Internet: A major resource for toxicologists*

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Use of the Internet in developing countries is now growing faster. Internet has created a new conduit not only for communication but also in the access, sharing and exchange of information among scientists. The Internet is now viewed as the world's biggest library where retrieval of scientific literature and other information resources are possible within seconds. Large volumes of toxicological information resources are available on the Internet. This review outlines some sites that may be of great importance and useful to the toxicologist.

The Internet is a huge network of computers that span the globe¹. More popularly known as the "information superhighway" the Internet has become a very pervasive influence in everyday life. Its power is more strongly seen among scientists, as more and more information is made available through "the net" whether they are gene sequences, experimental data or whole journal articles². The Internet is also an expanding body of information and now it is perceived as the world's largest library. The Internet is a powerful instrument for the exchange of scientific information for practitioners and researchers of pharmaceutical and toxicological science³. The Internet originated in 1969 when an American Defence Advance Research Project Agency developed a computer network (ARPANET), specially designed to survive foreign attack.

What is Internet

The Internet is a large, worldwide network of interconnected computers. It consists of several communication media, the best known of which is the world wide web. The principal communication protocol of the Internet is TCP/IP (Transmission control protocol/Internet protocol), developed in the 1970s by the US Department of Defence. It was designed to connect networks of different vendors into a "network of networks" (the Internet).

Getting Connected to Internet

For getting connected to the Internet a powerful computer and a modem (machine that enables digital

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information transfer over a telephone line) are indispensable. There are several ways to gain access to the Internet backbone. For private use, one has to look for an Internet Access Provider (IAP). This is a commercial company that provides access to its Internet backbone network; connection with the customer is usually established via a modem and communication line. Apart from the necessary software, the subscriber is given a password and an e-mail address; most providers also offer the opportunity to install web page on their server.

The World Wide Web

The World Wide Web (often referred to as www) is one of the most recent interesting and popular developments¹. It offers user-friendly access to millions of pages of information on computer all over the world.

The information on a World Wide Web is accessed via client program or 'browser'. Browsers are now available for most operating systems. The most commonly used are Netscape Navigator and Microsoft Internet Explorer. Recent version of these programs allows moving images, video clippings and sound to be integrated in a web page ⁴.

Navigating the Internet

In search for scientific information, it is now possible to link your computer to computer/s all around the world through Internet ⁵. The World Wide Web is a new resource for toxicologist. It is now possible to sit at a computer terminal and search for information of interest from all over the world. However, because of the enormous content of the World Wide Web, it is important to know how to search the web effectively to avoid wasting of time

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and obtaining hardly useful information. The easiest way is, of course, trying to obtain the exact Uniform Resource Locator (URL). If one knows the address for a particular web site, the same can be typed into the location box of the browser and the user will automatically be connected to the correct site. Most of the time, however, the exact address will be unknown. In this case, a 'search engine' can be used.

Because the Internet is so large it is important to have an efficient way of finding the information that one needs. Search engine is a software program that trawls the web, to index the contents of web servers for a particular query. The name and addresses of few popular search engines are given in Table 1.

Indian Homepage Search

Search Engine for India related websites

Electronic Mail

Postal delivery at the speed of light is possible with electronic mail (e-mail or email). The Internet access provider (IAP) really functions as a post office, receiving and forwarding electronic mail. The IAP also provides the e-mail address, which is in the general form sanjoypal@yahoo.com, denotes the name and mail server of the addressee separated by the @ ('at') sign. Not only text, but also photographs, images, sound and video clippings can be attached to an e-mail message.

Electronic Publication

Starting in 1991, Paul Ginsparg and colleagues at the Los Alamos National Laboratory set up an automated

Table 1—List of some popular search engines

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Search Engines:	
Yahoo	http://www.yahoo.com
Excite	http://www.excite.com
MSN	http://www.msn.com
Infoseek .	http://www.infoseek.com
Alta Vista	http://www.altavista.digital.com
Looksmart	http://www.looksmart.com
Hot Bot	http://www.hotbot.com
Lycos	http://www.lycos.com
Northern Light	http://www.nlsearch.com
Meta Search Engines :	
Dogpile	http://www.dogpile.com
Eliter.com	http://www.eliter.com
The BigHub.com	http://www.thebighub.com
JUGALUG MP3	http://www.jugalug.com/
CurryGuide	http://services.currguide.com/
PopularSites.com	http://www.popularsites.com
Megasources	http://www.acr.ryerson.ca/~journal/megasources.html
Profusion	http://www.profusion.com
Indian Search Engines:	
123 India	http://www.123india.com
Agni	http://www.indiawatch.org.in/agni/
India Search	http://www.indialinks.com/links/links.htm
Khoj	http://www.khoj.com
Yadoo	http://www.yadoo.com

