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Newsletter of the New England Regional Medical Library

In This Issue:

NESCSO

New England States Consortium Systems Organization (NESCSO) : An Innovative Approach to Meeting the Needs of the Medicaid Population

(Editor's note : We thought that you would like to hear about another cooperative venture among the New England states. NESCSO is such a group.)

The current crises of state budgets have painted an ominous picture for the future of state Medicaid programs. Individual state Medicaid budgets are under the scrutiny of legislators who see the ever increasing budgets to fund the state programs as a prime target for cost cutting. The New England states are taking an innovative approach to the problem. Two years ago, several key players from the New England states' Medicaid agencies set up a consortium to collaborate on the effects that the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) would have on their Medicaid reimbursement systems known as Medicaid Management Information Systems (MMIS). The consortium, known as the New England States Consortium Systems Organization (NESCSO), was created to meet the systems needs of its members through five core functions: a project think tank that would provide planning and strategy sessions for the development of policy positions and project initiatives; an information clearinghouse which would provide a knowledge exchange forum providing the facility to store and distribute information requested by Consortium members; a solution and evaluation demonstration capability to research, assess and test potential system solutions; consulting services which would allow members to access a list of pre-qualified vendors for projects; and a project management function which would assist states in developing and managing strategic New England Regional projects. The organization is governed by a board of directors designated by the Commissioners of the Health and Human Services Agencies of the six New England states and the University of Massachusetts Medical School.

Since its inception, the NESCSO has created a robust website at www.nescso.org as one of the tools for states to innovatively explore Medicaid program ideas and the budgets to fund these programs. The NESCSO staff of four includes a corporate librarian, Nancy Peterson, who provides members with research services and outreach. With a background in health care consulting, Nancy is familiar with the ever changing health care terrain and is able to quickly answer information queries from members. In addition, Nancy and NESCSO staff immediately share the information gathered with member states. The information is posted to the website as

well as project bulletin boards where members can post reactions and comments. Nancy also serves on the staff of the [Lamar Soutter Library](#) serving as an academic link between NESCSO and the [University of Massachusetts Medical School](#).

The success of early collaboration on HIPAA has led to a broadened focus for NESCSO. Currently, NESCSO is involved in projects ranging from the creation of a web-based project tracking tool to the development of a New England Medicaid data repository for disease management, decision support, and better billing practices. NESCSO's approach is to allow states to manage their budgets by creative planning and tracking. No other region in the country is currently taking this approach to Medicaid policy. NESCSO is working with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS) with the hope that this innovative approach will serve as model for future Medicaid collaborative efforts.

For more information about NESCSO, contact Nancy Peterson (508) 856-2370 or e-mail [Nancy.Peterson@umassmed.edu](#)

[NLM](#) | [NN/LM](#) | [NER](#)

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In This Issue:

Director's CorNER

The annual meeting of the RML Directors, Associate Directors, RML staff, and National Library of Medicine, National Network Office staff was held in conjunction with the MLA annual meeting in May in Dallas. Two priorities for the RML's were identified and agreed upon. They are:

- 1. Outreach to public health professionals
- 2. Outreach to consumers in collaboration/partnerships with public libraries In response to these priorities, the NER office staff met and established the following action plans. We welcome your reactions,feedback, suggestions and participation.

NER Public Health Outreach Action Plan

1. NLM sent NER a list of 750 public health officials in the six New England states. The NER staff will do a mailing to them, promoting NLM services and products and NER training and outreach opportunities.

2. NER will develop a brochure geared to public health officials.

3. Each NER Outreach Coordinator and the Associate Director will be assigned a state and serve as a liaison to the public health officials in that state and respond to any calls for training or services that result from the mailing.

4. NER will exhibit at public health meetings held in New England and offer training classes at those meetings whenever possible.

5. NER network members will be encouraged to respond to NER subcontracts and awards with a focus on outreach to public health officials. NER network members wishing to apply for NER subcontracts and awards geared towards public health officials may contact the NER office for a list of public health officials in their state.

