Unlocking the potential of biomedical literature resources with Ovid Discovery:
a case study Interview with Dr. Jon Fletcher of MedVet

Clinicians at MedVet, a veterinary organization, struggled with inefficient access to its literature resources, before it streamlined its literature offerings with Ovid Discovery

MedVet is a family of emergency and specialty hospitals for pets which also has postgraduate veterinary training programs for emergency clinicians and specialists. Caregivers regularly consult veterinary and medical journals to keep up to date with their specialty practice areas. This allows them to provide the highest standard of care for pets. And, for those preparing for their specialty board examinations, review of the medical literature is an essential component.

To facilitate this, the organization has individual subscriptions to multiple journals. However, providing access to these resources to their nationwide network of hospitals wasn’t easy or intuitive on MedVet’s existing system. Journal links were housed on an intranet requiring VPN access and multiple logins from an institutional computer. Several of the organization’s literature providers also had very limited institutional authentication options, making seamless access difficult.

Additionally, each journal was accessible through an individual link, meaning that clinicians could only search one journal at a time, which required at least two open browser windows to perform a medical literature search and view the articles. This approach was very inefficient with duplicate searches across multiple resources and the potential to miss relevant information in other resources. Moreover, some caregivers were unaware of all the resources available to them. This cumbersome system meant that MedVet caregivers spent longer than necessary finding the answers needed to deliver the best care to patients.

Dr. Jon Fletcher, Director of Post-Graduate Education and Clinical Studies at MedVet, contacted Wolters Kluwer Health about institutional access to medical journals. During the course of the conversation, Wolters Kluwer suggested that Ovid Discovery, a discovery and delivery platform for biomedical content, could be the answer MedVet was seeking.

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MedVet embarked on a journey with Wolters Kluwer to streamline their literature offerings so that it was possible to search across all their resources from one, easy-to-access search page. As standard, the customer services team took care of all aspects of implementation of the system, meaning that Dr. Fletcher and colleagues were able to communicate their preferences and have them realized very quickly.

So, how does the new system work, and did it help to address the issues with literature access? The new platform consists of a single landing page that allows MedVet clinicians to search simultaneously across all the literature available to the organization through journal subscriptions and open-access resources, and then obtain full-text access for search results immediately. The system incorporates both Ovid Discovery and OpenAthens remote access and authentication solutions. Not only is it web-based, allowing access from anywhere, but it requires only a single login, greatly streamlining access.

MedVet was able to rapidly customize the platform for their own needs, incorporating links to educational and training material on the landing page for the use by their caregivers. Changes in the platform appearance, such as color and layout, were achieved in a matter of minutes during a call between Dr. Fletcher and Wolters Kluwer.

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The new platform has greatly improved and simplified the process of searching and reviewing the literature and is much more efficient, allowing MedVet caregivers to spend more time on patient care and research. “With Ovid Discovery we obtained an amazing platform that has advanced search capabilities and the ability to house all of our digital resources,” said Fletcher. “This allows our caregivers to visit one page to perform a search, see all relevant content, and immediately have full-text access to all MedVet subscriptions - and everything that is open-access too.”