

STUDY OF E-RESOURCES FOR MEDICAL LIBRARIES: AN OVERVIEW

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Abstract

Electronic Resources in Medical Libraries is an essential guide to the medical librarians working in a variety of settings, including academic health centers, hospital libraries, and government health associations, provide entry-level, mid-career, and experienced librarians with comprehensive information and advice on dealing with electronic resources. E-resources refer to digital information and content that are accessed and used through various devices such as computers, smartphones, tablets and e readers. These resources include e- books, e-journals, online database, multimedia content, and other forms of digital content. As healthcare professionals, researchers, educators, and students rely more and more on digital content, medical libraries spend more and more time dealing with the complexities surrounding the use of e-resources. Electronic Resources in Medical Libraries examines the various types of e resources. In this paper we study about various types of e- resources in medical libraries.

Keywords

E- books, e-journals, online database, multimedia content, digital content

Introduction

Today libraries are providing electronic access to a wide variety of resources, including indexes, full-text articles, and complete journals with back files and internet web resources. E-resources in collaboration with internet have become a sign of modern age being an invaluable tool for teaching, learning, and research. The library and information landscape has transformed with the onset of the digital era and today traditional libraries have changed their roles to serve as 'knowledge centers' with priority on value added electronic information services. The rapid growth of new technologies has changed the communication process and reduced the cost of communication for individuals. Electronic information sources can be seen as the most recent development in information technology and are among the most powerful tools ever invented in human history. Electronic Resources in Medical Libraries is an invaluable professional guide for medical and academic librarians, and a helpful classroom resource for faculty and students in library schools.

E- resources

Electronic resources are digital materials that may be accessed via the internet. Reitz (2014) define that e resources as material consisting of data or computer program encoded for reading and manipulation by a computer using a peripheral device directly connected to the computer, e.g. CD-ROM drive, or remotely over a network, like internet.

As per Basker (2017) an electronic resource is a resource that require access to a computer or an electronic product that provide a collection of published data for the purpose of commercialization. E resources include DVD/CD-ROM database, online database, electronic journals, electronic books, electronic theses and dissertations, e-reports, OPACs, Internet and other computer-based electronic networks, e- newspapers, e-newsletters, audios and videos etc. (Quadri et al, 2014).

Benefits of e resources

- **Accessibility and Convenience:**
- **Remote Access:**
- E-resources allow users to access information from anywhere with an internet connection, eliminating the need for physical library visits.
- **24/7 Availability:**
- Unlike physical libraries with set hours, e-resources are available around the clock, allowing users to access information at their convenience.
- **Simultaneous Access:**
- Multiple users can access the same e-resource simultaneously, unlike physical books or journals that can only be used by one person at a time.
- **Cost-Effectiveness and Resource Management:**
- **Reduced Costs:**
- E-resources can be cheaper to acquire and maintain than physical resources, as they require less storage space and staff time.
- **Space Conservation:**
- Libraries can save valuable physical space by storing and accessing e-resources instead of storing large quantities of physical books and journals.
- **Faster Information Delivery:**
- E-resources allow for faster access to information, as articles and journals can be accessed online before their print versions are available.
- **Enhanced Information and User Experience:**
- **Up-to-Date Information:**
- E-resources provide access to the latest research and information, ensuring that medical professionals and students have access to the most current knowledge.
- **Multimedia Content:**
- E-resources can include multimedia content like audio, video, and animations, which can enhance the learning and research experience.
- **Hyperlinking and Interconnectivity:**

E-resources often include hyperlinks and links to related content, making it easier for users to navigate and explore information.

- **Search Functionality:**

E-resources allow users to search for information using keywords or other search terms, making it easier to find relevant information quickly.

- **Usage Statistics:**

E-resources provide usage statistics which help the library staff in finding out the usage of the product

E resources/online databases for medical libraries

- [PubMed](#)

PubMed comprises more than 30 million citations for biomedical literature from MEDLINE, life science journals, and online books. Citations may include links to full-text content from PubMed Central and publisher web sites.

- [MEDLINE](#)

A database established by National Library of Medicine. Choose EBSCOhost Research Databases, then check choose all or check MEDLINE to use the database subscribed by the library.

- [NEW ENGLAND JOURNAL OF MEDICINE](#)

The New England Journal of Medicine is the most widely read and influential medical journal in the world. Widely cited in journals of all medical specialties, the peer reviewed original articles are aimed at physicians and those interested in medical practice. Sections include Images in Clinical Medicine, Review Articles, Editorials, Correspondence, and Case Records of the Massachusetts General Hospital.

- [JAMA-JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION](#)

Building on a tradition of editorial excellence, The JAMA Network brings JAMA together with the eleven JAMA specialty journals to offer enhanced access to the research, reviews, and perspectives shaping the future of medicine. Through a variety of innovative tools, The JAMA Network provides the insights that matter most to medical research and practice.

- [BMJ \(British Medical Journal\)](#)

British Medical Journal focuses on publishing and medical education to clinical decision support and quality improvement to enhance day to day decision-making and healthcare delivery. It continues to support medical professionals and organizations around the globe.

- [Thieme](#)

Thieme is the market leading publisher of neurosurgical content and holds strong market positions in orthopedics, radiology, anatomy and chemistry, among other specialties. Thieme publishes 137 peer-reviewed journals and over 500 new books annually. Thieme Chemistry and Pharmaceutical E-Journals are critical for the research and information

needs of universities and research facilities. We subscribe to SYNTHESIS, SYNLETT, SYNFACTS, Pharmacopsychiatry, Planta Medica.

