

# Health InterNetwork Access to Research Initiative (HINARI)

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Access to up to date, relevant and authoritative scientific information is a major problem for researchers in developing countries. The Health InterNetwork Access to Research Initiative (HINARI) was developed to provide free or very low-cost online access to journals in biomedical and related social sciences to researchers, doctors, scientists and other personnel in the developing world.

HINARI was developed in the framework of the Health InterNetwork a concept which was introduced by the then United Nation's (UN) Secretary General Kofi Annan at the UN Millennium summit in 2000. The sister programmes of HINARI are Access to Global Online Research in Agriculture (AGORA) and Online Access to Research in the Environment (OARE). AGORA is administered by the Food and Agriculture Organization while OARE is managed by the UN Environment Programme and Yale University.

The English version of the HINARI website is [www.who.int/hinari/en](http://www.who.int/hinari/en). The Health InterNetwork was launched a public-private partnership between the World Health Organization (WHO) and six publishing companies. The Yale University library, WHO special programme for research and Training in Tropical Diseases (TDR), the US National Library of Medicine are a few of the programme partners. The programme is coordinated by WHO. As of July 2006, more than 85 publishers are contributing content to HINARI.

Publishers publishing journals in the biomedical and social sciences can be publisher partners if the journals are available online in the full text version. The contact e-mail of HINARI is [hinari@who.int](mailto:hinari@who.int).

There are 113 countries eligible for HINARI. The countries are divided into band 1 and band 2 countries. The band 1 countries are eligible for free access and the list includes Nepal. The band 2 countries are eligible for low-cost access (US\$ 1000 per institution for a calendar year). The countries are divided depending on the GNP per capita (World Bank figures, 2001). Countries with a GNP per capita below US\$ 1000 are eligible for free access. Countries with a GNP per

capita between US\$ 1000- 3000 are eligible for low cost access. Universities, research institutes, professional schools (medicine, nursing, pharmacy, public health and dentistry), teaching hospitals, government offices and national medical libraries are eligible. Registrations are not accepted from individuals.

Registration is simple and is by completing an online registration form. HINARI processes the registration form and then gives detailed instructions on accessing and using the system. A common user name and password is issued for all the staff at the institution. Access is usually provided only from computers and other digital installations owned by or under the direct control of the institution. HINARI maintains statistics on system use. Band 2 country institutions can also opt for free access for a limited set of journals. At present HINARI provides access to 3,300 major journals and there are 2000 institutions in 106 countries registered for HINARI. During 2005 over 3, 500, 000 articles were downloaded.

The journals cover basic sciences, biochemistry, biotechnology, cardiology, clinical medicine, dentistry, education, environmental sciences, ethics, general medicine, geriatrics, immunology, infectious diseases, microbiology, nursing/allied health, nutrition, OB/GYN, oncology, parasitology, pediatrics, social sciences, surgery, toxicology, tropical medicine and zoology. The journals can be accessed alphabetically by title or by subject category. The journals can be searched by publisher also.

HINARI is available in Chinese, Arabic, English, Spanish, French and Portuguese. Other journal databases and reference sources can be accessed using HINARI. Other programs like the Programme for the Enhancement of Research Information (PERI), the Electronic Information for Libraries (eIFL) and the free access programs from Highwire provide free or low-cost access to users from developing countries.

HINARI conducts workshops in various regions and

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countries. The details can be found at the HINARI web site. Capacity building and outreach are the key components of the HINARI initiative. The partners conduct 'train the trainers' workshops and the WHO Special Programme on Research and Training in Tropical Diseases (TDR) organizes multi-regional HINARI training workshops for librarians and researchers. A CD-ROM of training materials has been produced. The TDR HINARI training package has six modules. The modules concentrate on Internet concepts, HINARI website, Publisher resources, How to use PubMed and Managing references. The presentations can be downloaded from the HINARI website.

Recently following a wide-ranging independent review, the partners agreed to continue HINARI at least until the year 2015. The full text of articles can be downloaded either in html or in PDF format. The user has to log on to the HINARI site using the user name and the password provided. There is a special PubMed FOR HINARI which allows users to search and access full-text articles directly from the PubMed database. If the article is accessible through HINARI then it will be symbolically indicated in the abstract. The author however, found that the special PubMed for HINARI is slow to access and the results do not always open.

A HINARI guide to using PubMed is available on the HINARI homepage. HINARI promotional leaflet, HINARI bookmark and a HINARI information sheet are also available on the website. All medical researchers and researchers in other allied subjects in Nepal should take advantage of this wonderful initiative to access the latest biomedical literature. Users must have at least a 56 kbps internet connection. Internet explorer version 4.0 or higher or Netscape version 4.5 or higher and adobe acrobat reader are also required. The site requires a fast connection as there are a number of steps before you can download the required article. So researchers from the eligible categories of institutions in Nepal should contact their director or librarian and ensure that their institution registers with HINARI. This will open the door to a world of latest, up to date and relevant biomedical information.