

Miami, FL 06/05/2009

RE: HealthLibrarian, a Unified Discovery Service for Open Access & Open Data bio-medical knowledge.

Greetings:

Libraries across the US face significant budget reductions, forcing library administrators to reduce their acquisition budget for commercial journal and scientific subscriptions. This directly impacts patrons.

If your library's position is "*We need access to ABC Journal from XYZ Publisher*" then your budget needs to accommodate that need. But you could re-frame the question to "*We need to provide our patrons with access to peer-reviewed journals in the same subject area as ABC Journal from XYZ Publishing.*" Then HealthLibrarian's Open Access offerings can give your library a realistic solution at lower cost.

HealthLibrarian can help your library to address this challenge through our one-stop shop discovery interface that helps users to locate pre-processed, indexed bio-medical materials, electronic journal articles, books and multimedia resources. All within a single integrated results list.

We have already indexed over a dozen Open Data bio-medical sources from the Spanish, UK and US governments. And we are downloading and pre-indexing dozens of peer-reviewed bio-medical Open Access journals. These journals and government sources can provide your library with access to materials in the same subject access as commercial journals from Toll Access publishers.

HealthLibrarian sidesteps the problems inherent in federated search by physically storing, indexing, and retrieving information from our own digital repository. All of the content accessible via HealthLibrarian is pre-indexed and allows users to quickly search, discover and access reliable and credible content.

We are looking for pilot sites in academic and research libraries to deploy HealthLibrarian. This is your opportunity to guide the development of a system that can best fit your library's needs.

Please contact me directly at +1 (954) 553-1984 Thank you for reading. Regards.



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Impact of Reduced Budgets in Library's Patrons

This section summarizes some of the areas where reduced budgets can impact libraries' services to patrons. Libraries are looking to identify alternative ways to meet their patrons' needs.

Lost Research

For academic and research universities, delayed access to journal titles that fall outside of consortial agreements and bundled licensing may result in less competitive grants.

Student Impact

For academic libraries, students and staff will suffer from delayed / blocked access to relevant materials, including those containing evidence based medicine.

Potential Impact on Accreditation

For libraries affiliated with medical schools, a reduction in access to electronic resources for students and clinicians may have an impact on LCME's accreditation.

Liaison Committee on Medical Education's ("LCME")

The LCME's "Standards for Accreditation of Medical Education Programs Leading to the M.D. Degree," version of June 2008.¹ includes the following in the "V. Educational Resources" section, sub-section "D. Information Resources and Library Services":

ER-11

The medical school must have access to well-maintained library and information facilities, sufficient in size, breadth of holdings, and information technology to support its education and other missions.

There should be physical or electronic access to leading biomedical, clinical, and other relevant periodicals, the current numbers of which should be readily available. The library and other learning resource centers must be equipped to allow students to access information electronically, as well as to use self- instructional materials.

ER-12

The library and information services staff must be responsive to the needs of the faculty, residents and students of the medical school.

A professional staff should supervise the library and information services, and provide training in information management skills. The library and information services staff should be familiar with current regional and national information resources and data systems, and with contemporary information technology. [Revised annotation approved by the LCME in October 2007 and effective immediately.]

Both school officials and library/information services staff should facilitate access of faculty, residents, and medical students to information resources, addressing their needs for information during extended hours and at dispersed sites.

¹ Available at <http://www.lcme.org/functions2008jun.pdf>

Financial Impact of Economic Downturn in Library Acquisition Budgets

Given budgetary constraints, all libraries in the US are being forced to curtail their acquisition budgets.

The Association of Research Libraries (ARL) has addressed this reality through a statement "to Scholarly Publishers and Vendors" on its website²

The ARL statement includes a set of recommendations that are based on the belief that scholarly publishers who are committed to enhancing the effectiveness of the scholarly communication system are prepared to act to minimize negative impacts on the system resulting from economic conditions. Among other strategies, the statements calls for publishers and vendors to adopt flexible approaches to pricing and avoid reducing content or access as libraries seek to renegotiate expenditures. ARL encourages publishers to consult widely with research libraries in developing responses to the current economic environment. Small, not-for-profit publishers are of particular concern, and ARL member libraries welcome conversations regarding new publishing models that can reduce the cost and vulnerability of established publications of high value.

