INTRODUCTION

The literature of tropical medicine, like all clinical specialties, tends to be distributed throughout medical literature, and reliance on the specialist tropical medicine literature alone will not usually be sufficient to cover adequately the total literature. It is important therefore that any search of the literature needs to encompass both the general and specialist sources. This brief guide to the information sources of tropical medicine will limit itself to the main focus of this book, i.e. the clinical, diagnostic and control aspects of tropical medicine.

Any systematic search of the literature must use a variety of different sources, including journals, books, databases and websites. Many traditional print resources, such as journals, indexes and increasingly also books, are now available online and those listed below include only a selection of the most important sources. However, an important part of this survey is on identifying the most important internet-based resources, as a reflection that the internet has become, de facto, the main vehicle for up-to-date information in medicine, even in the poorest regions of the world. Inevitably, some websites become unavailable, change their URL or are not updated; it is hoped that the online version of this chapter, to be published in parallel with the print version, will continue to be updated. However, there are two regularly updated gateway sites which cover much of the source material listed: the Institute of Tropical Medicine Antwerp library links to selected websites (http://lib.itg.be/biblinks.htm) and AED Satellite’s Essential Health Links (http://www.inasp.healthnet/essential-links/).

TEXTBOOKS AND OTHER PRINT MATERIALS

Generally speaking, there is a dearth of texts relating to clinical and laboratory aspects of tropical and parasitic diseases, and readers will invariably have to look in textbooks of infectious diseases and more general textbooks of medicine for current information. The texts selected below are the most well known in the field.

GENERAL TEXTS ON TROPICAL AND INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Appendix V. Sources of Information in Tropical Medicine

Box V.1

For students and those working in the developing world substantial price discounts on medical texts are available from:
1. Bookpower
   120 Pentonville Road, London N1 9JN, UK
   Website: http://www.bookpower.org/
   e-mail: bookpower@mistral.co.uk
2. Tropical Health Technology
   PO Box 50, Fakenham, Norfolk NR21 8XJ, UK
   Website: http://www.tht.ndirect.co.uk/
   e-mail: thtbooks@tht.ndirect.co.uk
3. Teaching Aids at Low Cost (TALC)
   PO Box 49, St Albans, Herts AL1 STX, UK
   Website: http://www.talcuk.org/
   e-mail: talc@talcuk.org

The following publishers make available some publications free to doctors working in selected developing countries:
1. FSG Communications Ltd
   Vine House, Fair Green, Reach, Cambridge CBS 0JD, UK
   Website: http://www.fsg.co.uk/
   e-mail: info@fsg.co.uk

Medical Education Resource Africa (MERA) incorporating Africa Health, African Health Sciences and Diabetes International (ISSN 1478-2642).
2. PMH Publications
   PO Box 100, Chichester, W. Sussex PO18 8HD, UK
   Website: http://www.pmh.uk.com/medical/africa/home.htm
   e-mail: admin@pmh.uk.com
   Postgraduate Doctor Africa (ISSN 0142-7946).
3. Healthink Worldwide,
   56–64 Leonard Street, London, EC2A 4LT, UK
   Website: http://www.healthlink.org.uk/
   e-mail: info@healthlink.org.uk

Various newsletters, journals, and training manuals.


History of tropical medicine

An extensive literature exists on the fascinating history of tropical medicine and its controversies. Much of it relates to the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, when many of the significant discoveries of the aetiologies of tropical and parasitic infections were first made. Listed below is a small selection of texts which will serve as an introduction to an increasingly popular subject.

Arnold D, ed. Warm Climates and Western Medicine: The Emergence of Tropical Medicine 1500–1900. Amsterdam: Rodopi; 1996.
Cox FEJ, ed. The Wellcome Trust Illustrated History of Tropical Diseases. London: Wellcome Trust; 1996.

Atlases

General Texts on Tropical and Infectious Diseases

**Medical entomology**


**Medical mycology**


**Neurology**


**Nutrition**


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Dermatology


Parish LC, Millikan LE. *Global Dermatology: Diagnosis and Management According to Geography, Climate, and Culture*. New York: Springer; 1994.


Gastroenterology


Laboratory techniques


Microscopy of Tropical Diseases. Fakenham, UK: Tropical Health Technology, revised 2006. (Affordable series of nine laminated brochures consisting of high-quality colour plates with text for diagnosing parasitic, bacterial and viral infections, urinary tract disease, anaemia and white blood cell disorders).

