Beginning in summer 2011, Columbia and its six partner institutions in Borrow Direct will also have access to regularly circulating materials from Harvard and MIT. This expansion increases the number of volumes available to Columbia scholars from more than 45 million to almost 70 million.

Borrow Direct is a rapid request and delivery service that enables faculty, students, and staff of Columbia University to borrow books and music scores directly from the libraries of Brown University, Cornell University, Dartmouth College, the University of Pennsylvania, Princeton University, and Yale University. Users can request circulating materials directly from the library where they are held, without the need for library staff to intervene in the process. The materials are then delivered to the borrowing patron’s library via commercial courier services, normally within four business days.

Borrow Direct is an extremely popular library service, with more than 30,000 requests filled for Columbia faculty, students, and staff and more than 19,000 Columbia books lent to partner libraries in 2010. Borrow Direct has successfully shared approximately 1 million items across the partnership since it was initiated in 1999. CUL Press Release
Many of us still reach for a pen and paper to take notes, for good reasons. They’re easy to pull out and use, they work without a plug or battery, and many still feel that the physical act of writing down the notes helps with memorization.

Ever since the release of Office 2003, Microsoft has offered OneNote as part of its productivity suite. It provides the same simple binder, tab and page organization as notebooks do but adds features that bring notes into the digital age:

- Almost any file type can be added to your notes. All or parts of a spreadsheet, web page, PDF or even audio and video files can be saved by dragging and dropping, or by selecting File – Print and choosing Send to OneNote.
- Searching for information is very easy. Start typing in the OneNote search field (hit CTRL+E to bring up the search) and you’ll see a list of matches within your notes, similar to using Google.
- Easy collaboration tools let you share and edit notes without confusion. OneNote highlights recent changes and shows edits by author, in addition to saving prior versions of your notes.
- Versions of OneNote for tablet computers, iPhone and Android devices allow you to take notes and save information on the fly, without having to carry heavier equipment.

Please remember that any sensitive data must be protected as per CUMC policies, especially when sharing among multiple systems!

If you haven’t tried OneNote yet, we highly recommend it. Tutorials can be found at:

Unfortunately OneNote is not available for Macintosh computers. Word on Mac does have a Notebook view with some similar features, or look into programs like Evernote or Circus Ponies for more robust use.

As healthcare students, employees and affiliates it is vital that we know how to protect sensitive data. The Computer Safety and Policies areas of the CUMC IT web site provide tips and resources on using the latest security technologies: http://www.cumc.columbia.edu/it/safety.

Don’t procrastinate – take steps now to learn about security and EHR to help build patient trust and provide better care.