ARL's full statement is available at www.arl.org/bm~doc/economic-statement-2009.pdf

The International Coalition of Library Consortia ("ICOLC") has issued a similar "Statement on the Global Economic Crisis and Its Impact on Consortial Licenses" published on January 19, 2009³

The American Libraries' Association's ("ALA") The State of America's Libraries Report 2009⁴ summarizes the challenges by stating that "Library use increases dramatically as economy sags; funding declines."

At the individual institution level, Florida Atlantic University ("FAU") in Palm Beach county, FL outlines the problem succinctly through a website dedicated to asking its users to define what resources to cut⁵

As you know, the University is undergoing major reductions in its budget, which will probably be a multi-year phenomenon, and as a part of that we must unfortunately engage in a major reduction to our materials budget. All areas of the Libraries' collections will be considered for reduction and we will need to identify subscriptions to ongoing products (journals and databases) that we may cancel. We will be asking for your help over the next few months in identifying those cuts which will do the least damage to our ongoing academic programs.

The University of Florida presents a similar analysis through their website⁶ and on a blog⁷

2 Available at <http://www.arl.org/news/pr/econ-crisis-19feb09.shtml>

3 Available at <http://www.library.yale.edu/consortia/icolc-econcrisis-0109.htm>

4 Available at http://www.ala.org/ala/newspresscenter/mediapresscenter/presskits/2009stateofamericaslibraries/State%20draft_04.10.09.pdf

5 FAU Libraries' "Budget Reduction Planning Site", available at <http://www.library.fau.edu/depts/cd/budget/main.htm>

6 Available at http://www.uflib.ufl.edu/pio/budget/FINAL2009-2010_Budget_Reduction04012009.pdf

7 Available at <http://smathers2010budget.blogspot.com/>

Open Access to Compensate for Reduced Acquisition Budgets

Thus far, one of libraries' few options to adjusting to this long-term reality of reduced funding is to reduce or eliminate access to some of those data sources.

What HealthLibrarian offers is the ability to replace Toll Access publications with Open Access content in the same subject areas. If your library's position is "*We need access to ABC Journal from XYZ Publisher*" then your budget needs to accommodate that need. But you could re-frame the question to "*We need to provide our patrons with access to peer-reviewed journals in the same subject area as ABC Journal from XYZ Publishing.*" HealthLibrarian can give your library a realistic alternative.

Thus, if a library is currently paying US\$826.40 per year to access a single journal ("AMERICAN JOURNAL OF COMMUNITY PSYCHOLOGY"), HealthLibrarian can offer access to several Open Access journals about "psychology" (see Appendix B: Concrete Example of OA Substitution below).

We understand libraries are reluctant to forego access to Toll Access' publications. Unfortunately, budgetary decisions are forcing libraries to cut their acquisition budgets. HealthLibrarian offers libraries an alternative between a.) pay high subscription fees for Toll Access resources or b.) have nothing.

Open Access is making a strong push right now from all angles:

- NIH require all researchers it funds publish their findings in Open Access journals.⁸
- The Wellcome Trust in the UK (one of the largest funders of bio-medical research in the world) has an Open Access policy in place.⁹
- More and more government agencies worldwide are supporting OA as a matter of principle.¹⁰
- Several OA publications have high impact ratings already¹¹
- Harvard's Arts & Sciences Faculty recently voted for an Open Access Mandate (the first university mandate in the US, first anywhere to be initiated by faculty)¹²

There are thousands of peer-reviewed Open Access publications, in all fields of science and bio-medicine. Both BioMed Central¹³ and DoAJ¹⁴ list many of those journals.

