Those who have been accustomed to using the Ovid Windows Client may be familiar with this feature. No more clicking on the "Next" arrow multiple times, just "Go To" the number you want.

Numerous other small changes have been made to increase the ease of searching Ovid databases via the Web. If you have any questions or comments, please don't hesitate to contact the Galter Library Reference Desk at 3-8109. Galter staff is also offering classes on using the new Ovid Web interface. Dates for the August classes include August 8, 10, and 17. See the class flyer included in this newsletter for more details.

The Galter Electronic Library

<www.galter.nwu.edu>: An Update

Linda Walton, M.L.S., Associate Director, ljwalton@northwestern.edu

The Galter electronic library has several features designed to keep our users up-to-date on information access. The *News* section of the electronic library informs users of new services, classes, resources, or changes in access to the library such as holiday closings. The *Highlights* section describes and links to a library resource, database or service each month and provides a description and details about the resource being featured. The *Library Information* section of the web site keeps users abreast of commonly asked questions or concerns about the library and its services. Check the web site periodically to stay abreast of new information from the library. The library staff is constantly working to update and enhance the web site. Any ideas or suggestions you have for the page are always welcome and can be sent to our Knowledge Management Librarian, Brian Lauer, at b-lauer@northwestern.edu.

New web site features

Acquisitions list: A monthly list of new resources available in the library.
Student newsletter: A brief newsletter targeted to students with information on collections, services, and resources.
LRC online catalog: A searchable database of non-print resources available in the Learning Resources Center.
Enhanced online services request system—interlibrary loans and photocopy service (see related article this issue).

New Interlibrary Loan & Photocopy Request System Released

Kurt Munson, M.S.L.I.S., Head, User Services, kmunson@northwestern.edu

The Galter Health Sciences Library has recently released a new system for requesting interlibrary loans (ILL) and photocopy orders. The new system can be accessed by going to the library's web site <www.galter.nwu.edu>, and looking in the *Online Services* section along the left-hand side of the homepage. This new database-driven system has replaced both our old e-mail based request forms and our paper request forms—the first step in becoming a totally electronic service. This new system provides a number of improvements for users and for the library staff.

The first improvement is a centralized User Registration System. Users register by entering their library barcode, found on their Wildcard, and their last name. The system then provides a template where users input their personal information like phone number, and e-mail address, and their preferences like notify me by e-mail or phone. A password protects the user's personal information. Users need only input their information once. The system saves it and automatically applies it to each ILL and photocopy request made.

The second improvement involves streamlining the requesting process. Users access the system by entering their e-mail address and password that automatically tells the system who is requesting the material. That is, the name, address, and other information about this user is already in the appropriate fields. All the user has to do is type the information about the item that they are requesting. A notes field allows users to make notations for themselves.

The third improvement provides personalized tracking of interlibrary loans and photocopy requests. Don't remember if you have requested that article yet? Wonder if that article you requested is in yet? The user can now check by clicking on the Check Request Status option. The system will give the user a list of all the items they have requested and it will tell them how the library's staff is processing requests. For instance, the user will be able to tell if the request was sent to another Northwestern University library or to an interlibrary loan system such as DOCLINE or OCLC to be filled by another institution.

Finally, the system allows users to update their personal information such as phone number, e-mail address, and pager number on-line. All of the user's requests will automatically have the new information on them.

If you have any questions about the new system, please feel free to ask the library staff. We believe this new system will provide a more efficient way of requesting materials. In addition, we hope it will make the interlibrary loan/ document delivery process more transparent by providing additional information about how we process requests.

Future enhancements to interlibrary loan include desktop delivery of articles. Watch for announcements about this exciting new feature in future issues of the newsletter.

Electronic Reserves: Off the Shelf and into Your Hands

Laurel Graham, M.L.S., Media Librarian, l-graham@northwestern.edu

Faculty, do you want to start the new school year off right and end the days of your photocopier woes? If you answered yes to this question, you may want to consider using the Galter Health Sciences Library online reserves service for required course readings. Electronic reserves (e-reserves) are a great way to distribute materials to students, residents, and fellow faculty. Once scanned, linked, and cataloged, your reserve remains in the system indefinitely and may be turned on and off according to your needs. This service ends the need to photocopy articles to distribute to students. Simply direct users to reserves available through NUcat (Voyager) on the library's web site <www.galter.nwu.edu >and they can read the document online or print the information.