NER Public Library Outreach Action Plan

1. NER will obtain a mailing list from PLA of public libraries in New England and prepare a mailing geared to public libraries, advertising MedlinePlus and NER consumer health information services.

2. NER will continue to identify public library conferences, meetings, and other opportunities to exhibit, offer training sessions or serve as a speaker.

3. The NER Associate Director will contact the 6 New England State Librarians and arrange a site visit.

4. The Consumer Health Coordinator will identify contact persons in public library regional library groups or systems in each state if they exist and make a site visit.

5. The Associate Director will solicit information from NER network members about their involvement in multi-type library systems/consortia, etc., and ask for their help in identifying teaching/exhibiting/subcontracting and other opportunities.

6. NER network members will be encouraged to apply for NER subcontracts and awards and focus them on public library partnerships.

7. NER will advertise the upcoming national outreach award from NLM geared towards consumer health outreach to its network members and assist members in applying.

For comments or more information regarding these plans, feel free to contact me or [Debbie Sibley, NER Associate Director](). As you can see, we have an exciting year ahead.

[Elaine Martin, Director]()

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Newsletter of the New England Regional Medical Library

ILL Advised

GIMME SHELTER: Serial Titles Not Found in LocatorPlus

As we begin the season of summer storms, let us remind ourselves of those proverbial words: "a person without an umbrella need not stand under a rain cloud."

This brings to mind an analogy that many network members continue to stand under a "rain cloud," waiting for that day when ALL of their holdings will be reflected in SERHOLD. "If I wait long enough," they convince themselves, "eventually LOCATORplus (NLM's OPAC) will list every serial title that I own." Maybe not: as long as the title is no where to be found in LOCATORplus, you won't be able to link the bibliographic record (NLM unique ID) to a holding record in SERHOLD. Simply put: NO NLM Unique ID = NO SERHOLD record! What's an ILL person to do? For starters: get out of the rain! (Besides, you could catch cold!!)

You could be helping things along by submitting a request to have NLM add the serial title to their OPAC. Then, you would be able to add a new holding record in SERHOLD for that stranded serial title.

Please review the two links listed below that address the steps to take to submit a request for adding serial titles. The first link displays NLM's policy statement for determining criteria to add non-NLM titles to the LOCATORplus database for SERHOLD reporting; the second link is an NLM LOCATORplus Bibliographic Data Addition/Modification Form which needs to be filled out and sent via U.S. Mail to the address on the form.

http://www.nlm.nih.gov/tsd/serials/nlm_locatorplus_add_mod_for_serhold.html
http://www.nlm.nih.gov/tsd/serials/nlm_bib_add_mod_form.html

PLEASE MISTER POSTMAN: Patience is a Virtue

Members are reminded to update their serial holdings at least once or twice a year. DOCLINE's ability to function as a robust interlibrary loan routing and referral system relies on the ability for each member to maintain accurate and current holding records in SERHOLD.

As you begin to take that first step in updating your holdings by generating the Holdings report, please remember "Patience is a Virtue":

- The Holdings Report is a batch-run program; your report request is queued and generated overnight at NLM -- the report is NOT generated or run immediately on request; and

- When you retrieve the report the following morning by clicking on a message hyperlink, remember that you are downloading that report from the server at NLM. Depending on the file size of your report (that is, the size of your holdings) and the connectivity, the download could take minutes, NOT nanoseconds. Same goes for sending the report file to your laser printer. So step away from that desk, get a cup of coffee! - visit the water cooler (a.k.a. "bubbler") - stretch - give yourself a break! YOU DESERVE IT!!

THE LONG AND WINDING ROAD: ›DOCLINE Milestone

NLM's DOCLINE Team recently made note of the following milestone since DOCLINE was first introduced on the web - **as of February 21, 2002, six million requests were entered into DOCLINE !**

The BORROWER: the Health Sciences Library at Tufts University in Boston, Massachusetts.

The LENDER: the University of Washington Health Sciences Library in Seattle, Washington.