8 See <http://publicaccess.nih.gov/> for details: "In accordance with the NIH Public Access Policy, final, peer-reviewed manuscripts must be posted to the NIHMS upon acceptance for publication, and be made publicly available on PubMed Central (PMC) no later than 12 months after the official date of publication."

9 See <http://www.wellcome.ac.uk/About-us/Policy/Spotlight-issues/Open-access/Policy/index.htm> for details: "The Wellcome Trust believes that maximising the distribution of these papers - by providing free, online access - is the most effective way of ensuring that the research we fund can be accessed, read and built upon. In turn, this will foster a richer research culture."

10 See <http://www.sherpa.ac.uk/juliet/>

11 Available at <http://www.biomedcentral.com/info/about/faq?name=impactfactor>

12 Available at http://www.fas.harvard.edu/%7Esecfas/February_2008_Agenda.pdf "The Faculty of Arts and Sciences of Harvard University is committed to disseminating the fruits of its research and scholarship as widely as possible. In keeping with that commitment, the Faculty adopts the following policy: Each Faculty member grants to the President and Fellows of Harvard College permission to make available his or her scholarly articles and to exercise the copyright in those articles. In legal terms, the permission granted by each Faculty member is a nonexclusive, irrevocable, paid-up, worldwide license to exercise any and all rights under copyright relating to each of his or her scholarly articles, in any medium, and to authorize others to do the same, provided that the articles are not sold for a profit. The policy will apply to all scholarly articles written while the person is a member of the Faculty except for any articles completed before the adoption of this policy and any articles for which the Faculty member entered into an incompatible licensing or assignment agreement before the adoption of this policy. The Dean or the Dean's designate will waive application of the policy for a particular article upon written request by a Faculty member explaining the need. "

13 See full listing at <http://www.biomedcentral.com/browse/bysubject/>

14 See full listing at <http://www.doaj.org/>

Current Datasources in HealthLibrarian

These are the types of Open Access and Open Data datasources currently available in HealthLibrarian.

Datasource	Type of Information	# Records
Medline (National Library of Medicine)	Scientific articles from 1958 until 2009.	17,071,277
	Researchers listed as authors of Medline articles.	54,260,621
FDA (US' Food and Drug Administration)	AERS {adverse events for medications}	4,844,469
	MAUDE {adverse events for medical devices}	1,078,877
NIH grants (National Institutes of Health)	Summary details on NIH grants from 1990 to 2009, both for active grants as well as completed ones.	1,255,204
Guidelines	Validated "best practices" guidelines, both US and UK.	3,033
CMS' National Provider Identifier	Unique identification number for covered health care providers. Covered health care providers and all health plans and health care clearinghouses will use the NPIs in the administrative and financial transactions adopted under HIPAA.	2,810,211
BioMedCentral ¹⁵	BioMed Central publishes articles of peer-reviewed biomedical research, all of which are covered by an open access license agreement which allows free distribution and re-use of the full-text article.	49749
Clinical Trials	Argentina, Australia, Canada, UK, and US.	23500
Drug Information	Structured Product Label for drugs licensed in the US.	4,006
	Records in Spanish (both package inserts as well as technical details) for drugs licensed in Spain. ¹⁶	21,000
Aetna's Clinical Policy Bulletins ("CPBs")	CPBs express Aetna's determination of whether certain services or supplies are medically necessary, experimental and investigational, or cosmetic. Aetna has reached these conclusions based upon a review of currently available clinical information. ¹⁷	600

15 As per <http://www.biomedcentral.com/info/libraries/faqs#1>, "BioMed Central is committed to providing free access to original research papers. For this reason, all the research papers published in any of our journals are free for anyone to view, download, and further disseminate in full text or PDF format." The raw XML files are available for download at <http://www.biomedcentral.com/info/about/datamining/>

16 HealthLibrarian currently has available the full text of both the technical specs as well as the product insert for all drugs approved for use in Spain. These materials could be useful to patients that speak Spanish as their first (or only) language. It is highly likely that the content of Spain's inserts and technical specs is roughly equivalent to the corresponding drugs sold in the US. WARNING: The FDA has not explicitly stated whether distributing these materials from the Spanish government to US residents is acceptable to the FDA.

