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Medline: A Guide to Effective Searching in PubMed and Other Interfaces, 2nd ed

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Digital (R)Evolution in Radiology: Bridging the Future of Health Care, 2nd ed

W. Hruby, ed. New York: Springer Wien; 2006, 379 pages, numerous illustrations, \$199.

Five years after the publication of the first edition (reviewed *AJNR* 2001;22:1631), Professor Hruby has updated his book on the impact that digital information has had in radiology. The rapid deployment and improvement of many technologies mandates that radiologists have basic knowledge related to image formation, transmission, display, reporting, and storage. This book assists in this regard, despite the fact that a number of chapters are, for the most part, unchanged from the prior edition. There are some new twists however—such as an introductory chapter that is philosophic in nature, positing that perhaps new technologies (not just imaging) are changing the way we approach life and our human nature, and another chapter on how this accelerated switch to nonpaper digital information affects hospital administration now and even more so in the future. Even looking at the cover of the book, one gets a sense of where the author will take the reader; from a picture of a clunky-looking display station (cover of the first edition) to a more provocative cover that conveys the sense of data streaming over space throughout the world. Even the way the book starts off (first sentence, first page), “When I was a child a millimeter was really tiny,” gives one a notion of what is to follow.

The book retains its multiauthor format and its division into 4 basic sections: “Basics of Digital Radiology,” “Planning Digital Radiology: Practical Approaches,” “Applications Using New Digital Technologies,” and “Current Development and Economic Issues.” The length of the book has expanded from 343 to 379 pages, and much of this new material is in an area where a reader would expect such an expansion—for instance, in positron-emission tomography (PET) scanning, the indications, equipment, and im-



aging have resulted in a 7-page lengthening of the chapter. In any future edition, the authors/editors must pay attention to the illustrations because in the PET chapter, as an example, the axial image display of PET/CT is almost microscopic in nature. New material in “Perfusion/Spectroscopy in MR and Digital Mammography” are among the areas addressed.

More than the clinical material (much of which is available elsewhere, though perhaps not under 1 cover), it is the integration of this material into the digital workplace that causes this book to have value. In addition, many terms and concepts, often arcane to the practicing radiologist, are defined. The index is particularly helpful in that regard—just glancing through the items, one can quickly identify terms that would be worthwhile reviewing or learning.

For any radiologist involved in administrative duties or in modernizing a department, hospital, or practice (doesn't that mean us all?), this book is recommended.

Medline: A Guide to Effective Searching in PubMed and Other Interfaces, 2nd ed

B.S. Katcher, ed. San Francisco: Ashbury Press; 2006, 148 pages, \$31.95.

In this 148-page soft-cover book, the author sets out to instruct the reader on how to perform a Medline search. Medline is the largest component of PubMed and is the most important index in the medical literature of the world. Interesting background information is given early in the book concerning historic perspectives on the origins of the National Library of Medicine, the extraordinary contributions of John Shaw Billings, and the relationship between Medline and PubMed. Various terms (eg, “MeSH”) are defined and the indexing scheme is explained. Additionally other chapters deal with medical subject headings, various publication types (eg, clinical trials, meta-analysis, validation studies, case reports, and so forth), and practical tips on how to successfully query Medline to obtain optimal results. The best way to use this book is to have it by your side as you are inputting the site on your PC. Although probably most will agree that for a quick search for medical information, Google works extraordinarily well; for an in-depth search, Medline is more robust.