which causes Venezuelan equine encephalomyelitis. For B. anthracis, 49 Internet sites are listed in the report which detail research, disease outbreaks and medical diagnosis. For the VEE virus, 38 sites are listed in the report.

Access to the Internet provides an anonymous, universally-accessible system for gathering biological and toxin information. At the present time, the Internet is well suited for specific inquiries such as the location of particular cultures of bacteria. While there is a tremendous amount of information related to biological research, the quality and reliability of that information varies greatly. The accuracy of the information that is available must be assessed carefully in each case. Since there is no centralized control, the onus is on the user of the information to verify its accuracy.

The Internet provides much broader categories of information. The accessibility of this information has greatly increased. Previously, this scientific information was available in journals and on-line databases. Both required a certain level of scientific expertise to access and their use could be monitored. This has changed with the Internet. Through the Internet, access to this information is essentially anonymous. The threshold for acquiring information about biological pathogens and toxins has been lowered by its accessibility on the Internet.

There are some important limitations that this study identifies. Since the development of the World Wide Web hypertext system is recent, only current information is available (that is, from 1995 to 1996). If, for example, research is needed from 1980, it is unlikely that it will be directly accessible on the Internet. However, this is changing since more information sources including scientific databases are becoming accessible through the Internet.