http://indiatime.com/urls/indiaurls.htm

http://search.keralanuada.com/internet-services/

Table 2—Electronic Journals in the Net

International Journal of Toxicology

Journal of Analytical Toxicology

Links to pharmacology and toxicology journals

Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry

Toxicology and Environmental Health

Toxicology and Applied Pharmacology

E- Journal - Journal of Applied Toxicology

E - Journal - Environmental Toxicology and Water Quality

E- Journal - Archives of Toxicology

E - Journal - Chemical Research in Toxicology

Electronic Journal - Inhalation Toxicology

E- Journal - Human and Experimental Toxicology

E- Journal - Toxicology and Applied Pharmacology

Electronic Journal - Environmental Epidemiology and Toxicology

E - Journal - Toxicology and Industrial Health

Regulatory Toxicology and Pharmacology

E- Journal - Regulatory Toxicology and Pharmacology

E- Journal - Pharmacology & Toxicology

Cell Biology and Toxicology

Human and Experimental Toxicology

American College of Medical Toxicology

Journals of Biomacromolecules Biotechnolog Pharmacology and toxicology

EHIS Publications: Environmental Health Perspectives

TOXUPS Medical journals med-bio.html

Bioline International - Toxicology and Ecotoxicology News

E-Journals: Toxicology Vet

Environmental Toxicology and Ecotoxicology

Academic Press Journals

ACS Journals-Chemical Research in Toxicology

Toxicology Environment, conservation and ecology Journals

Environmental Journals on the Internet

Pharmacology Journals

Environmental Epidemiology and Toxicology

Online Journals--Ecology and the Environment

Advances in Environmental HealthLinks: Public Health Journals

Begell House, Inc. - Journal of Environmental Pathology, Toxicology and Oncology

http://landaus.com/toxicology/journal.htm

http://www.taylorandfrancis.com/JNLS/TOC/tocito.htm

http://www.jatox.com/

http://www.sciencekomm.at/journals/medicine/toxic.html

http://www.ruf.rice.edu/~etcj/

http://www.tandfdc.com/JNLS/teh.htm

http://www.apnet.com/www/journal/to.htm

http://library.usask.ca/ejournals/02/6/0260-437X.html

http://library.usask.ca/ejournals/10/5/1053-4725.html

http://library.usask.ca/ejournals/03/4/0340-5761.html

http://library.usask.ca/ejournals/08/9/0893-228X.html

http://library.usask.ca/ejournals/08/9/0895-8378.html

http://library.usask.ca/ejournals/09/6/0960-3271.html

http://library.usask.ca/ejournals/00/4/0041-008X.html

http://library.usask.ca/ejournals/15/2/1522-7987.html

http://horary.usask.ca/cjournais/15/2/1522-7967.html

http://library.usask.ca/ejournals/07/4/0748-2337.html

http://www.apnet.com/www/journal/rt.htm

http://www.stockton-press.co.uk/het/

http://library.usask.ca/ejournals/02/7/0273-2300.html

http://library.usask.ca/ejournals/09/0/0901-9928.html

http://www.wkap.nl/journalhome.htm/0742-2091

http://www.acmt.net/

http://www.sciencekomm.at/journals/medicine/toxic.html

http://ehpnet1.niehs.nih.gov/docs/journals.html

http://www.sciencekomm.at/journals/medicine/

http://www.bdt.org.br/bioline/te

http://library.usask.ca/ejournals/vtox.html

http://www.med.ed.ac.uk/HEW/tox/toxjrnl.html

http://www.apnet.com/journals

http://pubs.acs.org/journals/crt.html

http://www.sciencekomm.at/journals/environ.html

http://www.cnie.org/Journals.htm

http://ptworldmag.com/pharmaco.htm

http://www.stockton-press.co.uk/eet

http://www.tnstate.edu/library/journal/onjnecolo.htm

http://www.hslib.washington.edu/public_health/journals.html

http://www.begellhouse.com/jepto/jepto.html

archive allowing the electronic communication of research information. Articles could be submitted electronically directly to the archive and accessed by any one interested in the topic.

An article on the Internet reaches the readers instantaneously compared to those with the delays of weeks or months for publication in conventional journals. In recent years, many journals are now available online. List of some online journals related to toxicology are given in Table 2.

