

Chapter 7

PRINCIPAL FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

- The Internet provides an anonymous, universally-accessible system for acquiring information about current biological and toxin research. Although it is the most extensive system available, the information cannot be considered to be comprehensive since it is lacking reference to scientific research before 1995. The older on-line services such as DIALOG provide better historical coverage of research. However, this study clearly shows that the Internet provides a significant enhancement in transparency of research and information related to biological pathogens and toxins.
- Using the WWW virtual library for Bioscience and Search engines such as AltaVista, a map was developed of biological and toxin resources.
- There are over 480 culture collections in the world that are listed on the Internet that provide samples of bacteria, viruses and fungi.
- Fifty-six culture collections provide B. anthracis samples for free or a nominal charge. Two collections provide samples of the VEE virus.
- The review of information from Internet sites related to B. anthracis and the VEE virus show that important information can be obtained. These sites detail the types of research and which research centres are involved. Other types of information include reports about disease outbreaks and vaccine development.