17 Available at http://www.aetna.com/cpb/medical/data/cpb_alpha.html
DISCLAIMER: Aetna does not endorse HealthLibrarian.

Datasource	Type of Information	# Records
Air Quality	Historical and daily updates on air quality metrics for each county in the US as well as the major population centers in each county.	All counties in the US
Mental Health	Contact details for mental health providers sorted by county and state.	8,816
Organizations	Full details for organizations that offer services and guidance to patients with specific conditions or diseases.	8,645
Substance Abuse	Contact details for substance abuse-oriented facilities and providers sorted by county and state.	11,752
SuperCourse	PowerPoint presentations addressing many aspects of prevention, Public Health and community-oriented interventions.	2,171

Table 1: Current Datasources in HealthLibrarian.

Appendix A: Background on Open Access

This section summarizes a few of the definitions of Open Access, as well as additional sources of information on this topic.

Wikipedia definition:¹⁸

Open Data is often focused on non-textual material such as maps, genomes, chemical compounds, mathematical and scientific formulae, medical data and practice, bioscience and biodiversity. Problems often arise because these are commercially valuable or can be aggregated into works of value. Access to, or re-use of, the data are controlled by organisations, both public and private. Control may be through access restrictions, licenses, copyright, patents and charges for access or re-use. Advocates of Open Data argue that these restrictions are against the communal good and that these data should be made available without restriction or fee. In addition, it is important that the data are re-usable without requiring further permission, though the types of re-use (such as the creation of derivative works) may be controlled by license.

The Open Movement and Libraries¹⁹

"Openness" which has become a hallmark of the new Web has long been a mission in libraries. The philosophy of free and open access to information and technology has become a critical subject for information and technology leaders and practitioners. This course will explore the role and participation of library science and librarians in this movement. This course will give an overview of open-source technologies (such as content management systems and ILS programs) which are being used by libraries today, as well as exploring the open access movement which advocates free online access to scholarly research and journal articles. During the course we will also discuss open courses and learning, open conferences, and open licenses (like GPL and Creative Commons). This practical knowledge will be taught with an eye towards students understanding the implications of open access and what it means for libraries and librarians.

Berlin Declaration²⁰

Open access contributions must satisfy two conditions:

1. The author(s) and right holder(s) of such contributions grant(s) to all users a free, irrevocable, worldwide, right of access to, and a license to copy, use, distribute, transmit and display the work publicly and to make and distribute derivative works, in any digital medium for any responsible purpose, subject to proper attribution of authorship (community standards, will continue to provide the mechanism for enforcement of proper attribution and responsible use of the published work, as they do now), as well as the right to make small numbers of printed copies for their personal use.
2. A complete version of the work and all supplemental materials, including a copy of the permission as stated above, in an appropriate standard electronic format is deposited (and thus published) in at least one online repository using suitable technical standards (such as the Open Archive definitions) that is supported and maintained by an academic institution, scholarly society, government agency, or other well established organization that seeks to enable open access, unrestricted distribution, inter operability, and long-term archiving.

18 Available at http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Open_data

19 Full course materials available at http://infosherpas.com/SJSU_outline_LIBR287-06.htm

20 Available at http://www.zim.mpg.de/openaccess-berlin/berlin_declaration.pdf

PLoS Definition²¹

The Public Library of Science defines Open Access thusly:

An Open Access Publication[1] is one that meets the following two conditions:

1. The author(s) and copyright holder(s) grant(s) to all users a free, irrevocable, worldwide, perpetual right of access to, and a license to copy, use, distribute, transmit and display the work publicly and to make and distribute derivative works, in any digital medium for any responsible purpose, subject to proper attribution of authorship,[2] as well as the right to make small numbers of printed copies for their personal use.
2. A complete version of the work and all supplemental materials, including a copy of the permission as stated above, in a suitable standard electronic format is deposited immediately upon initial publication in at least one online repository that is supported by an academic institution, scholarly society, government agency, or other well-established organization that seeks to enable open access, unrestricted distribution, interoperability, and long-term archiving (for the biomedical sciences, PubMed Central is such a repository).

