Happy Spring!

Civil War Medicine - A New Exhibit in Hammer

Archives & Special Collections, Augustus C. Long Health Sciences Library, is pleased to announce a new exhibit, Civil War Medicine, commemorating the 150th anniversary of the Civil War. Using original books, medical journals, letters, and documents, the exhibit tells how American medicine coped with the greatest war in our nation’s history with total casualties of 620,000.

On display are the 1st U.S. edition of Florence Nightingale’s Notes on Nursing, which had a beneficial influence on American military hospital practice; The Hand-Book for the Military Surgeon (1861), an important work for Union army surgeons by Charles Tripler, an 1827 P&S graduate; Louisa May Alcott’s Hospital Sketches (1863) in which she recounted her experiences as an army nurse in Washington; and an original 1864 contract in which David Webb Hodgkins (P&S 1863) signed up to be a surgeon in the U.S. Army for $100 a month.

For more information, contact the exhibit curator, Stephen Novak, at hslarchives@columbia.edu

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New Medical Heritage Library Grant

The National Endowment for Humanities has funded the Medical Heritage Library/Open Knowledge Commons proposal for digitization of approximately 200 historical medical journals, held by five major libraries, for free online access via the Medical Heritage Library (MHL) collection on the Internet Archive (IA) as well as through the HathiTrust digital repository.

During this two-year project, Columbia University Libraries and the Health Sciences Library (HSL) will digitize approximately 1,840 volumes of medical serials. Other libraries participating are the medical libraries of Yale and Harvard, and the College of Physicians of Philadelphia. The titles to be digitized are American journals published between 1797 and 1923 with HSL providing about twenty-five percent of the total volumes. Open Knowledge Commons in Cambridge, MA, is the project leader.
BE CAUTIOUS WHEN INSTALLING APPS!

Smartphones have made it more convenient and easy to stay connected anywhere. They also come in handy during short periods of downtime, as proven by the vast number of game applications available for download.

They also store a lot of personal information that application developers might want to use for data mining or more malevolent purposes including identity theft. Don’t make the mistake of being cavalier when downloading and installing phone and tablet applications; while most of them are safe, it’s much better not to risk having personal or sensitive information exposed because you were looking for a quick distraction. Remember that your phone and mail contacts, email messages, and even location or financial information may be stored and could easily be made vulnerable.

- Do proper research on any application before downloading. Look at reviews and don’t trust those that only have a few, no matter how positive. Check online (outside of any app store) to see if reputable tech sites have reviewed the app as well.
- Research the application developer. Do they have a website with good contact information? Have they produced other reliable apps?
- Understand any permissions that the application will be using on the device; if it doesn’t make sense or seems too invasive, don’t install it!
- Install credible security programs on your device that can scan for malware and viruses. The manufacturer’s website may have good suggestions for compatible programs, or look at established tech sites and magazines.

WINDOWS 8 ON THE HORIZON

A “Consumer Preview” of the next Microsoft operating system, Windows 8, has been released. IMPORTANT: as with any beta or new version of an operating system, Windows 8 is not supported for use with campus technical resources such as wireless, printing, or academic and research applications. You may use it at your own risk, but make sure you have access to a computer running Windows 7 or another fully supported operating system. FAQs on Microsoft’s website state that the preview version has risks including causing crashes, data corruption or a range of incompatibilities. http://windows.microsoft.com/en-US/windows-8/faq

Windows 8 attempts to bridge a gap between touch screen based tablet systems and standard mouse and keyboard based computers, with dual interfaces that can run over either set up and are easy to transition between them. The touch-based interface called Metro uses a tile layout for its windows and application icons, something that looks much sleeker and is already familiar to anyone using touch phones and tablets. Early reviews report that it starts up more quickly, is more intuitive to use, and is supposed to be backwards-compatible with most hardware and software that can run using Windows 7 and Vista.

The biggest difference for most will be the fact that the desktop interface no longer has the familiar Start button and menu, but instead opens a tiled Start Screen to show commonly used and “pinned” or saved shortcuts. This is a bit of a conceptual leap for most long time Windows users, but Microsoft seems to be betting that Windows 8’s ability to run on almost any platform and the popularity of touch screens will make it worthwhile in the long run.

REGULAR SPRING SEMESTER HOURS

Mon. - Thurs. - 8:00 am – 11:00 pm, Fri. - 8:00 am – 8:00 pm
Sat. - 10:00 am – 11:00 pm, Sun. - 12:00 Noon – 11:00 pm

Walk-in Research Help: Mon. – Fri., 11:00 am – 5:00 pm
24 Hour Computer Room - 24 hours/7 days
After Hours Study Room - 24 hours/7 days

CUMC Library & Computing News covers research & tech issues relevant to members of the Columbia University Medical Center community. It is edited by Anca Meret (aom1@columbia.edu) with tech content on page 2 provided by Kristin Mullane Shimada (km2194@columbia.edu).