March News Articles

Integration of AI into Medicine

Library Happenings

Course Reserves: One Stop Shop for Academic Texts

"Thankful for You" Baskets

Looking Ahead

Questions? Comments?

Library Happenings

Want to take a peek into the incredibly exciting things we have going on at the library? Look no further. Our librarians are busier than ever and are involved in so many things that it's hard to just pick a few to showcase!

- Our director has joined the (AI)brarians group at Hale Library to participate in discussions on AI in academia.
- We are partnering with the copyright librarian at Hale Library to begin providing even more copyright and patent support to our faculty, students, and staff. Be on the look out for more information!
- Our Collections Specialist Librarian is currently curating information on AI in medicine and building a new collection!
- Website updates are taking place for the library.
- Attended webinars on generative AI in Health Sciences Libraries.

Integration of Artificial Intelligence (AI) into Medicine: A Question of Ethics in Human and Animal Medicine

The integration of AI into human and animal medicine opens new frontiers in patient care, diagnoses, and treatment, offering unprecedented precision and efficiency. However, this innovative leap also brings forth significant ethical considerations that must be meticulously thought through and addressed.

In human medicine, AI systems require vast amounts of personal health information to learn and make decisions. With this comes an inherent risk of data breaches that could expose sensitive patient information, violating medical codes of ethics, HIPAA, and personal rights. Furthermore, relying on AI for diagnostic and treatment recommendations raises questions about accountability. If, for instance, an AI system is used to determine a course of action that leads to an adverse patient outcome, determining liability becomes muddled and complex. Unfortunately, clear ethical guidelines on using AI in medicine is just now in its infancy and is being developed further as AI expands.

Likewise, AI systems, including machine learning, learn from data sets. If these data sets reflect historical biases or disparities in healthcare provisions, these prejudices can be perpetuated or even exacerbated leading to unequal healthcare outcomes among various demographic groups.

In animal medicine, however, there are even further concerns when it comes to implementing AI use within medical procedures and diagnostics. For instance, the ethical implications of utilizing AI in veterinary practices must be carefully considered to ensure adherence to the Animal Welfare Act and animal rights laws to ensure that no violations of animal rights is committed or compromised. Unlike human medicine, where patients can communicate their symptoms and feedback, animals rely entirely on the interpretation and judgement of human caregivers and veterinarians. An incorrect diagnosis or treatment plan generated by an AI system could lead to unnecessary pain and/or death, raising questions about the moral responsibility of using such technologies in veterinary medicine, as well as how accurate or reliable AI systems are in diagnostics and treatment recommendations.

Additionally, consent to use AI, and the ethics behind animal consent, are called into question. Animals are unable to provide consent of care, placing tremendous ethical burdens on veterinarians and pet owners who must make decisions in the best interest of the animal, thus balancing the potential benefits of AI against the risks and the unknowns without the true consent of an animal to use AI to diagnose them. Questions are posited about whether AI is even capable of "learning" to mimic the empathic nature of pet owners and/or veterinarians, calling into question how ethical it really is to rely on AI technologies in pet medicine.

vetlib@vet.k-state.edu

March Library Hours: Monday - Friday, 8:00am to 5:00pm; open to our CVM students, faculty, and staff 24/7 with ID badge

Course Reserves: Your One Stop Shop for Academic Textbooks

What is a course reserve?
Course reserves are items—either physical books or other items—that are set aside for use for a particular course. They have much shorter checkout periods to allow for more people to access the material. In this way, multiple students in a class are able to access the material they need for a class without long wait times.

What items do we have on course reserves?
In general, textbooks, DVDs, and related material are the most common items on reserves. Most any kind of library material can be added to the course reserves, however.

How do ebooks work on course reserves?
As of now, ebooks cannot be added to the course reserves in the same way physical items are. Ebooks available through K-State Libraries are available for checkout to any faculty, students, and staff with a K-State eID and password through the K-State Libraries catalog.
Faculty members who would like to direct students to ebooks for their classes can contact the Veterinary Medical Library for help with permalinks to include in Canvas.

Who can request items?
The vast majority of requests we get for course reserves are from faculty who are looking to make course material available for students taking their class. On occasion, however, we do get requests from staff, etc. for items to be put on reserve on our general course reserve list.
If you have an item you'd like to add to course reserves, please contact Heather Etelamaki at the Veterinary Medical Library: hetelama@vet.k-state.edu.

Who can request purchases?
When faculty members put in a course reserves request, we check our collection to see what is available for the title. If it's something not currently in K-State Libraries' collection, faculty can request the item for purchase.

How often do we update course reserves?
Reserves are updated at the beginning of the fall and spring semesters but can be updated at any time of the year. Faculty can contact the Vet Med Library at any time to update the reserves list for their courses.

How do you keep track of items?
Each course with reserves items has its own reading list in the library catalog system. When an item is added to course reserves in the catalog, it gets put in the appropriate reading list/course.

How many items do we have, roughly?
Currently, we have roughly 220 items available on our course reserves.

How long can items be checked out?
Most items can be checked out for two hours at a time to ensure accessibility for any patron needing to use the material. However, faculty members can request that items have a longer checkout period.
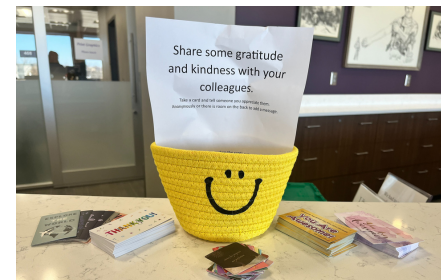
For two hour and four hour overdue loans, there is a $2 fine per hour, while longer reserves loans incur a fine of $5 a day if they are overdue.

"Thankful for You" Baskets

This month, we have "Thankful for You" cards and stickers at the front desk courtesy of a Hale Librarian. These are meant to be passed on to your friends, colleagues, instructors, etc., who you would like to show a little appreciation to!

Stop on by, grab a piece of candy, a few cards and stickers, and add a little sunshine to your fellow students, faculty, and staff!

The library thanks you all for being incredible patrons!

Ethics...con't

While AI use in medicine raises concerns, there are also potential benefits to utilizing machine learning and AI. AI might enhances both animal and human healthcare by improving diagnostic precision, personalizing treatments, and predicting health outcomes. It processes extensive data swiftly, possibly enabling early disease detection and tailored therapies. For animal health, specifically, AI can support remote diagnoses and monitoring, especially where veterinary access is scarce.

There are many areas to consider when discussing AI ethics within medicine. Most bring forth more questions than answers. We look forward to bringing more information your way in the future.

Looking Ahead

Looking ahead, our librarians are partnering with several new groups on AI and copyright. Information will be created, as well as libguides, for our patrons.

Additionally, we are curating our collections to better serve those who are interested in AI, machine learning, DE&I, and copyright concerns.

Questions? Comments?

Please share your comments, questions, etc., with us! We'd love your feedback or to have a conversation with you.

Email: library@vet.k-state.edu