

2.6 Selection Criteria for Iranian Publications

After Iranian publications were identified in the major databases, the next step was to use key words to identify certain types of research. These key words are some of the indicators sometimes suggested to have a potential relationship to biological warfare research. It should be clearly noted that the presence of these key words described below does not imply any direct connection between the research and biological weapons programs. Key words are tools with which to identify particular types of research. Only after the patterns, concentrations and possible gaps in the published research are identified can any attempts be made to draw any firm connections between the published research and any potential diversion of biological materials.

Search strategies were used to identify Iranian research associated with the following topics. The following are key words:

- 1) Microbiology, virology, bacteriology, infectious diseases;
- 2) toxins, neurotoxins, (see Box 1 for specific key words);
- 3) recombinant DNA, gene-cloning, biotechnology;
- 4) large-scale production, fermentation, bioreactors;
- 5) vaccine technology, immunology, immunization;
- 6) aerosol, lyophilization;

abrin
apamin
brevetoxin
batrachotoxin
botulinum toxin
bungarotoxin
conotoxin
curare
diamphotoxin
latrotoxin
mycotoxin
palytoxin
phospholipase
ricin
sarafotoxin
saxitoxin
tetanus toxin
tetrodotoxin
tubocurare

1. Toxin Key Words