

EDITORIAL

Electronic Search for Scientific Literature and Participating in Online Journalism

Moving towards a paper free world with faster communication services accessible to everyone around the globe, the use of electronic resources for scientific literature and online journalism is developing very rapidly. Rather than conventional libraries and printed journals, today we have huge online libraries and journals accessible at the click of a finger. Many of these resources are freely accessible to everyone while the others are available after paying the subscription fees.

Reaching the appropriate online resources is one of the basic and important requirements for use of these electronic libraries. Search engines like PubMed, Google, Yahoo, etc. are known to almost every medical person who uses the internet and is involved in any kind of research. However, only a few know how to use these search engines to the maximum of their benefit. Google and Yahoo may seem very attractive and effective to the common user but they are not in any way reliable for a medical researcher looking for authenticated information. PubMed is one of the best and the most comprehensive database of citations, abstracts and full text articles on life sciences and biomedical sciences. It is worthwhile to note that PubMed is only a collection of references in the form of databases. The original full texts are not hosted by PubMed, rather PubMed gives a link to the full texts that are made available by online libraries like Cochrane Library or Science Direct or the journal websites. MedLine, often confused with PubMed, is not in itself a search engine. It hosts citations, references and full texts of those articles that have been made available for every one for free and the publishers have granted permission to MedLine for hosting them.

Other electronic resources that offer the facility to search through various freely available references include K4Health and Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ). An important resource for evidence based medicine is the E-Medicine website emedicine.medscape.com which is a part of the MedScape project. Emedicine provides referenced material on almost all topics related to medical and surgical specialties.

As the online libraries are electronic resources are expanding, more and more journals are opting for online editions. Online journalism has many benefits over the traditional journalism like ease of article submission, review and access, instantaneous access and many times free access. Journals like NEJM offer free full text access to lower income countries like Pakistan. Journals included in the DOAJ and the Public Library of Science (PLoS) offer absolutely free full text to all readers across the globe.

Annals of KEMU is collaborating with Department of Orthopaedic Surgery and Traumatology, KEMCAANA Computer Labs and Society for Academic and Research Development (of KEMU Students) will be holding regular skill workshop to train KEMU Students and Faculty in field of electronic search of scientific literature and participating in online journalism.

I hope the readers of Annals will also be enjoying free full text access to our articles through www.annalskemu.org.



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