1. PubMed redesign

You may have recently noticed PubMed’s new interface, which was completely redesigned in October 2009. The redesign is intended to retain functionality while simplifying the interface, making it “easier to use while promoting scientific discovery”. Some of the major changes are outlined below.
Search Results

Results will automatically filter using these two categories

Articles placed in the “clipboard” now display this note

Full text free articles are now linked as “Free Article” under each result

“Find Related Data” has replaced “Links”. Users have the option of selecting another database to search for related information

Display Settings

Options for sending citations can now be found here; printing citations must be done through your browser’s print options.
2. Citation Analysis: Bibliometric Tools evaluate Research Output

In addition to the well-established and reputable Web of Science provided by Thomson Reuters (see Fall 09 September Newsletter), there are several new tools evolving to evaluate journal performance as well as individual and institutional research output. In addiction studies, Publish or Perish and SCIMago may provide valuable information, however, results should be taken with a grain of salt.

SCIMago’s Journal & Country Rank

SCIMago’s open access Journal Rank Indicator is available at http://www.scimagojr.com/.

Articles are evaluated from journals contained in the Scopus® database, which indexes journals starting from 1996. The indicators include simple statistics, such as total documents, total references, or annual cites.

The example shows the journal profile and basic indicators for the Journal of Studies on Alcohol in the years of 1999-2007. Geographical evaluation is also available.
Publish or Perish

Publish or Perish is a free tool for personal or non-profit use with data from Google Scholar. It can be downloaded from http://www.harzing.com.

First launched in October 2006, the software application is promoted by its creators as “designed to help individual academics to present their case for research impact to its best advantage”.

The web site also features an excellent Frequently Asked Questions section and examples about the potentials of ineffective searching due to Google Scholar’s coverage, indexing, and ranking.

Based on the total number of one’s papers, it computes simple and complex indicators. Simple statistics include cites/year, cites/paper, etc.

The Author Impact Analysis (shown above) displays several indices, among them the h-index and its variations. The original h-index, or Hirsch-index aims to measure the cumulative impact of a researcher’s output by analyzing the citations his/her work has received. Proposed by J.E. Hirsch (2005) in the article An index to quantify an individual's scientific research output (available at http://arxiv.org/abs/physics/0508025), a scientist has index h if h of his/her Np papers have at least h citations each, and the other (Np-h) papers have no more than h citations each. In the example, the researcher with an h-index of 37 has 37 publications that have been cited at least 37 times.

More complex metrics also include AWCR (Age-weighted citation rate, i.e., the number of citations to a given paper is divided by the age of that paper), and the AW-index (the square root of the AWCR to allow comparison with the h-index). More information on the metrics and computing is available on their web site.

Publish or Perish also calculates Journal Impact Analysis, while general citation search is available too. Please remember that it searches data indexed by Google Scholar.
3. Library Hour at CAS

The Fall 2009 Library Hour at the Center was held on November 16, 2009. Librarians Judit Ward and Molly Stewart presented the outcome of a project launched in the summer on the Journal of Studies on Alcohol and Drugs at the CAS Library. Paul Candon, managing editor of JSAD reflected on the citation analysis data from the perspective of the editor.

Including also CAS librarians James Cox and Nicole Frisone, the project’s direct goal was to understand the current use of bibliometric tools, unveil major JSAD trends, corroborate anecdotal evidence, and fix errors in the databases. At the same time, librarians discovered how audience (scholars, librarians, competitors) may perceive JSAD articles and authors via available tools and indicators. The project provided a great learning opportunity for CAS Library staff in bibliometrics, research methods, group decision making, collaboration, and communication too.

In addition to sharing results, the presentation intended to elicit questions and identify potential areas to investigate. Comments and concerns from the audience, based on decades of their first-hand experience with research and publishing, gave the library team further ideas for other paths to follow and also confirmed that bibliometrics is a worthwhile topic to explore in the changing landscape of scholarly communication and publishing.

The Library staff is available for questions about these issues, whether related to individual authors or journals. Information literacy sessions can be scheduled one on one or for small groups in the CAS Library.

