

As well, this study sought to identify culture collections which make bacteria, fungi and viruses available for research and commercial purposes. The following are the major repositories:

- American Type Culture Collection (located at <http://www.atcc.org/>);
- Microbial Strain Data Network (MSDN located at <http://www.bdt.org.br/msdn/msdn.html>);
- All Russian Collection of Microorganisms (VKM located at <http://www.stack.serpukhov.su:70/1s/db/vkm>);
- Microbial Information Network of China (located at <http://sun.im.ac.cn/>); and,
- WFCC World Data Center for Microorganisms RIKEN, Japan (located at <http://www.wdcm.riken.go.jp/wdcm/STRAIN.html>).

More importantly, a total of 484 separate centres around the world are listed on the Internet that make microorganisms available for free, exchange or for a fee. Of these centres, over 30 have established their own Internet sites. There are 286 culture collections that provide various bacteria, 244 that provide fungi and 38 that provide virus samples. For example, 56 culture collections provide samples of Bacillus anthracis. These culture collections are listed in the annexes to this report. Many fewer collections make viruses available. In the case of the Venezuelan equine encephalomyelitis virus, only two collections provide samples of this virus.

This study also examined the sources of information and sites of research related to the two microorganisms, B. anthracis (the causative bacterium of the disease anthrax) and the Venezuelan equine encephalomyelitis (VEE) virus