Beginning in 1995 the content of Toxicology Abstract ⁶ was brought directly to the user's personal computer. Toxicology Abstract can now be assessed electronically on the Internet via. 'Cambridge

Scientific Abstract' Internet journal service. For further information about Cambridge Scientific Abstract and its web resources, one can contact the marketing department (<u>market@csa.com</u>) or visit the web site (http://www.csa.com).

Toxicology on the Internet

A large and rapidly growing volume of toxicology related information could be now found on the web. A selection of Internet resources relevant to the toxicologist is given below. Care has been taken to check the accuracy of the information given. Because of the volatile nature of the Internet, no absolute guarantee can be given for the URLs provided.

I.Toxicology Databases

Poisons Information Database:

Poisons Information Database:(Alternative Site)

Developmental and Reproductive Toxicology Database

Pollution and Toxicology Database

Toxic Plant Database -

Poisonous Plant Database:

FDA/CFSAN Poisonous Plant Database:

OSHA database

TOXNET Home:

Toxicology Data NETwork:

Reprotox:

NLM's Databases & Electronic Information Sources:

PolTox I - Pollution and Toxicology:

TOXLINE® Database

Toxicology and Poisoning Databases, Search engines

Poison Database:

Toxicology Home

Pharmacology & Toxicology

II Professional Organization

Society of Toxicology:

American College of Toxicology:

British Toxicology Society:

Environmental Organization WebDirectory

- Pollution:Toxicology

American College of Medical Toxicology

Professional Societies

List of Toxicology Professional Groups:

Society of Environmental Toxicology and

Chemistry Europe

Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry

Environmental Mutagen Society EMS Home Page

Society of Forensic Toxicologists

III Specialty Related Sites:

A) Pesticide Toxicology

Pesticide Information:

Pesticide Fact Sheets

LINKS - Pesticide Section:

UC DAVIS: Environmental Toxicology

Caldwell Country Extension Centre Pesticide Information

healthfinder® - National Pesticide

Telecommunications Network

B) Environmental Toxicology

Environmental Toxicology Newsletter

Univ. of Nebraska - Center for Environmental Toxicology

Clemson University - Dept. of Environmental Toxicology

http://vhp.nus.sg/PID

http://medweb.nus.sg/PID/PID.html

http://www.nlm.nih.gov/pubs/factsheets/dartfs.html

http://www.library.yale.edu/scilib/help/poltox.html

http://www.library.uiuc.edu/vex/toxic/comlist.htm

http://www.wam.umd.edu/~mct/Plants/poisonous.html

http://vm.cfsan.fda.gov/~djw/readme.html

http://vm.cfsan.fda.gov/djw/readme.html

http://www.infoventures.com/e-hlth/

http://toxnet.nlm.nih.gov/

http://www.nlm.nih.gov/pubs/factsheets/toxnetfs.html

http://www.reprotox.org/

http://www.nlm.nih.gov/databases/databases.html

http://www.silverplatter.com/catalog/ptxa.htm

http://www.ccohs.ca/products/databases/toxline.html

http://www.internets.com/mednets/stoxicology.htm

http://www.alert-pest.net/poison.html

http://www.medfarm.unito.it/toxicol/toxicol1.html

http://www.mic.ki.se/PharmTox.html

http://www.toxicology.org/

http://actox.org/

http://www.bts.org/toxicology/

http://www.webdirectory.com/Pollution/Toxicology

http://www.acmt.net/

http://www.envirocomp.org/html/otherwebs/bowers/

profsoci.htm

http://www.pitt.edu/martint/pages/motoxorg.htm

http://www.setac.org/europe.html

http://www.setac.org/

http://www.ems-us.org/

http://www.soft-tox.org/

http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/plantanswers/misc/

pesticideinfo.html

http://www.mda.state.mn.us/DOCS/AGRON/

Agronomy/Factshts/PESTIC~1.HTM

http://www.isco.purdue.edu/links_pest.htm

http://www.envtox.ucdavis.edu/ETX/Faculty.htm

http://caldwell.ces.state.nc.us/ag/pesticide.html

http://www.healthfinder.gov/text/orgs/hr2115.htm

http://ace.orst.edu/info/extoxnet

http://www.unmc.edu/Eppley/ToxCenter/news.htm

http://cufp.clemson.edu/entox/

Food & Envtl. Toxicology Laboratory

Univ. of Florida

Cell & Molecular Toxicology Cornell University

Environmental Biosciences

Environmental State Univ. of New York, Albany

PBR Laboratories

Massachusetts Institute of Technology Environmental Health

MIT Environmental Health Sciences Specialized Information Services

Environmental Health Information Service Publications

Environmental Health Information Service Institute for Environmental Toxicology

Duke Occupational & Environmental Medicine

University of Washington Department of Environmental Health

Madison Environmental Toxicology Center Environmental Contaminants Encyclopedia

Toxicology and Environmental Health Information Program

Environmental Toxicology and Statistics,

Miami University

Environmental Toxicology Resources

Davis Department of Environmental Toxicology Developmental pharmacology and environmental