Van Dyck E, Meheus ZA, Piot P. *Laboratory Diagnosis of Sexually Transmitted Diseases*. Geneva: WHO; 1999 (also available in French and Spanish).


Leprosy


Appendix V. Sources of Information in Tropical Medicine


Ophthalmology


Paediatrics


Parasitic and vector-borne diseases

Appendix V. Sources of Information in Tropical Medicine


Surgery


Travel medicine


Tuberculosis

Rieder HL. Epidemiologic Basis of Tuberculosis Control. Paris: International Union Against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease (IUATLD); 1999.

A broader up-to-date selection of tropical medicine-related books can be found online, available: http://lib.igb.be/tmlist_e.htm. The World Health Organization distributes a standard collection of 150 essential health sciences books named ’Blue Trunk Library’ in developing countries, online, available: http://www.who.int/gihl/mobileLibraries/bluetrunk also available in French.

ELECTRONIC BOOKS

More books are becoming available in electronic format. In addition to CD-ROM versions with either the full text or supplementary material, web editions of textbooks are becoming quite popular. These may be free to purchasers of the print edition, with a unique login code available inside the printed book, or as part of a thematic collection of dozens or hundreds of e-books one can subscribe to. The World Health Organization, for instance, has made freely available online a large part of its collection (http://whqlibdoc.who.int/). The following portals also list useful freely available titles, but they are by no means limited to tropical medicine resources:
The internet is now an indispensable source of information in medicine and has become the vehicle for making available databases, electronic journals, online textbooks, slide-sets, as well as a means of communication between individuals for e-mail and participation in professional discussion lists. However, there is evidence that the “information gap” between the developed and developing world has been increasing because telecommunication networks in the developing world are not sufficiently reliable or advanced to enable widespread access to the internet. This is beginning to change and many urban areas in Africa, for example, now have access to the internet, but usually at some cost to the individual. This inequity has at last been recognized and there are initiatives, such as the HINARI scheme (http://www.who.int/hinari/) and Healthcare Information for All by 2015 (HIFA2015) (http://www.ghi-net.org/), which are attempting to address this. 

Box V.2
The internet is now an indispensable source of information in medicine and has become the vehicle for making available databases, electronic journals, online textbooks, slide-sets, as well as a means of communication between individuals for e-mail and participation in professional discussion lists. However, there is evidence that the “information gap” between the developed and developing world has been increasing because telecommunication networks in the developing world are not sufficiently reliable or advanced to enable widespread access to the internet. This is beginning to change and many urban areas in Africa, for example, now have access to the internet, but usually at some cost to the individual. This inequity has at last been recognized and there are initiatives, such as the HINARI scheme (http://www.who.int/hinari/) and Healthcare Information for All by 2015 (HIFA2015) (http://www.ghi-net.org/), which are attempting to address this.

Guides to searching the internet

GIDEON – Global Infectious Disease and Epidemiology Network. Online. Available: http://www.gideononline.com/ (Online subscription-based knowledge management tool that helps you diagnose infectious diseases and stay up to date on the latest trends in epidemiology and treatment.)
Illustrated Lecture Notes on Tropical Medicine, Prince Leopold Institute of Tropical Medicine (ITM), Antwerp, Belgium.mailto:info@itg.be Online. Available: http://www.itg.be/itg/DistanceLearning/LectureNotesVandenEnden/index.htm. (The English edition is freely available from this website; English and Spanish editions can be obtained on CD-ROM at a low price.)
KABIRA. ITM: a computer-based program for training in diagnostic problems in (sub-)tropical regions, covering three continents and eight languages. The CD-ROM can be obtained free from ITM (see above).

In most scientific specialties there is an implicit hierarchy with different tiers of journals, often based on perceived quality of peer review (incl. rejection rates) and coverage by popular databases, which enhances international visibility. A first group of tropical medicine journals are those that are covered both by PubMed/Medline and the Web of Knowledge (WoK), respectively the world’s foremost biomedical bibliographic database and interdisciplin ary citation database. Coverage by the latter is a necessary condition to obtain an impact factor (IF), an indicator of the annual number of citations a journal receives per article published during the two previous years. Although a highly disputed issue, IFs have become de facto status symbols for scientific journals. The following tropical medicine titles belong to this category and are listed here in alphabetical order. Although a minority, non-English quality journals are also included.

Journals

A second list features a number of (regional) journals that are not included in the WoK citation databases but are covered by PubMed/Medline and as such are also highly visible:


Dakar Medical. Société Médicale d’Afrique Noire de Langue Française, 1956–. ISSN 0850-797X.


