

## FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

A few months back I got an opportunity to attend a four days training/workshop on HINARI (Health Internetwork Access to Research Initiative) and other internet resources. I knew very little about HINARI. All I knew was that the underdeveloped countries with a GNP of less than \$ 1000 were given free access to medical journals in the net, courtesy World Health Organization.

As a faculty at NAMS and a person who wrote articles albeit infrequently, I thought this training would help me to some extent in the search of literature etc. and what really lured me into this course was that it was a hands-on-course. In the morning of the first day of the training when the participants made their introduction, as the only person not involved with medical libraries, I had my trepidations.

The course was divided into different modules with practical exercises interspersed between them. Lenny Rhine Ph D, the course instructor who is emeritus librarian at Florida University with made us grasp the essential and key features in each module and also ensured that each of us did the practical exercises. We began with logging in the HINARI website, browsing the different journals (we found out that there were 3,860 journals in this website) and articles and looking up the abstracts, summaries, full text versions and the PDFs. We came to know that there were 640 free medical books in the net in this website. We also found how to get access to the different publisher's services which included Blackwell Synergy, HighWire, British Medical Journal Publishing Group, Elsevier's Science Direct, Nature Publishing and Wiley Inter Science etc, just to name a few. Likewise, we developed the flair to get into Pub Med and limit our searches

designated by parameters like author, journal, publication date, language, subset, age, publication type, affiliation etc. Next was the MeSH (medical subject headings) and using MeSH in PubMed. Also PubMed has a whole range of options which meant our searches could be indexed, previewed and the history of our searches could be deciphered. We also learned how to register into the My NCBL (National Centre of Biotechnology Information) and the beauty of this program is that we can save the searches made in this website and forward it to our email. The new publications in research topics we are interested in are forwarded to us as per our directions and convenience.

I had always felt the strong lack of medical journals and books in our set-up but following this training I no longer feel this to be true. With a number of computers, uninterrupted electricity supply and reasonable wide broadband, we can search for any medical topic in the sun and the depth of our search can be fathomless. Despite the fact that two days of the work-shop were national holidays and I had to work those days from 9 to 5, I think this training was a blessing to me. During my normal working days I would never have been able to devote the time and patience to acquire this knowledge and skill.

The Bir Hospital library has the set-up and facilities to impart skills to those interested in using HINARI. I gained a lot learning it and highly recommend it to you all.

Please make a start by contacting the librarian there, you will not regret it.

**Prof. Dr. Ashok Raj Joshi**  
**Chief Editor**