- [Lippincott Williams & Wilkins \(LWW\)](#)

The LWW Total Access Collection is an expansive collection of all LWW journals available on Ovid and that cater to your intensive medical information needs - when just a few core journals are not enough. This prestigious collection brings you just about every one of LWW's highly respected titles, from essential core journals to specialized resources in such areas as nursing and bioscience, to help round out your knowledge base.

- [ClinicalKey](#)

Our users can have access to 11 subject packages: Base package Infectious Disease, Advanced Basic Sciences, Allergy and Immunology Pathology essential Internal Medicine Essential Surgery Medical Education Essential Hematology Oncology & Palliative Medicine Psychiatry Orthopedics Essential.

Open Access

- [Oncomine](#)

Oncomine provides solutions for individual researchers and multinational companies, with robust, peer-reviewed analysis methods and a powerful set of analysis functions that compute gene expression signatures, clusters and gene-set modules, automatically extracting biological insights from the data

- [Public Library of Science \(PLOS\)](#)

PLOS is a nonprofit, Open Access publisher empowering researchers to accelerate progress in science and medicine by leading a transformation in research communication.

- [Medical Subject Headings \(MeSH\)](#)

Medical Subject Headings (MeSH) is to produce a clear and concise vocabulary that is useful for indexing and retrieval of biomedical literature. Each entry term in MeSH is unique and carefully chosen to avoid expressions that are multimeaning. Although MeSH works closely with a variety of NLM departments that provide indexing, citation data, and publications we are not directly involved in these processes and cannot provide answers for questions related to these areas.

- [GenBank](#)

GenBank is the NIH genetic sequence database, an annotated collection of all publicly available DNA sequences (Nucleic Acids Research, 2013 Jan;41(D1):D36-42). GenBank is part of the International Nucleotide Sequence Database Collaboration, which comprises the DNA DataBank of Japan (DDBJ), the European Nucleotide Archive (ENA), and GenBank at NCBI. These three organizations exchange data on a daily basis.

- [Uniport](#)

The mission of Uniport is to provide the scientific community with a comprehensive, high-quality and freely accessible resource of protein sequence and functional information.

- [UpToDate](#)

UpToDate is the only resource of its kind associated with improved outcomes, UpToDate is an investment in patient care. It provides original clinical content authored by leading physicians synthesized into graded, evidence-based recommendations.

- [National Institute for Health and Care Excellence \(NICE\)](#)

The National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) provides national guidance and advice to improve health and social care, and contains governance information, up-to-date policies, procedures and publications.

- [Search Tool for the Retrieval of interacting Genes/Proteins \(STRING\)](#)

STRING is a database of known and predicted protein-protein interactions. The interactions include direct (physical) and indirect (functional) associations; they stem from computational prediction, from knowledge transfer between organisms, and from interactions aggregated from other (primary) databases.

- [Protein Data Bank \(PDB\)](#)

Since 1971, the Protein Data Bank archive (PDB) has served as the single repository of information about the 3D structures of proteins, nucleic acids, and complex assemblies. The Worldwide PDB (wwPDB) organization manages the PDB archive and ensures that the PDB is freely and publicly available to the global community.

- [BioGRID](#)

BioGRID is an interaction repository with data compiled through comprehensive curation efforts. Our current index is version 3.5.186 and searches 72,408 publications for 1,871,024 protein and genetic interactions, 28,093 chemical associations and 874,796 post translational modifications from major model organism species. All data are freely provided via our search index and available for download in standardized formats.

Multimedia content

Medical libraries can benefit greatly from incorporating multimedia content like videos, images, and interactive resources to enhance learning, research, and patient education, offering diverse formats for understanding complex medical concepts.

Types of Multimedia Resources:

- **Anatomy and Physiology:**

- **3D Anatomy Models:** Interactive 3D models allow users to explore anatomical structures in detail.
- **Anatomy Atlases:** Visual resources like "Acland's Video Atlas of Human Anatomy" and "Anatomy TV" offer detailed anatomical illustrations and videos.

- **Medical Imaging:**

- **Radiology Images:** Collections of X-rays, CT scans, MRI, and other imaging modalities to aid in diagnosis and understanding.
- **Microscopy Images:** High-resolution images of cells and tissues, used for pathology and research.

- **Procedures and Techniques:**

- **Procedural Videos:** Demonstrations of medical procedures, surgeries, and clinical techniques.
- **Laboratory Protocol Videos:** Step-by-step guides for laboratory procedures.
- **Patient Education:**
 - **Health Information Videos:** Videos explaining medical conditions, treatments, and lifestyle recommendations.
 - **Animations:** Animations can simplify complex medical concepts for easier understanding by patients and the public.
- **Other Multimedia:**
 - **Audio Content:** Podcasts, audio lectures, and interviews related to medical topics.
 - **Interactive Simulations:** Simulations that allow users to practice medical skills in a virtual environment.

Conclusion:

E-resources are useful for libraries as well as each and every user of the society who are starving to get a variety of information through the globe's-resources and services seem to be considered very important in the present era. The e-resources and services of medical libraries are playing very a significant role in the functioning of any organization well as nation building. Electronic sources of information are highly useful for the medical research, teaching, and learning processes. In order to make it successful and best use of the available e-resources, authorities of the institution library should conduct regular orientation/training program to maximize the use of electronic sources of information more effectively and efficiently.

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