

2.0 STUDY METHODOLOGY

A major part of this study depended upon the gathering of information available in the open scientific literature, specifically computerized databases. Therefore, the sources and quality of the information played an important role in determining the usefulness of collateral analysis. The contractor has direct access to relevant databases to make literature searches and can load the results directly to his computer for analysis. Table 1 lists five databases that have been found to provide particularly useful coverage of biological, biochemical and medical research. Together, these databases contain over 32 million records of scientific research from over 130 countries. Accordingly, they were the primary sources of information used in this study of Iranian research. The databases provide consistent coverage during the time period 1970-1992. The following sections will describe the databases and their breadth of coverage.

Table 1. Major Scientific Databases

DATABASE	COVERAGE	RECORDS
BIOSIS Previews	1969-present	7,713,784
Embase	1974-present	4,714,889
Medline	1966-present	6,856,539
CAB Abstracts	1972-present	2,878,913
CS Search	1969-present	10,570,791