4. Annual conference of the European substance abuse librarians

ELISAD, the European Information Service on Alcohol, Drugs and Addictions held its annual conference Addictions in Society: What information services contribute in Budapest, Hungary on October 8-10, 2009 hosted by the National Institute for Strategic Health Research (http://www.eski.hu/index_en.php) in the building of the Ministry of Health, next to the Hungarian Parliament (see picture).

The participants explored the past and potential future contribution of information professionals to the field of addiction studies including topics on alcohol and drugs as well as gambling and the Internet.

The Center of Alcohol Studies was represented at the three-day conference by Judit Ward, who gave a presentation entitled Making a difference: The impact of scholarly publication in addiction, and also presented a poster by CAS librarians (Judit Ward, James Cox, Molly Stewart and Nicole Frisone) and Paul Candon, managing editor of JSAD, Performance indicators in practice: The Journal of Studies on Alcohol and Drugs.

(The photo was taken by Christian Mehlführer, and is licensed under Creative Commons. See our Tech Tips to find out what it means or go to http://creativecommons.org)
5. CAS Library at 2009 Rutgers University Libraries Showcase

On Thursday, November 12th CAS Library staff Judit Ward, Molly Stewart and Pat Bellanca joined JSAD staff members Paul Candon and Pat Castellano at the 2009 Rutgers University State of the Libraries Digital and Analog Showcase.

The Showcase is an annual event hosted by RU Libraries where library faculty and staff gather to share ideas, research and current projects. CAS Library was on hand to present results from our on-going citation analysis project. We were happy to communicate our findings to an enthusiastic library community, many of whom were unfamiliar with certain citation analysis tools. We received several comments, questions and helpful suggestions. It was a great opportunity to explore the work being done at other Rutgers libraries and mingle with fellow librarians.

6. CAS Library Internship: A step into the Real World

An internship is a paid or unpaid temporary work experience for students or adults training in a new career field. Doing an internship is a great way for people to decide if they like working in a particular field, get real world experience, develop contacts, and possibly get college credit. It takes a lot of time and dedication, but it can be very rewarding. Today, in addition to a college degree, many employers want to see that people applying for positions in their organization have work experience as well. Therefore, an internship is an important step to consider when preparing to enter a career.

There are important things to consider when looking for the right internship. It must supply the person with enough learning opportunities so that they can gain real-life experience. The person should get an idea of what working in a particular field is actually like, so they can make informed decisions about what is involved in the day-to-day work. If all that is involved in a position is filling or answering phones, the experience will not be beneficial for the person. It is also important to make sure enough time can be dedicated to the work the internship demands. It can be tough to balance work, school, family demands, and an internship, so care must be taken to schedule time accordingly.

The Center of Alcohol Studies has hosted internships for several students over the years who were working on their Masters in Library and Information Science (MLIS) at Rutgers. Depending on what students are interested in, there are many activities that they can take part in at the library in order to gain work experience. Students can gain experience in circulation duties, such as checking books in and out for patrons. They can also assist in reference duties by looking up articles or books for researchers or students, or obtaining them through Rutgers’ inter-library loan system. In the past, students have worked on special projects including archiving, cataloging, and organizing the rare book collection. Students also have the opportunity to practice user instruction, write articles for and edit the CAS newsletter, and help prepare and present poster sessions at the New Jersey Library Association’s annual conference.

Former interns of the CAS Library have gone on to work in a variety of library settings, including academic, public, and special libraries. Others have decided to further their education by pursuing higher degrees in Library Science or other complementary disciplines. Many interns still collaborate with CAS staff on posters for national and international conferences. Completing an internship at CAS no doubt gave these students rich learning experiences that they carried with them into the work world.

Laura Panos, CAS Library Archives Intern and MLIS student
7. A Day in the Life of a Library School Student

I wake up around six o’clock each morning to get ready for the new day. As I sit up, my cat Henry stretches and falls from my lap. He trudges off the bed to his feed bowl, meowing for my attention. It’s mid-October in New Jersey, and the leaves are starting to finally change color.

On the way to school, the cars start slowing around me. There’s a traffic jam on the Turnpike, and up ahead some fool with bushy red hair has parked his pickup truck in the middle of the road. I can see the flashing lights of police cars too. I worry I’ll be late for children’s literature class, but I get there just in time. We’re talking today about Mother Goose fairy tales. My teacher is mouthing strange noises of farm animals as he demonstrates how to tell stories for the kiddies. It should be funny, but I can see his gums and a few bad teeth, and that image is something I could have done without.

