Transforming 16th century scholarship
in 21st century terms

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In what soon will be known as the Northwestern Vesalius, Drs. Malcolm H. Hast, professor emeritus, Department of Otolaryngology, Head & Neck Surgery, Feinberg School of Medicine, and Daniel H. Garrison, professor of classics, Department of Classics, Weinberg College of Arts and Sciences, are currently engaged in producing the complete English annotated translation of Andreas Vesalius’ De human corporis fabrica, On the fabric of the human body. Vesalius’ work is considered a monument in medical literature, being the first “modern” text on anatomy.

The work of these two Northwestern scholars is unique for several reasons. Never before has a complete English translation been made of both editions of the entire Fabrica. One recent translation by two New Zealand scholars concentrates only on Vesalius’ first edition of 1543 and only on his first two books (the original title contains seven books or sections of the whole). In addition, these scholars translated only the main text, with few footnotes and annotations. The Northwestern Vesalius exceeds this work by translating everything — text, footnotes, notations on illustrations, etc. — from both editions, the second published in 1555. Thoemmes Press, Bristol, U.K., will be the publishers of the print edition, which is anticipated to be published around 2007 when the complete translation is finished.

The Galter Library is participating in the project through the loan of its original copy of the second edition; a facsimile version of the first edition is also located in the Galter Library’s Special Collections Department. By placing the library’s copy of the original second edition in Evanston at the University Library’s Deering Collection, we assist the scholars in their translation effort by conveniently locating the volume closer to their worksite.

What is also making the Northwestern Vesalius unique is the use of current information technologies to bring the work to life again in the 21st century. Malcolm Hast and Dan Garrison, along with a team of information specialists from the University Library and Academic Technologies, have published the English translation of book one on the web at http://vesalius.northwestern.edu. In addition to providing the text, the online version adds the special technological touches that make electronic publishing so unique. Using a frame structure, a table of contents appears in a left-hand column, actual text of the translation appears in the center of the page and footnotes appear in a special bottom frame. Linkages between text, illustrations and footnotes are the hallmark of web-based publishing.

Remote Access and Connection FAQs

Linda O’Dwyer, MSLIS, Reference Librarian, l-odwyer@northwestern.edu

Did you know that you can connect to the Galter Library’s licensed resources from home or off-campus? Or are you having trouble connecting and aren’t sure where to turn? The Galter Library has created a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) web page for users who want to know more about connecting to the Galter Library web site when not on campus. The page covers how to sign up for access, on and off campus access to e-journals and databases, access to or from the Evanston campus, and how to connect to Ovid databases or MDConsult resources. To access the page, go to: http://www.galter.nwu.edu/libinfo/detail.cfm?ghslID=309 or click the Connection FAQs link in the Computing @ Galter section under Library Information on the home page.

To sign up for Remote Access, you will need a WildCARD or a library card. Click the “Sign in for Online Services” link on the home page, choose the “Create an Account” option, and follow the instructions. Once signed up and signed in, you can access all e-journals, e-books, and databases from anywhere at any time. See the following for step-by-step instructions: http://www.galter.nwu.edu/libinfo/detail.cfm?ghslID=198

If you experience any problems connecting or would like assistance with accessing resources remotely, please contact us at (312) 503-8109 or email to ghsl-ref@northwestern.edu

Anatomical Models in the Learning Resources Center

Stephanie Kerns, MLS, Head, Learning Resources Center, skerns@northwestern.edu

We have over 45 anatomical models available in the LRC. Recently we added some new ones to the collection, including: a human heart that illustrates the musculature and large blood vessels, with both ventricles and atria open to reveal the valves; a life-size human brain model which divides into eight parts, including the medulla and cerebellum; and a muscular model of the arm combining the skeleton and muscles with a functioning elbow joint.

See the accompanying photographs for more illustrations of our collection. All anatomical models are in-library use items. However, they may be checked out by faculty for use in class. Please contact the LRC at (312) 503-8238 for more information.
Evidence Based Medicine At Galter

Linda O'Dwyer, MSLIS, Reference Librarian, l-odwyer@northwestern.edu

Evidence Based Medicine – EBM – has been a buzz phrase in the medical and information professions for the last decade or so. EBM is the process of locating evidence in the medical literature that assists in decision-making regarding practical clinical questions. Rather than settle for a couple of articles that address your topic in an anecdotal or perfunctory fashion, using the EBM process enables you to find top-notch evidence to support clinical practice and patient care.