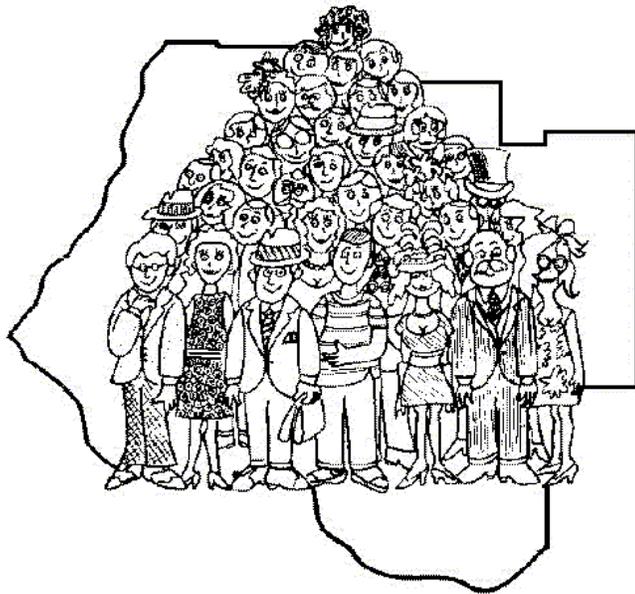As of this writing, the current number of DOCLINE requests is 6,105,372

and c- o- u- n- t- i- n- g ....

We'd also like to highlight the following milestones since the implementation of SERHOLD on the web:

- 2,235 libraries have updated 331,230 holdings
- 1,543 libraries have deleted 11,796 holdings
- 2,983 libraries currently show 1,371,991 holdings
- Holdings reported comprise 50,906 unique serial titles

COME TOGETHER: REGIONAL ILL MEETING

Hailed a Great Success!

On Friday, May 10th, we held the Annual ILL Meeting at the Hoagland Pincus Center an the University of Masssachusetts in Shrewsbury, MA. In spite of the glorious weather forecast, seventy attendees were present for the day's events. Highlights included:

Elaine Martin, Director for the Regional Medical Library (NN/LM NER office and the University of Masssachusetts Medical School's Lamar Soutter Library,) offered the Welcome Address.

CISTI's Naomi Krym gave the keynote speech on building a successful ILL service. The Canada Institute for Scientific and Technical Information) has made continual efforts to introduce systems efficiencies into their document delivery processes, while at the same time maintaining quality customer service. To view Naomi's Powerpoint slide presentation in its entirety, simply click on the following hyperlink: {server}\{directory}\Naomi Krym Presentation.ppt.

A series of scintillating systems updates were served up by several sages on the stimulating subject of resource sharing: Ed Donnald educated us on EFTS and NLM's nod for the electronic payment system to go "national"; Jay Daly provided us with an overview of QuickDOC's new release - version 2.00; Mark Tullos from OCLC offered a slide presentation on the ILLiad software package; and Mark Goldstein from the NN/LM NER office concluded with news and updates from NLM on DOCLINE.

Following a scrumptious lunch, there were two breakout sessions. The first session dealt with a discussion of problems and issues facing both hospital libraries and resource libraries. Deb Sibley (NN/LM NER) and Mark Goldstein (NN/LM NER) respectively moderated simultaneous sessions. The second session initiated three separate, but simultaneous discussions for each of the ILL management systems represented by the attendees: the QuickDOC discussion group was moderated by Jay Daly (QuickDOC Software); the CLIO discussion group was moderated by Margaret Whitlock (Baystate Medical Center);; and the ILLiad discussion group was co-moderated by Mark Tullos (OCLC) and Susan Lieberthal (Harvard Medical School).

And to round off the day's events, Mary Piorun (UMMS, Lamar Soutter Library) presented the group with a prize perspective on the Regional Library's participation in the Maine EDD (Electronic Document Delivery) project.

On behalf of everyone at the NN/LM NER office, we'd like to thank all of the presenters and attendees for making this a successful ILL Meeting and we look forward to seeing everyone back next year!

YOU CAN'T ALWAYS GET WHAT YOU WANT: Membership Certificates

But if you try sometime, you just might find, you just might find ... a certificate from the National Library of Medicine in your mailbox!

