

The Distributed *e*Library of WCMC-Q

The WCMC-Q Distributed *e*Library provides students, faculty, and researchers with access to an expanding collection of digital resources and services.

The "core collection" of the Distributed *e*Library now includes access to 80 major databases, 1,800 ebooks, and 3,000 ejournals in medicine and the basic sciences. Beyond this, the institution's relationships with the world-class libraries of Weill Cornell Medical College in New York and Cornell University in Ithaca extend the reach of scholars and researchers to almost 100,000 electronic resources.

The Distributed *e*Library also offers its students and faculty rapid delivery of any document that can be sent electronically from any of the world's national repositories of scientific and medical literature.

In addition to using one of 60 iMac computers placed throughout the building, medical students and faculty can access any of the Distributed *e*Library resources, calculate a dosage, or look up information in a textbook loaded on their Personal Digital Assistants (PDAs.)

Taking advantage of the latest web technologies, the Distributed *e*Library has recently enabled seamless resource linking. What this means for WCMC-Q users is that, whether searching in the U.S. National Library of Medicine's PubMed or ISI's Web of Science, they can go directly from citation (or reference) to the full text.

One of the critical roles of the Distributed *e*Library is to ensure that future doctors know how to find the medical information they need quickly and effectively. Librarians work with faculty to increase the "information literacy" of pre-medical students and to provide medical students with instruction in evidence based medicine.

The Distributed *e*Library gets its name not only from its distributed resources but also from the distributed reference service we provide for students in the halls, in the classrooms, even at home. Librarians can be contacted in person or by email to provide just-in-time assistance in searching for and evaluating information.

Students and faculty can search resources, request a rapid document delivery, connect to an article, get tips on how to use their PDAs, find suggested readings related to assignments, or just read up on the latest scientific or medical news from Reuters via the Distributed *e*Library website.

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