After, I squash into the bus to my part-time library position. I’m standing right between two eighteen year olds who are obviously attracted to each other. They’re holding hands and yelling over my shoulder. The guy has his hat turned to the side, like some kind of rapper wannabe and is wearing so much cologne that it’s making me cough. The girl has a tattoo of a large black heart right in the middle of her neck, and I can’t help wonder why someone would want to mutilate themselves like that.

I try to move, but there’s really nowhere to stand but here. The bus ride’s not too long, so I hold my breath as long as I can.

When I get to my reference desk, it’s not long before a student asks where the bathroom is. I smile because I remember how on my first day, I told some freshman the wrong bathroom directions. He ended up walking around in circles a bunch of times, till he came back, kind of hopping on one foot, holding it in.

Throughout the day, a few other kids approach. One wants to know where to find a textbook his teacher put on reserve. Another asks for information on leprosy. I didn’t ask him why. Then some girl told me she never got an overdue notice on a library book, so I picked up the phone and said, “I’m gonna have to refer you to the city’s Police Department.” She freaked out a bit and I told her I was kidding.

Finally one student just stares at me a long while. I say, “Can I help you?” several times, but he just keeps eyeing. It creeps me out, but after maybe twenty minutes he walks up to the desk, uses the stapler, and then goes away. After that I just sighed. My shift was through and I punched out for the day.

8. New Faces at the CAS Library!

Please join us to welcome our new student workers.

I’m a freshman here at Rutgers in the School of Arts and Sciences majoring in Public Health with a potential psychology minor. I live on Busch Campus the BAMM Complex. So far this semester, I am enjoying my college experience. I’m currently doing work study here at the library as a student assistant, and I am also involved in three different organizations: Arabic Cultural Club, Muslim Student Association and Palestinian Children Relief Fund. Academically, I enjoy the sciences which are part of the reason why I’m studying Public Health along with the fact that I enjoy helping others. Hopefully in the future I’m planning on going into medical school and becoming a successful pediatrician.

Hello, my name is Matthew Mieles and I’m currently a first year undergraduate here at Rutgers University. I’m enrolled with the School of Environmental and Biological Sciences. I was formally going to declare my major in Biology, however, I’ve decided to instead major in Post-Secondary Education. In the future I hope to be a high school teacher for science, but mainly Biology. I’m also currently working for the Center for Alcohol Studies located on Busch, under the work study program. The staff is very welcoming and I enjoy working there even though I’m only able to put in minimal hours due to my schedule. Besides school and work I enjoy doing many other activities on my leisure time.

My experience thus far in Rutgers has been one that I’ve enjoyed and learned so much in such little time. I hope to continue to do well in classes while taking full advantage of the college experience.

Matthew Mieles
9. Tech Tip: Creative Commons Licenses

Creative Commons licenses, offered free of charge to the public by Creative Commons, is a nonprofit corporation. Rather than an alternative to copyright, these licenses work alongside, so content creators can modify copyright with the freedom they choose, and others can share, remix, use commercially, or any combination thereof.

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All current CC licenses require that you attribute the original author(s). If the copyright holder has not specified any particular way to attribute them, this does not mean that you do not have to give attribution.

Creative Commons content can also be searched, e.g., Mozilla has included Creative Commons in Firefox's search function along with search options for Google, Amazon, and other popular sites. (Source: http://creativecommons.org)

10. Weird Stuff: Snuggie Pub Crawl

On November 14, 2009, New Brunswick proudly hosted the 46th Snuggie Pub Crawl event of the nation (viewed by some as another major embarrassment). Snuggies are fleece blankets with sleeves attached, which became a cultural phenomenon as several hundreds of parodies of the original commercial appeared on YouTube, social networking sites, and on television. The first pub crawl was organized in January, 2009, and many more followed to raise money for charities, resulting in the sale of over 4 million snuggies. The Collegiate Snuggie™ Blankets now are available for Rutgers too. The event started on campus at the Olive Branch. For more on the pub crawl, please read the blog at: http://njsnuggiepubcrawl.blogspot.com/, or read an article: http://www.mycentraljersey.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=200991120334

Happy Thanksgiving from the CAS Library Staff!