Membership certificates for the five-year period 2001-2006 will be mailed out later this summer. Lists of Full Members and Affiliate Members for New England Region 8 are being sent to the printers in June. We hope to have certificates in everyone's possession by September. We appreciate everyone's patience, but there have been a tremendous amount of updates as we proceed with the verification of data.

THANK YOU.

REMINDER

If you haven't updated your holdings in SERHOLD in a long time, now would be a good time to do so. If you need assistance updating your holdings in SERHOLD - or - you would like a SERHOLD "refresher" course - please contact Mark Goldstein either by phone - 508-856-5964 ...

... or by Email - **mark.goldstein@umassmed.edu**.

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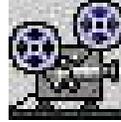
Announcements

Highlights from the NLM Update at MLA

Dr. Don Lindberg spoke at the recently held Medical Library Association meeting in Dallas. During his talk, he described five areas of focus for NLM during the coming year. The first area was development of consumer health information. MedlinePlus will provide better drug information, there will be more attention given to providing information that people with poor vision will be able to see and a Spanish language version will be available "pronto", probably near the end of 2002. Clinical Trials.gov will be adding industry sponsored trials in the near future. There will be greater efforts to involve and educate our colleagues in public libraries about the free products and services available to them.

The second area discussed was Grants and Awards. An RFP for the creation of a new central protein database of protein sequence and functions will be announced soon. In addition, awards have been made to some institutions for the BISTI project - Biomedical Information and Technology Initiative. Columbia University's center for Computational Biology and Informatics has received $700 million and Yale University's Biomedical Computer Center of Excellence has received $400 million from NLM. IAIMS Grants are now funded in five levels - Planning, Operations, Pilot Study, Testing and Evaluation and IAIMS Fellowships. Dr. Lindberg also announced that NLM will participate in the next generation Internet with and application of advanced network infrastructure technology in health and disaster management project.

The third item that Dr. Lindberg discussed was the new NLM building project. He reported that 1100 people work in a space designed for 600 and that there will be no space for library collections after 2004. He outlined ADA compliance needs and new security demands. As many of us are finding in our own libraries, there is now remote storage (in four locations) and there is a need for space for small group meetings. The plans for the new building are underway. Dr. Lindberg announced that the new Chairman of the Board of Regents is Allison Bunting of UCLA

.

The final area of focus that Dr. Lindberg mentioned was the issues that surround terrorism and disasters. He stated that NLM is not an intelligence agency but that both NIH and NLM are becoming more security conscious. There are plans being made for disaster management. NLM supports research for information systems to detect epidemics, for use in emergencies and to support early warning systems.

Slides from Dr. Lindbergs Talk

Highlights submitted by Deborah Sibley, Associate Director

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INside OUTreach

Are you responsible for coming up with continuing education programs in your institution or company? Need a speaker for an upcoming meeting? Are you looking for ways to interest people in your library services or letting them know that PubMed, Medlineplus, and the NLM Gateway are available for their use? Is your institution, company, or library putting on a health fair, information seminar, or doing an open house?

Well, you've come to the right place! Part of our function here at the NER is to provide just those sorts of educational and outreach services. We will provide basic PubMed training, consumer health information training with Medlineplus, training in how to use the NLM Gateway, ClinicalTrials.gov or Docline training. We have courses suitable for consumers, for librarians, for physicians, for nurses, for anyone interested in learning about NLM products and services. We have courses available which have been approved for CME credit by NIH.

Class development is an ongoing process and we will work with you to provide the kind of training you think your group would benefit most from.

How do you arrange to have a class taught at your institution or in your area? The first step is to contact the NER and let us know what you're interested in and the dates you have in mind. We will be happy to work with you. Please be aware that some times of the year are busier than others, so the more lead time you can give us, the better.

The NER will provide the instructor and the class handouts. We also have a laptop and a projector that we can bring along with us - we are fully portable! People often ask what we charge for this and the answer is there are no speaker fees or fees associated with classes. That's because we are funded through the National Library of Medicine and education and outreach are essential to our mission. It's part of the reason why we exist as an RML. Or, as we like to point out, the taxpayers of this great nation have already paid for out services.

