# Latitudes
# May 2008

## Table of Contents

# May 2008 Articles

## New Multilingual Feature Introduced on MedlinePlus

Posted on May 14th, 2008 by Alan Carr | Filed under Consumer Health, NLM Products, Outreach

On May 7, 2008, a new feature became available on MedlinePlus, which provides access to high quality health information in languages other than English and Spanish. The new service benefits people who prefer to read health information in their native language. It also helps the information professionals and health care providers who serve them. The collection contains over 2,500 links to information in more than 40 languages and covers nearly 250 Health Topics. Over the years, many MedlinePlus users have requested this enhancement, which helped lead to the development of this important service.

NN/LM PSR members might be interested to see materials in Chamorro, Chinese (Simplified), Chinese (Traditional), Chuukese, Hmong, Japanese, Korean, Martialese, Samoan, Tagalog, Thai and Vietnamese.

The new collection of health information in multiple languages is not meant to be comprehensive. As with the English and Spanish collections, MedlinePlus staff selects materials for the new collection according to established quality guidelines. Materials must be produced by the United States Federal government or a U.S.-based organization, such as a medical association or a hospital. The producer must describe the translation, review and updating process. In addition, the content must be appropriate for a U.S. consumer audience, and it must be authoritative and current. MedlinePlus staff also looks for English equivalents to the multilingual information.

Users can navigate the new collection of health information in multiple languages either by language or by topic. The page listing all of the languages covered in the collection is linked from the MedlinePlus homepage. Users can browse the languages or link to the page listing all of the topics covered. In addition, a languages box displays on the right-hand side of the English Health Topics pages. The languages box lists the languages with links on that topic in MedlinePlus. Users can also search the new collection of health information in multiple languages. A new collection called Multiple Languages appears on the MedlinePlus search results pages. Finally, an interactive world map teaches users about the number of people who speak nine of the languages in the MedlinePlus collection. The languages – Arabic, Chinese, French, Korean, Russian, Somali, Spanish, Tagalog and Vietnamese – are among those most frequently spoken at home in the United States, other than English, according to the U.S. census.

An article describing this feature, along with several illustrative figures, is available from the NLM Technical Bulletin. The MedlinePlus trifold brochure has also been updated with information about this feature, and is available from the "Print Handouts" selection of the "Quick Links" menu on the NN/LM PSR home page.

*Editor's Note: Adapted from an article distributed by the MedlinePlus Team.*

## E-Licensing in the NN/LM Pacific Southwest Region

Posted on May 13th, 2008 by Julie Kwan | Filed under Document Delivery

One of the goals for the 2006-2011 NN/LM PSR contract is to assist Network members with negotiating licensing agreements for electronic resources. In developing our proposal for the contract period, we began by identifying existing buying consortia in the region. These include:

**Arizona**

- Arizona Health Information Network (AZHIN): AZHIN's mission is to "provide an infrastructure for knowledge-based information to support health care practice and training in Arizona and to introduce, encourage, and support widespread use of electronic information management tools by Arizona's health care practitioners." Through membership in AZHIN, participating institutions have access to a variety of online journals, databases, and books.

## California

- **Califa:** Califa's mission is "to provide cost effective delivery of services, programs, and products through a membership network of California libraries." Califa is a voluntary library agency created in 2003 after funding for the Library of California ceased.
- **California Digital Library (CDL):** The California Digital Library is the eleventh library of the University of California and focuses on electronic resources for the entire UC system. "The CDL also maintains its own distinctive programs emphasizing the development and management of digital collections, innovation in scholarly publishing, and the long-term preservation of digital information."
- **Statewide California Electronic Library Consortium (SCELC):** Established in 1986, SCELC originally focused on providing group licensing to electronic databases for private educational institutions in Southern California. SCELC now includes large and small members from the entire state.

## Hawaii

- Medical Libraries Consortium of Hawaii: This is the newest consortium in the Pacific Southwest Region. It was created to replace access that had been supplied by the Hawaii Medical Library, a former Resource Library. This consortium focuses specifically on group licensing of health sciences electronic journals and databases.

## Nevada

- **The Bibliographic Center for Research (BCR)** is a "nonprofit, multistate library cooperative that has served the library community since 1935, providing cost-effective library and information services." Nevada is one of eleven states whose agreements between BCR and the state library allow any library located in those states to use BCR services as a member institution. BCR members also include individual libraries from other states, including 45 from California, 15 from Hawaii, and 1 from Guam. Three other regions of the NN/LM have state libraries who are members of BCR. The Midcontinental Region is currently working with BCR for licensing electronic resources for members in its region.

## Pacific Islands

- **Pacific Resources for Education and Learning (PREL):** The Pacific Islands have had the good fortune of benefiting from license negotiations made by PREL, an Affiliate Member of the NN/LM located in Honolulu. PREL serves the same Pacific Island jurisdictions as are served by this RML. PREL recently joined the Medical Libraries Consortium of Hawaii.

**E-Licensing Survey**

In December 2007, we conducted a survey of NN/LM PSR members to gain a better understanding of their e-licensing needs. We received 115 completed responses, a much greater return than we had anticipated. Survey results indicated that network members are currently licensing a wide variety of electronic resources and that they are interested in collaborating on joint purchases to reduce costs for individual products in order to increase their electronic offerings. Clearly there is significant interest in identifying new opportunities.

**Collaboration with SCELC**

While the e-licensing survey was underway, we were contacted by the Statewide California Electronic Library Consortium (SCELC) to explore joint interests. Currently, we are exploring how the NN/LM PSR might collaborate with SCELC in order to facilitate group licensing of electronic resources. SCELC has been an active and successful license negotiator for non-profit academic and research libraries in California since 1986.

**For more information**

For more information, contact Julie Kwan, Library Network Coordinator, at 310-825-5342 or jkkwan@library.ucla.edu. You will find general information on our web page, Licensing Electronic Resources.