Here at Northwestern University, we have access to a number of key EBM resources and databases, many of which are licensed and some of which are freely-available. Here are brief descriptions of the EBM resources available through the Galter Library website:

- ACP Journal Club: a collection of enhanced abstracts of chosen articles on clinically-relevant topics
- Cochrane Controlled Trials Register: a bibliography of controlled trials, many of which are not covered by MEDLINE or similar databases
- Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews: full-text, regularly-updated, systematic reviews from the Cochrane Collaboration
- Database of Abstracts of Reviews of Effectiveness (DARE): critical assessments of systematic reviews from a number of sources
- Ovid MEDLINE: search MEDLINE as normal and apply the EBM reviews limit or any one of the special filters created by the Galter Library
- Clinical Queries in PubMed: search the MEDLINE literature and apply special filters (therapy, diagnosis, etiology, or prognosis).
- HealthWeb: Evidence Based Health Care: collection of web resources, including search guides, clinical guidelines, and free databases.

All of the databases are available from our Databases link on the Galter Library home page. To learn more about EBM, the databases, and to view sample searches, see our Evidence-Based Health Care guide at: http://www.galter.northwestern.edu/guides/EBHC/index.cfm

We also offer classes – check our classes schedule for the next offering or request that we teach you at your convenience: http://www.galter.northwestern.edu/courses/

E-Resources Highlights

Linda Walton, MLS, Associate Director, ljwalton@northwestern.edu

E-Journals list updated
Recently, the library held focus groups with faculty to discuss the library's collection. During the course of these conversations, electronic access to resources was a recurring theme. Not only were faculty interested in plans for new titles and back issues online, they were also interested in how e-resources were presented on the library website. Based on this feedback, the library recently implemented the inclusion of dates of coverage on the list of e-journals so that the user no longer has to click on “more info” to determine what holdings the library has for an e-journal title. Please keep sending us your feedback so that we can continue to enhance the website to meet your needs.

E-Journals list greatly expanded
One of the library's goals this year was to provide online access to every journal we currently subscribe to in print. At this point, the library has 85% of its titles online, so we are very close to meeting our goal. The primary obstacle that keeps us from reaching 100% includes publisher restrictions. In some cases, publishers restrict the number of computers that can have online access; publishers have opted to not provide online access to libraries, but focus on individual users; and some publishers have simply not produced online access to their titles. We will continue to monitor our list of titles not yet available online. If your favorite title is not available online, please let us know and we will investigate our online access options. You can contact Linda Walton, Associate Director, at 503-8133 or ljwalton@northwestern.edu.
American Medical Association (AMA) Journal Licensing challenges
This spring, the American Medical Association surprised many medical libraries with their abrupt change in licensing. Many libraries, including Galter Library, lost access to AMA titles such as JAMA and Archives of Internal Medicine. We learned, after the fact, that we would have to sign a new license and pay significantly more money to reinstate access. Many members of the medical library community complained to the AMA and an advisory committee of medical librarians was formed. James Shedlock and Linda Walton are both members of the advisory committee which has met once so far. The purpose of the committee is to advise the AMA on issues such as pricing, timing, types of access, and other important factors libraries face when selecting and managing electronic resources.

New databases
The library now provides access to new databases that may be of interest to our users: American Speech and Hearing Association database and Mental Measurements Yearbook. Links to these databases can be found on the library website under “Databases.” If you would like training or support in using these or other databases supported by the library, please contact the reference desk at 503-8109.

Spotlight on Psych Resources
During the past year, The Galter Library has placed an emphasis on obtaining quality psychology/psychiatry resources for our users. We have added two new databases, and a number of e-books and e-journals to our collection. All the resources are available from the library website. The resources are described below.

Mental Measurements Yearbook: This resource contains the most recent descriptive information and critical reviews of new and revised tests from the Buros Institute’s 9th through the 15th Yearbooks. It also includes full text information about and reviews of all English-language standardized tests covering educational skills, personality, vocational aptitude, psychology, and related areas as included in the printed “Mental Measurements Yearbooks.” Coverage: 1985 – present.

Health and Psychosocial Instruments: This resource provides information on measurement instruments (i.e., questionnaires, interview schedules, checklists, index measures, coding schemes/manuals, rating scales, projective techniques, vignettes/scenarios, tests) in the health fields, psychosocial sciences, organizational behavior, and library and information science. Coverage: 1985 – present.

American Psychological Association Journal Collection: This collection of 47 APA titles is now available to our users electronically with links to databases such as PubMed, Ovid MEDLINE, and PsycINFO. Some highlighted titles include: Journal of Consulting and Clinical Psychology, American Psychologist, American Journal of Orthopsychiatry, and more. Coverage: 1988–present.