So far, only a few dozen ‘tropical medicine’ journals are listed. As stated in the introduction, tropical medicine research relies heavily on the literature of related specialties such as parasitology, entomology, microbiology, immunology, infectious diseases and others, as well as on the general medicine journals. A selection of such journals include:


Lancet. The Lancet, 1823–. ISSN 0140-6736. Online. Available: http://www.thelancet.com (In addition to its status as a top class Western general medical journal, The Lancet is nowadays also profiling itself as a major forum for global health issues.)


**ELECTRONIC JOURNALS PORTALS, OPEN ACCESS AND OPEN ARCHIVES**

Most of the journals listed here are available online, although are not necessarily free. At the very least, journal websites will give
tables of contents and selected full text articles free, but format and access policies vary greatly between different publishers. Website addresses (URLs) have mostly been kept short – as they tend to change over time. Also, online journal editions may be available from different websites or be grouped in various portals, such as:


BMC – BioMed Central. Online. Available: http://www.biomedcentral.com/browse/journals/ (Over 150 electronic-only open access journals; listed in PubMed Central.)


Free Medical Journals (Hardin MD). Online. Available: http://www.freemедicaljournals.com/ (Over 400 free journals; with a useful and free current awareness service, i.e. subscribers receive weekly e-mail notifications about newly published articles on selected topics.)


HINARI – Health InterNetwork Access to Research Initiative. Online. Available: http://www.who.int/hinari/ (Free or low cost access for developing countries to over 3500 quality journals.)


OAIster. Online. Available: http://oaister.umdl.umich.edu/oaister (Open archives union catalogue of over 15 million digital resources from over 900 contributors (also includes journal articles).

Open J-Gate (Informatics India Ltd). Online. Available: http://www.openj-gate.com/ (Over 3900 open access journals.)

PloS: Public Library of Science journals. Online. Available: http://www.plos.org/ (Eight open access journals, including 'PloS Neglected Tropical Diseases'.

PMC: Pubmed Central (NIH – National Institutes of Health). Online. Available: http://www.pubmedcentral.nih.gov/ (Over 400 open access journals. Many long established high impact journals (as well as new journals, including the BMC series of online journals) offer their backsets free – several stretching back many decades to their very first volume – but there is generally an embargo for the most recent issues.)


For a detailed and up-to-date list of tropical medicine-related electronic journal editions the reader is referred to: http://lib.itg.be/journals.htm. As this is not a portal as such, accessibility of full text will depend on publisher policy and the requester’s subscription status for each individual journal.

Electronic journals have the additional advantage that they are less restricted by paper length and may include multimedia. Articles are often published immediately after peer review and revision without the need to wait until a complete issue is ready. A disadvantage is that even for online-only journals with good peer review standards start-up and maintenance costs are still high. While major initiatives such as the PloS journals initially receive large funds from (inter)national organizations to keep them viable, it will be the authors, or their funding bodies, that will have to pay the costs. Some, such as the US National Institutes of Health, Wellcome Trust and UK Medical Research Council, already underwrite publication costs as an inherent – yet relatively small – part of their research financing. So ironically it may turn out that researchers with acceptable Internet connections but poor financing may be able to access most of the biomedical literature, but not to contribute to it. However, many open access publishers have policies to waive publication fees for authors from developing countries, while maintaining peer review conditions.

Another interesting development is the open access movement, with important statements of intent made by the Budapest Open Access Initiative (2001), the Berlin Declaration (2003), the Bethesda Statement (2003) and several others. The premise is that universities and research institutes regain some control of at least the published output of their own researchers and make this available worldwide via institutional repositories, which in their turn are indexed by Google-like indexes such as OAIster. Discussion is still continuing about what can be distributed by repositories and what remains the exclusive (copyright) domain of the publisher (e.g. preprints vs definitive versions), but it is undoubtedly a development that will add to the growing corpus of open access publications.

Stories of once flourishing university and hospital libraries in developing countries with collections dried up to just a few (donated) or no journal subscriptions and a few dozen out-of-date books are sadly well-known. Some of the resources listed in this chapter may offer new opportunities here. Especially the open access and open archives movements, and initiatives like HINARI offer great hopes of universal access to health information – if suitable internet connections are available. If not, CD-ROM distribution is a possible option (e.g. the first 10 years of the journal 'Tropical Medicine and International Health' are now available on a single CD-ROM). Yet access is only one side of information deficiency. One of the paradoxes of present-day health sciences – known as the 10/90 divide – is that less than 10% of biomedical research resources is spent on diseases responsible for 90% of the worldwide disease burden. Developing countries are generally under-represented in the international biomedical literature and databases – yet in tropical medicine they do publish a considerable amount of research and receive their well-earned share of citations. Tropical medicine journals clearly make worthwhile efforts to bridge the geographical gap in health research publishing.