So, if you're interested in organizing a class in your area, feel free to contact the NER at 1-800-338-7657. Or you may email me at Donna.Berryman@umassmed.edu.

For those of you who are in central Massachusetts, there are classes currently scheduled at Baystate: a Docline class is scheduled for July 31, 2002 and a PubMed class on October 30, 2002.

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Links to Check Out

SERHOLD-*serials*

Linking MEDLINEplus

NLM Gift Shop

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The Scout Report

This morning, three federal judges overturned the Children's Internet Protection Act and ruled that public libraries cannot be forced to use Internet filters designed to block pornography. In the 195-page decision, judges asserted that the Act went too far because the filters could also block access to other legitimate sites, which is a violation of the First Amendment.

The Act, which was signed by President Clinton in 2000 and widely criticized by First Amendment advocates, would have required public libraries to install the Internet filters, or risk losing federal funding. This recent decision has been applauded by the American Library Association (ALA) and the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), which contends that the law is "unenforceable, unconstitutional, vague and overbroad." Furthermore, they argue that it denies "poor people without home computers the same access to information as their wealthier neighbors because the software could mistakenly block Web sites on issues such as breast cancer and homosexuality."

Prior to the Children's Internet Protection Act, two other anti-Internet pornography laws were brought before federal judges for constitutional challenges, and overturned. In 1996, the Communications Decency Act (which made it a crime to put adult-oriented material online where children can find it), was declared unconstitutional by the Supreme Court; and in 1998, the 3rd US Circuit Court of Appeals overturned the Child Online Protection Act (which required Web sites to collect a credit card number or other proof of age before allowing Internet users to view material deemed "harmful to minors"), stating it was too broad and vague. For more information on the recent court decision regarding the Children's Internet Protection Act, viewers can access the first link below.

The second link provides access to a full copy of the court's decision on the case. Links three and four lead to home pages of the American Library Association and the American Civil Liberties Union, respectively. Lastly, links five, six, and seven provide access to copies of the Children's Internet Protection Act; the 1998 House of Representatives report on the Child Online Protection Act; and the 1996 Communications Decency Act, respectively.[MG]

Children's Internet Protection Act Deemed Unconstitutional Federal Judges Toss Out Online Pornography Law http://www.cnn.com/2002/LAW/05/31/internet.filtering.ap/index.html

Full Text of the Court Decision http://www.paed.uscourts.gov/documents/opinions/02D0415P.HTM

American Library Association http://www.ala.org/cipa/

American Civil Liberties Union http://www.aclu.org/

Children's Internet Protection Act http://www.ifea.net/cipa.html

1998 House Report on Child Online Protection Act http://www.epic.org/free_speech/censorship/hr3783-report.html

Communications Decency Act Struck Down http://www.epic.org/CDA/

In an email from:

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RML Staff Attend MLA

Several New England Region staff attended the Annual Medical Library Association Conference in Dallas, TX on May 15-22, 2002.

Donna Berman, Javier Crespo, Mark Goldstein and Debbie Sibley attended a half day class on working in the exhibit booth at conferences. We traveled to Dallas to be taught by Mime Goldberg, a consultant who lives in Massachusetts! Mime class was lively and informative; we picked up lots of pointers for booth seat as well as how we should prepare and work in the booth.

On Friday, the annual RML Directors meeting was held. This day long session gives the staff from all eight regional medical libraries an opportunity to interact with each other and to hear the news and activities from National Library of Medicine staff. Donna, Javier, Mark, Debbie and Elaine Martin attended this all day session. Highlights of the day included updates from Betsy Humphrey and Angela Ruffin of NLM and a discussion on evaluation of outreach projects led by Cathy Burrows of the Pacific Northwest Region. We also participated in smaller group meetings with our counterparts.

Before the conference began on Sunday, Donna Berryman and Mark Goldstein attended CE courses. Donna chose "Molecular Biology and Genetics for Librarians" taught by Michelle Tenant, PhD in Molecular Biology. Donna reports that it was an excellent class in which the instructor knew the material but was able to make this very complex subject understandable for people who don't have a background in molecular biology. Mark attended the class "Library Website Architecture and Design". He reports that it was a very helpful and instructive class.