Psych books online: Galter has collected some of the best psych textbooks for our users including the DSM-IV-TR. Below are the e-books we have in psychology and psychiatry:

Diagnostic and statistical manual of mental disorders: DSM-IV-TR
Dictionary of psychology/Colman
Kaplan and Sadock’s comprehensive textbook of psychiatry, 7th ed.
Psychiatry/Tasman et al
Review of general psychiatry/Goldman

Vesalius continued:

In addition, the navigation bar at the top of the page controls special access to the many illustrations that have been scanned into the web site. Separate indexes exist for illustrations listed by name or body region. Each illustration view can be magnified up or down in order to reveal Vesalius’ labeling of various anatomical structures. Special green-colored text provides context for understanding Greek lettering and accents via a translation guide linked at the website home page.

The translation effort reveals many accomplishments. In addition to translating medieval Greek, Latin and Hebrew — Vesalius used all three languages — into modern English, there is also the scholarly effort to understand what Vesalius is saying about human anatomy. Dr. Hast’s contribution is to make clear the science of what Vesalius is saying. Word for word translation needs to be reconciled with what is presently known about human anatomy as well as what we understand Vesalius to have known at the time of his writing. Dr. Hast’s challenge is to interpret Vesalius in order to produce a readable text that can still speak to today’s medical student and physician. All parts of the body, bones, muscles, nerves, arteries, etc. are identified and labelled with modern terminology in Latin (nomina anatomica); in addition, historical and clinical footnotes have been added for increased textual value.

Overall, this web site points out the enormous accomplishment that is occurring in this project: classical translating assisting medical understanding of anatomy. Technology adds value to the scholarship at hand by bringing this important historical work to the desktop.
Learning About Our Benefactors

Linda O’Dwyer, MSLIS, Reference Librarian, l-odwyer@northwestern.edu

Would you like to know more about the Galters, after whom the library is named? Or the Eckenhoffs, Boshes, and Dr. Lee Counsell, who have contributed generously to supporting the library's collections?

The Galter Library has created a website devoted to acknowledging the library's benefactors. This series of pages features electronic bookplates, information about each donor and the collections his or her endowment supports, and relevant images from our Special Collections. Where possible, we have tried to include class and personal photos as well as scanned images from our rare materials. We have also started entering links into our online catalog, NUcat. If you come across a title in the online catalog that has been purchased with an endowment, you will soon be able to link directly to the relevant donor's electronic bookplate and dedicated web page. To see the full website and to learn more about our benefactors, go to: http://www.galter.northwestern.edu/donors/.

Staff News


We are pleased to announce that Jim Brucker, Reference Assistant, has been accepted to the University of Illinois School of Library and Information Science distance learning program. Jim will continue working at Galter while he pursues his master's degree in library science. Congratulations Jim!

Northwestern University was well represented, this year, at the annual Medical Library Association meeting held in San Diego, CA. Eight members of the staff attended the meeting and led a variety of committee meetings, forums, and poster sessions. Listed below are the poster sessions presented by Galter staff.

- Breaking down barriers: reaching out to surgery residents. Mark Berendsen and Linda O’Dwyer.
- Collaborating with faculty: integrating the library into the medical school curriculum. Stephanie Kerns.
- Electronic bookplates: finding new ways to acknowledge benefactors and solicit future support. Linda O’Dwyer, Ron Sims, and James Shedlock.
- Evaluating the Health SmartLibrary. Michelle Frisque, Steve Hunt, James Shedlock, Linda Walton, Jon Handler, M.D. and Michael Gillam, M.D.

This spring staff also presented papers at the Endeavor Users Group Meeting. These papers were:

- Components for convenience. Susan Wishnetsky.
- Enhancing MeSH authority records and the use of FAST. Tony Olson.
Special Programming at Galter

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Galter Library recently delivered informational programs on two separate occasions—Medical Information Day and Alumni Day. As part of National Library Week, Galter Library celebrated Medical Information Day on Friday, April 11. Library staff demonstrated two new resources, MedWeaver, a clinical decision-making support tool from Ovid Technologies, and Faculty of 1000, a current awareness tool for biological sciences literature produced by BioMed Central. Candy, stuffed animals, and other promotional materials provided by vendors were popular at the information station, set up in the library atrium.

On Alumni Day, Friday, April 25, an eager group of alumni took part in a workshop highlighting the Galter Library website, NUcat, and PubMed. The participating medical school alumni, representing classes from the 1940’s, 50’s, 60’s, and 70’s, proved to be computer savvy and up to the task, challenging librarians with thought-provoking questions. Our thanks go out to all who participated in the programs as well as the program organizers!