

Internet sites of interest

The last column

Some additions to the September column on obtaining inter library loans.

<http://www.ksslibraries.nhs.uk/catalogues/> does include NHS libraries from the south west of England but is the Health Libraries Network catalogues, with links to serials lists for Kent, Sussex and Surrey, NHS South West and NHS South Central, London Health Libraries and more.

The Forum for Interlending and Information Delivery has a new site at www.forumforinterlending.org.uk. The site hosted by CILIP will close soon.

There are two additions to the column: the Nursing Union List of Journals, NULJ (<http://www.uhl-library.nhs.uk/nulj/index.html>), based at University Hospitals of Leicester NHS Trust; and ULSERS, organised in Yorkshire, Humberside and the North East of England (contact Hugh.Hanchard@STEES.NHS.UK).

My thanks to Moya Bennett, Graham Titley and Gill Kaye for information.

Medical statistics

Here are some sites on the subject of medical statistics. There are a few sources of actual statistical data at the end. If you spot any errors, please let me know, and please do let me have suggestions of sites to add. My contact details are at the end of the column. I checked all links on 9th November 2011.

Advances in Physiology Education - Statistical Perspectives

<http://advan.physiology.org/content/35/2/129.long>

To address statistical shortcomings in submitted articles, the journal is publishing a new series of articles, announced in this article. They are also being published in The Journal of Physiology, Experimental Physiology, The British Journal of Pharmacology, Clinical and Experimental Pharmacology and Physiology, and Microcirculation.

Centre for Statistics in Medicine (University of Oxford)

<http://www.csm-oxford.org.uk/statistical-resources/>

Statistical resources for conducting clinical trials. They include a glossary and a comparison of statistical software (Stata, R, SPSS, and others)

David Spiegelhalter

<http://www.statslab.cam.ac.uk/Dept/People/Spiegelhalter/davids.html>

David Spiegelhalter is the Winton Professor of the Public Understanding of Risk at the University of Cambridge and maintains a website on "Understanding uncertainty". There is a link to the site from here, as well a list of publications and details of other resources. I have heard Professor Spiegelhalter on the BBC Radio 4 programme "More or less", which "explains the numbers and statistics used in political debate, the news and everyday life2. The More or Less website is at: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b006qshd>.

Electronic Statistics Textbook (StatSoft)

<http://www.statsoft.com/textbook/>

Free online textbook. StatSoft produce the Statistica software.

Ganfyd – Medical Statistics

http://www.ganfyd.org/index.php?title=Medical_statistics

Ganfyd is a wiki edited by medical professionals and invited experts. Ganfyd is “Get a Note From Your Doctor”.

How to read a paper - statistics for the non-statistician

<http://www.bmj.com/about-bmj/resources-readers/publications/how-read-paper>

This series of BMJ articles by Trisha Greenhalgh became a book, now in its 4th edition and very useful for teaching and doing critical appraisal. The book will have chapters on statistics, but the original articles are available online here. You can also access their Statistics Notes article series at <http://www.bmj.com/bmj-series/statistics-notes>.

Little handbook of statistical practice (Gerard Dallal)

<http://www.jerrydallal.com/LHSP/LHSP.HTM>

Just that. May be several years old, but I imagine that the basics are not any different.

Maths, Statistics and OR Network

<http://mathstore.ac.uk/>

Part of the Higher Education Academy, supporting teaching and learning in HE. Resources include software, a newsletter, and student resources, some rather more mathematical than statistical.

Online Statistics Education: an interactive multimedia course of study

<http://onlinestatbook.com/2/>

By David M. Lane of Rice University (see also the Rice Virtual Lab, below).

Open Courseware Consortium

<http://www.ocwconsortium.org/>

Open courseware is freely available learning material (on lots of topics, some of them statistical). This site includes material from a number of institutions including MIT, Tufts, the Open University and the University of Nottingham. Other sources of learning materials are JORUM (<http://www.jorum.ac.uk>) and MERLOT (<http://www.merlot.org/merlot/index.htm>).

Rice Virtual Lab in Statistics

<http://onlinestatbook.com/rvls/>

Includes a link to the Hyperstat online textbook, as well as simulations, case studies and statistical analysis tools. Rice University is in Houston, Texas.

Significance – Statistics Making Sense

<http://www.significancemagazine.org/view/index.html>

Published by Wiley and part of membership of the Royal Statistical Society and the American Statistical Association, this magazine offers a “statistical view of what is going on in the world”. Recent topics include the August riots in England, and the birth of the seven billionth baby.

Stat Trek

<http://www.stattrek.com/>

Training and tools for self directed learning, amongst quite a lot of adverts for this and that.

Statistics at Square One, 9th ed.

<http://resources.bmj.com/bmj/readers/statistics-at-square-one/>

Earlier edition of this book by Swinscow (the book is now in its 11th edition), free to read.

Supercourse

<http://www.pitt.edu/~super1/>

A repository of lectures on global health and prevention. Lectures can be browsed by topic – look under Statistics.

Teaching Statistics – a Journal for Teachers

<http://www.rsscse-edu.org.uk/tsj/>

A journal for school teachers. Its anthologies of teaching ideas are free to read and may provide ideas.

Wolfram Library Archive

<http://library.wolfram.com/infocenter/BySubject/Mathematics/ProbabilityStatistics/>

List of articles, courseware and other resources. Wolfram are the developers of the Wolfram Alpha computational knowledge engine.

Sources of actual statistics

Here are a few:

Where can I find medical statistics on a topic?

<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/services/statistics.html>

An FAQ page from the NLM, with sources of US statistics and a few sources of international ones.

HSR Information Central

<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/hsrinfo/datasites.html>

From the NICHSR (go to the link to find out what this stands for!), part of the NLM. Data, tools and statistics for health services research.

At the University of Leicester we have listed some sources of statistical data on our **Medical and Health Statistics page** at

<http://www.le.ac.uk/library/find/subjects/medicine/statistics>. There is also **Eurostat**,

<http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page/portal/eurostat/home>.

Have you got an idea for a column? Or want to write a column? Let me know. My contact details are:

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