toxicology, University of Zürich

Molecular Toxicology and Environmental Medicine

Environmental Toxicology Home

Environmental toxicology - today and tomorrow

ESR - Environmental Toxicology

Toxicology Tutor and children's environmental health

C) Poison Centers

American Association of Poison Control Centers

West Virginia Poison Center
Palmetto Poison Center
Maryland Poison Center
Puerto Rico Poison Center
Middle Tennessee Poison Center
National Capital Poison Center
Southeast Texas State Poison Center

Georgia Poison Center North Texas Poison Center Pittsburgh Poison Center West Virginia Poison Center Alabama Poison Center

Hudson Valley Regional Poison Center

Illinois Poison Center

Central Pennsylvania Poison Center Texas Poison Center Network

National Animal Poison Control Center MedWebPlus: Poison Control Centers

Rocky Mountain Poison and Drug Center

Brown Spiders - Arizona Poison Information Center

http://gnv.ifas.ufl.edu/~foodweb/ir4.htm

http://gnv.ifas.ufl.edu/foodweb/ir4.htm

http://www.cfe.cornell.edu/icet/

http://www.ehap.musc.edu/

http://www.wadsworth.org/EHT/

http://www.ispex.ca/PBR/toxicology/

http://web.mit.edu/toxms/www/

http://web.mit.edu/afs/athena.mit.edu/org/c/cehs/www/

http://sis.nlm.nih.gov

http://ehpnet1.niehs.nih.gov/docs/publications.html

http://ehis.niehs.nih.gov/ http://www.iet.msu.edu/

http://dmi-www.mc.duke.edu/oem

http://www.depts.washington.edu/envhlth

http://www.wisc.edu/etc http://www.aqd.nps.gov/toxic

http://www.nlm.nih.gov/pubs/factsheets/tehipfs.html

http://www.muohio.edu/~zoocwis/cets http://www.muohio.edu/zoocwis/cets

http://www.wiz.uni-kassel.de/dain/ddb/x224.html http://www.envtox.ucdavis.edu/ptx/Nihtrgt.htm http://www.unizh.ch/phar/devtox/etox.htm

http://www.urmc.rochester.edu/GEBS/mtem

http://www.alert-pest.net/etox.htm

http://www.geocities.com:0080/RainForest/ Andes/3804 http://www.esr.co.nz/services/environmental-toxicology

http://www.cehn.org/cehn/resourceguide/tt.html

http://www.aapcc.org/

http://www.hsc.wvu.edu/charleston/wvpc/wvpchomepage

http://www.pharm.sc.edu/pps/pps.htm

http://www.pharmacy.umab.edu/mpc/plant.htm

http://home.coqui.net/toxicos/

http://www.toxicology.mc.vanderbilt.edu/Poison

http://www.poison.org/ http://www.utmb.edu/setpc/

http://www.georgiapoisoncenter.org/

http://www.swmed.edu/home_pages/parkland/ poison.html

http://www.chp.edu/05mryuk/05frameset.htm http://www.hsc.wvu.edu/charleston/wvpc/

http://www.alapoisoncenter.org/ http://members.aol.com/hvrpc/ http://www.mchc.org/ipc/

http://www.collmed.psu.edu/ems/cppc/cppc.htm http://www.tdh.state.tx.us/epidemiology/tpcnet.htm

http://www.napcc.aspca.org/

http://www.medwebplus.com/subject/

Poison_Control_Centers.html

http://www.RMPDC.org/

http://www.pharm.arizona.edu/centers/

poison_center/critters/bugs/brown_spider.html

Poison Ivy, Oak and Sumac Information Center Arizona Poison & Drug Information Center National Animal Poison Control Center NYC Department of Health - Poison Control Center Arizona Poison Page

D) Medical Toxicology

American College of Medical Toxicology

SIU Medical Library

Medical Management Guidelines for

Acute Chemical Exposure

Toxikon: Medical Toxicology On-Line

The American Academy of Clinical Toxicology

Australasian Society of Oral Medicine And

Toxicology - ASOMAT

Welcome MedPharm

Northup Regulatory Toxicology Services

Medical Toxicology Service

Medical Library: Medical Specialties Medical Toxicology - Local Version

E) Forensic Toxicology

American Medical Forensics Specialists, Inc.