Staff members were seen everywhere during the conference. Elaine Martin, RML Director participated in a panel discussion on mentoring, sponsored by the Leadership and Management Section of MLA. She was later elected to serve as the section's chair for the coming year. On Wednesday, Elaine coordinated and chaired the post-MLA symposium "Leadership Reconsidered : Developing a Strategic Agenda for Leadership in Health Sciences Libraries."

Debbie Sibley attended the day-long Chapter Council meeting on Saturday and assisted at the

Chapter Sharing Roundtables luncheon on Sunday, facilitating one of the PDA discussion tables. She also attended the Membership Committee meeting as the Chapter Council Liaison to the committee. Debbie was a participant in the post-MLA symposium "Leadership Reconsidered".

In another story, the NLM Update, given by Donald Lindberg, Director of NLM is summarized.

Meetings and lectures were taped and are available for borrowing from the NER office. The program highlights and schedule can be found at http://www.mlanet.org/am/am2002/. Please request program tapes by contacting Rebecca Chlapowski at Rebecca.chlapowski@umassmed.edu or Debbie Sibley at Deborah.sibley@umassmed.edu.

MLA 2003 will be held in San Diego from May 2-7. We hope to see you there!

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Linking your Web Site to MEDLINEplus

Does your institution's web site need consumer health information? If it does, The National Library of Medicine invites you to link from your web site to MEDLINEplus at http://medlineplus.gov/. MEDLINEplus brings together, by health topic, authoritative information from the National Institutes of Health (NIH), other government, non-profit and other health-related organizations. Preformulated MEDLINE searches are included in MEDLINEplus and give easy access to the medical research literature. It also provides you with a database of full-text drug information, interactive health tutorials and an illustrated medical encyclopedia.

Advantages of linking to MEDLINEplus include:
- It's free
- You can count on its information being authoritative
- It doesn't use cookies or require registration
- It's up to date

What's the best way to link to MEDLINEplus? You are welcome to link to MEDLINEplus or any of the over 500 health topic pages, either directly or by opening a new window. The advantage of opening a new window is that your users still have a browser window with your web site available. Also, because of arrangements with licensed content providers, please do not place any pages in a frame.

Here are some images and text to assist you in coding your HTML link to MEDLINEplus. Please observe the form of the MEDLINEplus name, which should always begin with "MEDLINE" in capital letters and "plus" in lower-case letters.

To point to MEDLINEplus, the code is:

MEDLINEplus

```
<a href=http://medlineplus.gov/>MEDLINEplus</A>
```

To point users to MEDLINEplus and open the results in a new window, the code is:

MEDLINEplus

```
<a href="http://medlineplus.gov/"target="medlinepluswindow">MEDLINEplus</A>
```

Additional text to describe MEDLINEplus and graphics are available from the Linking to MEDLINEplus page at http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/linking.html.

Information on Linking MEDLINEplus provided by:

Naomi Miller and Jennifer Marill
Public Services Division
National Library of Medicine

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PUBMED PARTICULARS

Entrez Dates and "Rolling" Searches

Several times within the past couple of months, I've been asked how to design PubMed searches that use rolling dates. For the sake of clarity, we're talking about searches that will retrieve only citations that are were added to PubMed within a certain specified period of time (such as the last 30 days or the last 60 days). The point being, of course, that we want this to be done automatically rather than having to go and rewrite the date constraints on the search each time we want to run it. Makes sense. And yes, it can be done.

As usual with PubMed, there are a couple of ways to do this. And, as usual with PubMed, there are a couple of things to understand before attempting to do this at home.

First, it is crucial to understand the difference between "Entrez date" and "Publication Date" in PubMed. Entrez dates were added to Medline records in 1997 and indicate the date the citation was added to the database. The Publication date is just that - the date the article was published. The Entrez date and the Publication date often appear to be the same. Ah, but do not be deceived. They are very different.

In fact, when a search is done in PubMed, the results are returned in Entrez date order. Not in publication date order. That's why the citations sometimes appear to be out of chronological order. They are! But they are in Entrez date order.

