Letters to the Editor

30 years of SPUMS index encoded as an Endnote™ library

Dear Editor,

One of the problems the diving and hyperbaric medicine community faces on a daily basis is that many extremely valuable publications are not easily accessible. Much exciting data are published but not indexed on electronic search engines such as Embase or Medline. Finding published information on a particular topic is often dependent upon the number of people you talk to and what they remember. E-mail discussion lists such as the ANZHMG list therefore come into their own by offering exposure to a large group of interested colleagues.

The SPUMS Journal itself has been indexed on Embase since 2000. A CD-ROM* is available from SPUMS that includes an index of all material published from 1970 to 2000 (a total of 2,744 citations). The available index is however written as a tabbed data file for conversion into a Microsoft Access Database or Microsoft Word and is as such not particularly user friendly.

I have re-arranged the available index and have written a filter to convert the index into an Endnote™ library. Endnote™ is one example of a number of computer programs that facilitate research and publishing in a tremendous way. Produced by ISI Researchsoft (http://www.endnote.com/enhome.htm), the latest version of Endnote™ (Version 6) allows the user to search bibliographic databases on the Internet, organise references and images in a database, and automatically create a reference list formatted for any specified journal via its "Cite While You Write" (CWYW) function. It has advanced import and export functions, 28 customisable reference types with 40 fields for entering reference and image data, and stores up to 32,000 records per database.

The program comes with an extensive manual (either in book format or on CD). It took me less than two hours to get up and going. Much learning is done by actually writing your next publication and trouble-shooting as you go (an easy task with the existing help function and the manual). The SPUMS Endnote™ library has eased my own research tremendously and it may be of help to anyone trying to find a particular topic in previous SPUMS publications. I have not, however, cross-checked all references with the real publications and will take no responsibility for the correctness of the information included in the library.

I am very happy to make the library publicly available and hope that this represents a step closer to a combined infrastructure for research and knowledge in our field. I do hope that in the near future we will be able to up- and download similar databases in one place (maybe the SPUMS web site?) to make life easier for us all, and our patients.

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*CD-ROMs containing back copies and the index of the SPUMS Journal from the first issue in May 1971 to December 2000, can be purchased from the SPUMS Administrator, C/o ANZ College of Anaesthetists, 630 St.Kilda Road, Melbourne, Victoria 3004, Australia. Price $Aust25.

Editor's note:
This matter was discussed at the recent ANZHMG Annual Meeting in Christchurch. It is proposed to build on Dr Neff's efforts in a collaborative manner between the Australasian hyperbaric units, since much valuable research in the diving medicine field has been published in non-indexed form. Meanwhile, his commendation of this software is endorsed by others.

Reverse dive profiles

Dear Editor,

I refer to Guy Williams' presentation at Madang 2001, on reverse profile diving.[1] The following week, I was diving at Tufi and I had occasion to test this thesis. I had done two reef wall dives in the morning, maximum depth 30 metres, duration 60 minutes on each dive. In the afternoon, I wanted to dive the wreck of a patrol boat located in the fiord just off the jetty at a depth of 50 metres. None of the others in the group were interested in this dive, so I went down with a divemaster/guide who had not dived that day.

It took 3 minutes to reach the wreck at 50+ metres and I spent 10 minutes taking photographs. By this time, my computer was well into the red zone, signalling 20 minutes decompression time. The divemaster told me later his computer indicated one minute to decompression time when I signalled to ascend.

I took 4 minutes to reach 20 metres, where I spent 2 minutes, 2 minutes to 10 metres resting 4 minutes, then it took 21 minutes at 5 metres before my computer came back into the green and I considered it was safe to surface. I felt no after effects from the dive, but recorded a high residual nitrogen level starting my first dive next morning.

Air consumption was interesting. I had a 90 cubic foot tank filled to 3600 psi and a redundant 20 cubic foot tank filled