[1] Open access is a property of individual works, not necessarily journals or publishers.

[2] Community standards, rather than copyright law, will continue to provide the mechanism for enforcement of proper attribution and responsible use of the published work, as they do now.

Additional Materials on Open Access

- Courses on Open Access²²
- Overview of using Open Source software in libraries.²³
- Open Access Directory²⁴

21 See <http://www.plos.org/oa/definition.html>

22 Available at http://oad.simmons.edu/oadwiki/Courses_about_OA

23 Available at http://ia311242.us.archive.org/0/items/NicoleEngardInterview/nicole_interview.mp3

24 Available at http://oad.simmons.edu/oadwiki/Main_Page

Appendix B: Concrete Example of OA Substitution

This section presents a list of peer-reviewed Open Access publications in the area of "Psychology" that could be considered to substitute Toll Access journals in that subject area.

In English

Advances in Cognitive Psychology

<http://www.ac-psych.org/?id=2&rok=2009>

ISSN: 18951171

Subject: Psychology

Publisher: Vizja Press & IT

Country: Poland

Language: English

Keywords: cognitive psychology, neuropsychology, experimental psychology

Start year: 2005

Gay and Lesbian Issues and Psychology Review

http://www.groups.psychology.org.au/glip/glip_review/

ISSN: 18334512

Subject: Gender Studies --- Psychology

Publisher: Australian Psychological Society

Country: Australia

Language: English

Keywords: lesbian psychology, gay psychology

Start year: 2005

GMS Psycho-Social-Medicine

<http://www.egms.de/en/journals/psm/index.shtml>

ISSN: 18605214

Subject: Psychiatry

Publisher: German Medical Science, Düsseldorf

Country: Germany

Language: English

Keywords: behavioral medicine, medical psychology, medical sociology, psychiatry, psychosomatic medicine, psychotherapy

Start year: 2005

International Journal of Clinical and Health Psychology

<http://redalyc.uaemex.mx/redalyc/src/inicio/HomRevRed.jsp?iCveEntRev=337>

ISSN: 16972600

Subject: Psychology

Publisher: Asociación Española de Psicología Conductual (AEPC)

Country: Spain

Language: Castilian, English, Portuguese

Keywords: psychology

Start year: 2004

International Journal of Psychology and Psychological Therapy

<http://www.ijpsy.com/>

ISSN: 15777057

Subject: Psychology

Publisher: Asociación de Análisis del Comportamiento

Country: Spain

Language: Spanish, English

Keywords: psychology, psychological therapy, analysis of behavior

Start year: 2001

The Internet Journal of Mental Health

http://www.ispub.com/journal/the_internet_journal_of_mental_health.html

ISSN: 15312941

Subject: Psychology --- Psychiatry

Publisher: Internet Scientific Publications, LLC

Country: United States

Language: English

Keywords: therapeutics, psychotherapy, mental diseases, psychology, psychiatry, psychosocial, culture, ethnic

Start year: 2001

JUNG: the e-Journal of the Jungian Society for Scholarly Study

<http://www.thejungiansociety.org/Jung%20Society/e-journal/e-journal.html>

ISSN: 17157978

Subject: Psychology

Publisher: Jungian Society for Scholarly Studies

Country: United States

Language: English

Keywords: Jung, Jungian, post-Jungian, analytical psychology, depth psychology

Start year: 2005

In Spanish

Acta Colombiana de Psicología

<http://portalweb.ucatolica.edu.co/easyWeb2/acta/>

ISSN: 01239155

EISSN: 19099711

Subject: Psychology

Publisher: Universidad Católica de Colombia

Country: Colombia

Language: Spanish, Portuguese

Keywords: educational psychology, health psychology, experimental psychology

Start year: 2003

Avances en Psicología Latinoamericana

http://www.urosario.edu.co/medicina/apl/apl_indices.htm

ISSN: 17944724

Subject: Psychology

Publisher: Universidad del Rosario
Country: Colombia
Language: Spanish, English
Keywords: psychology
Start year: 2004

