

Access initiative with NAR," said Martin Richardson, Managing Director of Oxford Journals. "NAR is one of the most prestigious journals to make a complete switch to Open Access, and our status as a University Press gives us the impetus to experiment with and learn from new distribution models that might help make research more accessible. Support from JISC will really help us and our authors test the viability of this model."

The Journal of Experimental Botany, published on behalf of the Society for Experimental Biology, is already benefiting from JISC funding: during 2004, it has been offering authors the option to pay a fee of £250 in return for making their manuscripts freely available online from the time of publication. First round funding from JISC was used to waive open access fees for all UK authors in 2004 and also contributed towards keeping 2005 subscription prices at 2004 levels. The funding awarded in the second round will be used to waive Open Access fees for UK authors in 2005 and will support the introduction of free subscriptions for all UK institutions in 2006.

Mary Traynor, Managing Editor of the Journal of Experimental Botany commented: "The Journal hopes to focus the academic community on the relationship between academics, publishers and institutional libraries with the intention of forging new relationships and driving innovation in academic publishing. Although our Open Access experiment is still in its early stages, initial indications are encouraging.

"Submissions have increased by 15% and online usage statistics show that there are 33% more full text downloads of open access papers than those which remain under subscription control. The Journal of Experimental Botany is the only high ranking plant journal offering an open access option and this, combined with a steadily increasing impact factor, will contribute to future success."

For more information on both NAR and the Journal of Experimental Botany, please contact:

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NATIONAL LIBRARY FOR HEALTH'S SINGLE SEARCH ENVIRONMENT GOES LIVE

A press release from www.theansweruk.com

The National Library for Health website www.library.nhs.uk now offers a single search environment that will integrate the 'national' and 'local' information resources of 500 NHS library services across England. Going live today (10 January 2005), the single search environment is one of the first outputs of the National Library for Health; an NHS-wide initiative that is designed to deliver the goal of an integrated English health library.

The single search environment is powered by [FDI's](http://www.fdi.com) ZPORTAL solution, which integrates NHS resources alongside published data and delivers the resource search engine. Dr Muir Gray, Secretary to the National Knowledge Service and Co-Director of the NeLH commented on the importance of the new search environment in the age of prevalent electronic resources: "There are over 80,000 articles on bronchitis alone in just one source: PubMed. Doctors and librarians need to be able to power search such electronic resources alongside traditional sources to find the articles that are relevant to them... to deliver critical information to clinicians quickly."

The search engine provides an easy-to-use interface for new or experienced library users, offering them a choice of standard (keyword) or advanced searching (using Boolean terms). Behind the scenes, the software searches across a variety of resources including websites, grey literature, physical resources and full text journals, making information retrieval quicker for time-poor clinicians or librarians.

Dr Ben Toth, National Library for Health Programme Manager and Co-Director of the National electronic Library for Health (NeLH) adds, "The National Library for Health offers the powerful new single search engine but also RSS feeds from the National Institute for Clinical Excellence (NICE) and DrugInfoZone. A new clinical Question and Answer service (the Primary Care Question Answering Service) is currently being trialled. These new features will attract people who have not used the online library services previously, and will also offer additional benefits to staff who currently use other NHS library services such as the National electronic Library for Health."

The National Library for Health (NLH) will provide clinicians with access to the best current know-how and knowledge to support healthcare-related decisions through one dedicated portal.

www.library.nhs.uk integrates access to a range of high quality information components and ultimately will bring together key digital and physical information resources used across the 500 NHS libraries, including relevant websites, full text primary journals such as BMJ's Clinical Evidence, physical resource collections such as The Cochrane Library and grey literature. The new service will be a key tool in making clinical decisions easier and more accurate, as well as improving support for patient care, continuing professional development, e-learning, and research across the NHS.

The National Library for Health includes:

- A single search environment (live from 10th January 2005), a web-based search engine using FDI's ZPORTAL technology for managers, health professionals and patients that will integrate the 'national' and 'local' information resources of over 500 NHS library services across England. The NHS-wide search engine will also be used to provide more comprehensive measurement statistics on use of NHS libraries and their resources during 2004/5.
- News services from trusted high level sources via RSS (Really Simple Syndication feeds) including NICE, DrugInfoZone and Health Technology Assessments
- The mental health e-books collection, comprising over 50 mental health e-books from leading academic publishers such as the Taylor & Francis Group and Springer Group