American Institute of Toxicology

Anil Aggrawal's Articles on Forensic Toxicology Useful information on poisons and their various

medical-legal aspect).

Department of Forensic Medicine & Science

University of Glasgow

American Board of Forensic Toxicology Home Page

International Association of Forensic Toxicologists

Centre of Behavioral and Forensic Toxicology

Forensic Toxicology Center Forensic Toxicology Laboratories

F) Drug and Food Toxicology

U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA)

Korea Food and Drug Administration

United States Food and Drug Administration

Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition

FDA / National Center for Toxicological Research

Food and Drug Administration Home Page,

Listing of Newly Approved Drug Therapies (2000)

FDA Advisors & Regulatory Consultants food additives

FOOD Virtual Reference Desk

Therapeutic Drug Monitoring Laboratory Home Page

FDA Consultants and Regulatory Consultants

Internet Resources: Food & Nutrition

Veterinary Toxicology - toxins, animal poisoning

Tips for Browsing Drug Information Books

http://poisonivy.aesir.com/

http://www.pharm.arizona.edu/centers/poison_center/

http://workingdogs.com/doc0002.htm

http://www.ci.nyc.ny.us/html/doh/html/poison/poison.html

http://educ.ahsl.arizona.edu/poison.html

http://www.acmt.net/

http://www.siumed.edu/lib/currentj.html

http://aepo-xdv-www.epo.cdc.gov/wonder/

prevguid/p0000

http://toxikon.er.uic.edu/

http://www.clintox.org/

http://www.asomat.com/

Email: asomat@asomat.com

http://www.medfarm.unito.it/Welcome.html

http://devicelink.com/consult/n/n007.html

http://www.mc.vanderbilt.edu/clintox/p3a1.html

http://www.nmmc.com/nmhc/library/htm/ emergmed.htm

http://www.ovcnet.uoguelph.ca/BioMed/ Courses/Public/94-400

http://www.amfs.com/

http://www.aitlabs.com/

http://members.tripod.com/~Prof_Anil_Aggrawal/

http://www.gla.ac.uk/Acad/ForMed/

http://users.aol.com/lctox/lfshome.htm

http://www.abft.org/

http://www.cbft.unipd.it/tiaft

http://www.cbft.unipd.it/

http://www.toxicology.lsumc.edu/Forensic.htm

http://userzweb.lightspeed.net/~abarbour/labs.htm

http://cwis.usc.edu/hsc/nml/e-resources/info/usfda.html

http://www.library.ucsf.edu/biosites/data/203.html

http://www.kfda.go.kr/english/left_fr.html

http://www.virtualref.com/abs/352.htm

http://vm.cfsan.fda.gov/list.html

http://www.fda.gov/nctr

http://www.fda.gov/hometext.html

http://www.centerwatch.com/drugs/DRUGLIST.HTM

http://phoenixrising.l4.net/pharmaceuticals_food.html

http://www.virtualref.com/subj/49.htm

http://www.toxicology.lsumc.edu/tdmindex.htm

http://phoenixrising.l4.net/Fda_consultants

http://www.familyhaven.com/InternetReference

Desk/food.html

http://vetmedicine.about.com/health/vetmedicine

/msubtox.htm

http://library.kumc.edu/omrs/diseases/drugbks.html

IV.Miscellaneous

Virtual Pharmacy - Martindale's
Toxicology Fellowship description
ACS Directory of Graduate Research 1999
The American Board of Veterinary Toxicology
Pharmacology and Toxicology Links
Toxikon Medical Toxicology Fellowship
Developmental Toxicology Working Group

http://www-sci.lib.uci.edu/~martindale/Pharmacy.html
http://www.swmed.edu/home_pages/toxicology/ toxdescrip
http://pubs.acs.org/dgrweb/index.html
http://www.abvt.org/links.htm
http://www-farmaco.unimaas.nl/PharmToxLinks.htm
http://toxikon.er.uic.edu/fellows.htm
http://iccvam.niehs.nih.gov/dtwg.htm

Conclusion

The growth in the biopharmaceuticals field has also led to a rise in the need for qualified toxicologist. In addition, to traditional expertise in environmental and chemical toxicologist, employers are looking for scientists with experience in reproductive toxicology, pharmacokinetics, and drug metabolism in order to penetrate the biopharmaceutical market. For working toxicologist and those in training, the expansion of the Internet could not have come at a better time. It has meant a major change in how they do their jobs. The availability of on-line databases and scientific journals has made the process of information gathering and sharing easier ⁷

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- 7 Francisco M. Toxicology resources on the Internet. *Nature Biotech*, 16 (1998) 302.