Cuadernos de Neuropsicología
<http://www.neuropsicologia.cl/Web/html/revista.htm>
ISSN: 07184123
Subject: Neurology
Publisher: Neuropsicologia.cl
Country: Chile
Language: Spanish
Keywords: neuropsychology, psychology, neurosciences
Start year: 2007
License:

Enseñanza e Investigación en Psicología
<http://redalyc.uaemex.mx/redalyc/src/inicio/HomRevRed.jsp?iCveEntRev=292>
ISSN: 01851594
Subject: Psychology
Publisher: Consejo Nacional Para la Enseñanza e Investigación en Psicología
Country: Mexico
Language: Spanish
Keywords: psychology
Start year: 2004

Appendix C: Association of Research Libraries' Statement Scholarly Publishers and Vendors²⁵

The Global Economic Crisis and Its Effect on Publishing and Library Subscriptions: ARL Issues Statement to Scholarly Publishers and Vendors

For immediate release:
February 19, 2009

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The Global Economic Crisis and Its Effect on Publishing and Library Subscriptions

ARL Issues Statement to Scholarly Publishers and Vendors

Washington DC—The Association of Research Libraries (ARL) has released a statement on the current global economic crisis and its effect on publishing and library subscriptions. The ARL statement, which is aimed at scholarly publishers and vendors, reinforces some of the key points in a recent statement by the International Coalition of Library Consortia (ICOLC) and offers additional observations and recommendations from the perspectives of ARL member libraries.

Large libraries are far from exempt from the consequences of the current global economic crisis. Downturns in state support for public institutions along with substantial losses in endowment funds mean that many ARL member libraries are facing substantial reductions in both operating and materials budgets. In addition to cuts already made, there is strong evidence that most ARL member libraries are preparing for further budget reductions in the 2009–2010 fiscal year.

It is the common view among research libraries that they, like many smaller libraries, are facing protracted budget reductions and they expect that cuts being implemented now are permanent. Unlike earlier recessions and inflationary cycles, few are in a position to consider budget management strategies aimed at carrying collections budgets over a few lean years.

The ARL statement includes a set of recommendations that are based on the belief that scholarly publishers who are committed to enhancing the effectiveness of the scholarly communication system are prepared to act to minimize negative impacts on the system resulting from economic conditions. Among other strategies, the statements calls for publishers and vendors to adopt flexible approaches to pricing and avoid reducing content or access as libraries seek to renegotiate expenditures. ARL encourages publishers to consult widely with research libraries in developing responses to the current economic environment. Small, not-for-profit publishers are of particular concern, and ARL member libraries welcome conversations regarding new publishing models that can reduce the cost and vulnerability of established publications of high value.

The full statement is available on the ARL Web site <http://www.arl.org/bm~doc/economic-statement->

²⁵ Available at <http://www.arl.org/news/pr/econ-crisis-19feb09.shtml>

2009.pdf.

The Association of Research Libraries (ARL) is a nonprofit organization of 123 research libraries in North America. Its mission is to influence the changing environment of scholarly communication and the public policies that affect research libraries and the diverse communities they serve. ARL pursues this mission by advancing the goals of its member research libraries, providing leadership in public and information policy to the scholarly and higher education communities, fostering the exchange of ideas and expertise, and shaping a future environment that leverages its interests with those of allied organizations. ARL member libraries make up a large portion of the academic and research library marketplace. In 2007, ARL members reported a median expenditure of \$9,600,793 for library materials (\$1,219,796,179 in total), a median expenditure for serials of \$6,587, 241 (\$820,955,367 in total), and a median expenditure of \$4,661,123 for electronic resources (\$536,033,744 total). ARL is on the Web at <http://www.arl.org/>.