Annals of the Rheumatic Diseases

Leader

The birth of eARD

We are pleased to announce that from 2 April 1999 *Annals of the Rheumatic Diseases* will have a full text web site available at our current address—www.annrheumdis.com. The name of the electronic version of the journal is eARD.

A greatly expanded range of services can now be accessed at this site. Firstly, eARD will provide full onscreen text of current issues, including figures and tables. In addition, there is a fully searchable archive going back to January 1997, with more limited material (abstracts and tables of contents) from earlier issues. Direct links with other journals in the BMJ Publishing and HighWire¹ groups mean that you can cross search or browse in many other clinical and basic science journals. Direct access to Medline also enables you to search for articles related to an Annals paper or to access publications cited in the reference list of an Annals paper. Through customised @lerts you can highlight the rapidly developing areas in rheumatology in which you are personally

interested and be emailed when articles in those particular areas become available. Current services, including information on the Annals and instructions to contributors will still be provided at this address.

To permit everyone the opportunity to find out at first hand the benefits of this service, access to eARD is free until the end of June 1999. From July the full text will only be available to subscribers to the web service—all you will need is a username and subscriber number. Access to tables of contents, abstracts and the search ability will remain open to everyone.

We believe that this is just the start of a comprehensive electronic service to rheumatologists and allied researchers. For example, the Institute of Scientific Information (ISI) is currently collaborating with HighWire to build hypertext links between the electronic resources of both. In the very near future this should enable our subscribers to navigate from the references or citations published within a HighWire produced article (including eARD) to the citation record and related records in the ISI resource. We are also working to encourage other rheumatology journals to link within a united rheumatology system to facilitate the accessing of relevant information.

We hope you enjoy and gain something from your visits to our web site. As always, we look forward to receiving your comments and views via electronic or more traditional means.

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Editor

1 About HighWire Press. highwire.stanford.edu/about.shtml