If you are using CourseInfo <https://courses.northwestern.edu/ > for your class, the reserves system should still be used for required reading of published articles so that the university tracks copyright royalties. CourseInfo will link to the reserves system through its external links feature.

The Reserves Service for both print and electronic material is coordinated in the Learning Resources Center (LRC), located on the first floor of the library. Please bring both print (books) and material for electronic reserves to the LRC to be added to the

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system. We encourage you to electronically send reserve material whenever possible. Instructions for submitting material electronically can be found at the following URL:<www.galter.nwu.edu/lrc/e-reserve.cfm>.

Tips for submitting documents to E-reserves

Submit documents at least a week before you tell your students to access them. Please remember holidays and weekends will cause delays.

Submit documents in electronic format whenever possible. Consider that submitting a request in print, rather than electronically or on a disk will add additional steps and time to processing your reserve items. (For example, documents produced using Power Point, Word, Excel can be submitted on disk.)

Submit documents as an Adobe Acrobat PDF whenever possible. This includes those documents listed above plus journal articles, book chapters, etc. Submitting documents in PDF will also save steps and time in processing your reserve items. To do this step you will need to purchase a copy of Adobe Acrobat PDF Writer. Click here for more information <www.it.nwu.edu/itcom/news/feb00/acrobat.html>.

Non-standard fonts, patterned backgrounds or color can cause problems in the scanning process. Please use colors, fonts and backgrounds judiciously.

In order to read documents from the e-reserves service users must have Adobe Acrobat Reader on their machines. This software is available at: http://www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/readstep.html

Special note: If a document has previously been on e-reserves please note this when submitting the item to be again placed on reserve. For published documents this information is necessary for us to manage our copyright royalty responsibilities. For all documents, if it has been on e-reserves before, then it is already in the database, and simply has to be activated.

If you have questions, please contact Laurel K. Graham, M.L.S., l-graham@northwestern.edu or 503-1875.

Staff News

Linda Walton, M.L.S., Associate Director, ljwalton@northwestern.edu

Stephanie Kerns has accepted the position of Education Librarian for the Galter Library. Stephanie has worked for Pepperdine University, University of Southern California, and the University of California at Los Angeles. Ms. Kerns experience includes classroom and web-based instruction. We look forward to having Stephanie on our staff.

Cheryl Powell is now the Library Assistant II in the Learning Resources Center. Previously, Cheryl served as our evening/weekend supervisor. Please join us in welcoming Cheryl back to Galter.

Natasha Bowman rounds out our interlibrary loan staff. She will provide photocopy service and assist with the lending of articl es. Welcome Natasha.

Courtney Hanson has moved from part-timer to evening circulation clerk. We are pleased to have Courtney on our staff.

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Linda O'Dwyer and Margaretta Anderson have both accepted new positions within the library. Linda is now a Reference Assistant and Margaretta is handling the lending of interlibrary loans. Congratulations to both.

Steven Hunt is now the Head of Information Systems. Steve has served in a variety of capacities at the Galter Library including Reference Librarian, Electronic Resources Librarian, and Programmer. Congratulations Steve.

Brian Lauer is our Knowledge Management Librarian. This new position within Galter is responsible for the library's web site and the building of new databases to support online access to the library's resources. Previously, Brian served as Reference Librarian. Awesome Brian.

Kurt Munson is now our Head of User Services. Kurt oversees the Education Program, Reference, Interlibrary Loan, and Circulation. Good luck Kurt.

Ramune Kubilius is putting her skills to work as our Collection Developement/Special Projects Librarian. Ramune is busy assessing various aspects of our collections and recommending new directions the library should pursue for information access.
Thanks Ramune.

Library Notes is a publication of the Galter Health Sciences Library

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Library Notes*

Monday-Thursday
8:30 a.m.-12:00 a.m.
Friday
8:30 a.m.-9:00 p.m.
Saturday
9:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m.
Sunday
11:00 a.m.-11:00 p.m.

*LRC and Circulation always closes 15 minutes earlier.
*Photocopy machines are turned off 15 minutes before closing.

Reference Assistance

Monday-Thursday
9:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.
Friday-Saturday
9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

Telephone Numbers

Administration
312-503-8133
Circulation
312-503-8126
Interlibrary Loan
312-503-1908
Learning Resources Center (LRC)
312-503-8238
Reference
312-503-8109

Galter Homepage <http://www.galter.nwu.edu>