



e-Learning Anaesthesia Integrated Anaesthesia Learning Portal

The e-Library

The e-Learning Anaesthesia project (www.e-LA.org.uk) provides access for all UK anaesthetists to approximately 1,000 on-line tutorials or 'e-sessions' that support the FRCA curriculum. Its basic structure and function have been described in a previous College Bulletin article (January 2008).

It has always been envisaged that the learning portal would complement rather than replace existing learning resources but the use of an electronic web-based medium confers enormous potential advantages. Browser technology can call upon powerful search facilities and 'hot text links' that enable highly relevant background material to be placed at the fingertips of the user. The e-LA curriculum has been organised into seven educational blocks that are designed to accompany clinical units of training from the first three months of supernumerary attachment to the level of competence previously associated with the certificate of

completion of SHO training. The content of these blocks represents the core curriculum. To provide more background information, the academic block structure of e-LA has been mirrored with an e-library populated by both internal and external links to peer-reviewed scientific articles.

Agreement has been reached to allow direct toll-free access for e-Library to the full-text html and pdf versions of articles published by:

- *BJA*
- *Continuing Education in Anaesthesia, Critical Care & Pain*
- *Anaesthesia*
- *Anaesthesia & Intensive Care Medicine*
- *World Anaesthesia Society Tutorial of the Week and Update in Anaesthesia*

We are currently identifying those articles relevant to a particular session and have placed links to them alongside the session. The entire

e-Library may also be browsed for specific subjects and the catalogue searched by keywords. The project is ongoing and we anticipate that other journal publishers will agree to the inclusion of their published material in the catalogue. If so,

e-Library has the potential to become the most extensive collection of indexed electronic publications ever to be linked directly to the anaesthetic curriculum.

Q: Is e-Library just for ST 1–2 anaesthetists?

A: The indexed library of journal articles will support the core curriculum. However, it also provides a high quality searchable CPD resource for more senior anaesthetists.

Q: Who can use the e-Library facility?

A: This educational resource is accessible to all UK anaesthetists: trainees; consultants; SAS grades; and acute common stem trainees who have registered with the e-LA project.

Q: Can I gain access to the entire text of a paper?

A: Yes, the full text version will be available to read in html format and to print in pdf format.

Q: How does the e-Library differ from other portals?

A: e-LA provides structured learning material to support the FRCA curriculum. Sessions have been carefully cross-referenced to relevant high quality reviews and journal articles. The Learning Management System (LMS) keeps track of an individual's progress through the curriculum, and offers access to archives of support and reference material rather than simply acting as a search facility.

e-Learning Anaesthesia and the e-Library went live in January 2008. Please take the time to peruse the material that is now available at www.e-LA.org.uk.

Dr Andrew McIndoe
Dr Ed Hammond
Joint Project Leads

Figure 1 Common block structure for the e-LA curriculum and e-Library