The astute among you will be wondering why the Entrez date and the Publication date may differ. There are several reasons for this, but the most interesting is that sometimes publishers supply Medline with back citations to their journals. For example, if a journal is selected for indexing by Medline this year, it is possible that the publisher will also give NLM citations from the previous years of the journal. Thus, it's possible to see a big disparity between the Entrez dates and Publication dates. (By the way, these sorts of citations remain forever as "Pubmed - supplied by publisher" citations that are not indexed.)

Contrary to what is commonly believed, the Entrez date does not change when a citation supplied by a publisher becomes an "in process" citation or when the citation is actually indexed. You can find the Entrez date of a record by looking for the "EDAT" entry in the "Medline" display format.

So, how to design a search using rolling dates.

If you're not interested in saving the search strategy, then use the Entrez date limit (from the Limits page) appropriate to your search.

However, if you do want to save your search strategy, the easiest way to do this is to design your search and then save it in the Cubby. The Cubby is designed to automatically update your search each time you run it. In other words, there is no reason to fool around with either Publication dates or Entrez dates. In fact, it is recommended that you do not. Just write the search and save it in the Cubby to be re-run at your pleasure. Cubby will automatically look for citations that were added since the last time the search was updated. If you'd like a detailed description about how this works or instructions on how to save searches in Cubby, see the PubMed Help under Cubby at this URL:
http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/entrez/query/static/help/pmhelp.html#Cubby

The nicest part about using the Cubby is that when you do update the search, you will get ONLY those citations added since the last time the search was run. This is very convenient.

The other way to do this and to save the search strategy, is to design the search and use the URL button (located under the "Details" box) to save it. When you want to run the search, click on the URL, then apply the Entrez Date limit you need from the Limits section of PubMed. This is not quite as elegant as the Cubby solution since it does involve an extra step, but you will get results that will match your search criteria.

There is another way to write and save a search strategy that will capture rolling dates and that is to write a URL that will link to PubMed and run a search for you. If you're interested in doing this - and don't be scared, it's not as complicated as it looks - you can read about how to do it at http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/entrez/query/static/linking.html

And that's this edition of PubMed Particulars. If you have a question about using PubMed, don't hesitate to ask me. You know where to reach me. And, if I don't know the answer, I'll find someone who does. Have a good summer!

Donna Berryman, Outreach Coordinator

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Newsletter of the New England Regional Medical Library

In This Issue:

News from the NLM Technical Bulletin

Just some light reading for a muggy summer's afternoon

1. Linking Medline citations to evidence-based assessments and summaries.

If you're familiar with publications like ACP Journal Club or Evidence-Based Nursing, you'll be familiar with the sorts of articles in these journals: they are almost always descriptions of articles originally published in other journals; they are almost always about clinical trials of one sort or another; and, they all contain a section comprised of evaluative comments or analyses of the clinical trial being reported. Now, Medline will be linking the original articles to those evidence-based assessments. For the complete details on this, see the article from the Technical Bulletin at: http://www.nlm.nih.gov/pubs/techbull/mj02/mj02_ebm.html.

2. Patient Education Handouts - a new publication type in PubMed.

Many publications indexed in PubMed have special columns or pages that are intended to be used as patient education handouts although each publication may have their own special name for such a column. Beginning in the 2002 indexing year, these will be identified with the publication type "Patient Education Handout" in PubMed. A quick look at the Limits in PubMed, however, and you'll see that it is not (yet) available there. If you'd like to see the documents that currently carry this publication type, go to the Preview/Index screen and from the "All Fields" drop-down menu, select "Publication Type" and then, in the adjacent box, type "patient education handout." Click on "and" to pop it into the search box at the top of the page, and then hit enter or click "go." If you do this, you'll see there aren't many such documents in PubMed - in fact on 6/27/02 as I write this, there are only 182. Why? Because it's new indexing. So, remember that you'll have to use other search strategies to find such items that were in PubMed prior to 2002. For complete information on this, see the article from the Technical Bulletin at: http://www.nlm.nih.gov/pubs/techbull/ma02/ma02_new_pt.html

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