WEILL CORNELL
MEDICAL COLLEGE IN QATAR

مؤسسة قطر
Qatar Foundation

The WCMC-Q Distributed *e*Library: Bringing a world of resources to their fingertips

The WCMC-Q Distributed *e*Library provides students, faculty, researchers, and physicians with access, on campus or on hospital rounds, to an expanding collection of digital resources and services

The "core collection" of the Distributed *e*Library now includes access to 147 major databases, 2,600 *e*books, and 3,549 *e*journals in medicine and the basic sciences. Beyond this collection, the reach of scholars, researchers and practitioners has been extended to include the local Education City libraries, Hamad Health Sciences Library, Gulf region medical libraries, and the holdings of the world-class libraries of Cornell University and Weill Cornell Medical College in the United States.

The WCMC-Q community may also request 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 the 70 publicly available iMacs, authorized users have the convenient option of accessing library resources anywhere there is an internet connection: from their desktops, over the campus wireless network, or from home. Medical faculty and students are also equipped with personal digital assistants (PDAs), fully loaded with software that allows them to connect to the web or consult clinical programs and textbooks stored on their devices.

Taking advantage of the latest web technologies, the Distributed *e*Library offers seamless resource linking. What this means is that, whether searching in the U.S. National Library of Medicine's PubMed or ISI's Web of Science, users can go directly from citation to full text.

One of the critical roles of the library staff is to ensure that present and future doctors know how to find the medical information they need quickly and effectively. Classes and workshops enhance the information literacy of pre-medical students, introduce medical students to the practice of evidence-based medicine, and update the skills of the WCMC-Q community at Hamad Medical Corporation.

The Distributed *e*Library gets its name not only from its distributed resources but also its distributed reference service for students wherever they are in the halls, in the classrooms, or even at home. However, any member of the WCMC-Q community can contact a librarian in person, by phone, fax, or email to get just-in-time assistance.

The scope of the library's resources is vast. Users 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.

Further developments are in the pipeline. For example, WCMC-Q's faculty and students will soon be able to streamline their work, whether on campus or in hospitals and clinics, by creating a personalized webpage that brings all their favorite *e*Library resources and services to their fingertips.

Office of Public Affairs
WCMC-Q
Education City
P.O. Box 24144
Doha, Qatar

Michael Vertigans
Director
Phone: +974 492 8650
Fax: +974 492 8444
Email: miv2008@qatar-med.cornell.edu

Sylvia Ismail
Associate Editor/Writer
Phone: +974 492 8651
Fax: +974 492 8444
Email: smi2001@qatar-med.cornell.edu