

E-books for e-medicine

E-books accounted for 20% of the entire book industry in 2012 according to the Association of American Publishers. The College Library reflects this trend: over 270 medical e-books are available to registrants through the College's website (www.cpsbc.ca/library). E-books are available from Access Medicine, EBSCO, and MD Consult, and include titles such as *Braunwald's Heart Disease* and an electronic version of the classic *Harrison's Principles of Internal Medicine* known as *Harrison's Online*. Some e-books, including these two titles, contain supplemental multimedia content such as videos and images that are not available in the original paper book.

College registrants can now directly participate in the acquisition

of College e-books as the library launches a new acquisition model known as Patron Driven Acquisition (PDA). Patron usage directly influences the selection process—perusal of an e-book by patrons over a predetermined threshold (e.g., a certain number of pages read, or the book is used for 10 minutes or more) triggers the purchase of the book which then becomes a permanent part of the library's collection.

Registrants may engage in PDA selection by exploring either the list of e-books on the books and journals page on the library website or by searching for e-books in the online catalogue at szasz.cpsbc.ca. These PDA e-books are in PDF format and require no additional software to view. They can be viewed on personal computers, as well as on an iPad and most other e-reader platforms.

—Robert Melrose
College Librarian

This article is the opinion of the Library of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of BC and has not been peer reviewed by the BCMJ Editorial Board.

J.H. MacDermot Writing Awards

The *BCMJ* invites writing submissions from student authors, and each year awards a prize of \$1000 for the best full-length print article written by a medical student, and \$250 each for the two best medical student blog articles.

The *BCMJ* J.H. MacDermot Writing Awards honor Dr John Henry MacDermot, who served as editor for 34 years (1932–1968), overseeing the publication's transition from the *VMA Bulletin* to the *BCMJ* in 1959. Dr MacDermot also served as BCMA president in 1926.

For submission guidelines and contest deadlines please visit www.bcmj.org/jh-macdermot-writing-awards.

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