The size of the Journal Citation Reports tropical medicine category (12 journals) already indicates that it is a relatively small
Appendix V. Sources of Information in Tropical Medicine

Box V.3 Distribution of malaria articles in medical journals

High impact, general journals have higher circulations and also a wider audience than specialist journals. Authors wishing to publish their work face a dilemma: publish in a specialist journal for a smaller audience or publish in a more general journal with a larger readership and potentially higher rates of citation? To test this, a simple study was carried out looking at the distribution and the citation rates of articles published on malaria between the years 2003 and 2004.

The total number of articles on malaria published in these years by the journals listed in the multidisciplinary database 'Web of Science' (Thomson Scientific) was 4179. Of those articles, only 770 (18.4%) were published in journals categorized as tropical medicine (TM) journals (see Table V.1). The remaining 3409 articles were published in other journals. Of these, the 12 journals with the most malaria papers published 837 articles. Analysis of the articles published on malaria between the years 2003 and 2004 revealed the following results. The citation rates used are those which were quoted on 'Web of Science' at the time of study (December 2006). An article published in a journal within the TM category was found to have an average citation rate of 6.06 citations. Articles published in the 12 non-TM journals most frequently publishing articles on malaria had an average citation rate of 9.92. Finally, articles published in the rest of the non-TM category had an average citation rate of 7.76 citations. These results suggest that publication of an article on malaria has the best citation opportunities if it is published in a top non-TM journal. These results invite more thorough research, involving more tropical medicine-related topics and additional parameters.

Table V.1 Comparison of the 12 tropical medicine (TM) journals as defined by Web of Science with the 12 non-tropical medicine journals publishing the most articles on malaria in 2003–2004

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<td>5. Malar J</td>
<td>77 646</td>
<td>5. J Infect Dis</td>
<td>74 464</td>
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<tr>
<td>8. Trop Doct</td>
<td>15 748</td>
<td>8. J Travel Med</td>
<td>56 646</td>
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on tropical diseases which is published in general medical journals and journals of other medical specialties.

Global Health, CABI Publishing, Wallingford, UK (http://www.cabi.org/), 1973–. An important subscription-based database for tropical medicine and parasitology incorporating many of the health-related abstracting journals from CABI. Unlike PubMed, Global Health is not strictly limited to journal articles but also covers books, reports and symposia. It contains over 1,200,000 records, with 80,000 added each year. Literature from about 130 countries is included, with a strong emphasis on clinical and laboratory-based aspects of tropical medicine. Its particular strength is in infectious diseases in the developing world, but it also includes material on human nutrition, medical entomology, medicinal plants and venomous animals. Global Health is a subset of the CAB Abstracts database and includes the contents of the following specialty bibliographic indexes, which are also available separately in monthly printed issues: Abstracts on Hygiene and Communicable Diseases, Helminthological Abstracts, Nutrition Abstracts and Reviews, Protozoological Abstracts, Review of Medical and Veterinary Entomology, Review of Medical and Veterinary Mycology, Tropical Diseases Bulletin. Recently the Global Health Archive (1910–1972) has become available, with over 800,000 records previously not included in the Global Health database; this historical database is an essential source for the early history of tropical medicine research.

Web of Knowledge (incl. Science Citation Index), Thomson Scientific (formerly ISI, Institute for Scientific Information), Philadelphia, PA, USA (http://isiboisko knowledge.com/). Subscription-based multidisciplinary science database series particularly useful for citation searching. This enables searching for citations to a known reference, thus getting more recent papers relating thematically to the known reference. As such it is in the first place a clever subject retrieval tool, yet its popular meritocratic uses (e.g. for identifying highly-cited authors, or journal hierarchies based on impact factors) appear to have overshadowed this original purpose. Minimum delay in the indexing process, making this one of the more up-to-date online resources.

**Additional databases**


African Index Medicus, WHO Regional Office for Africa, Brazzaville, Congo. Online. Available: http://indexmedicus.afro.who.int/, 1990–; (Quarterly. Comprises medical references with selected abstracts from material published in and about Africa, and includes journals, books, reports, theses etc. It includes African medical journals not indexed in other abstracting/indexing journals. Author and subject indexes are included.)

CRD – Centre for Reviews and Dissemination Databases, UK. Online. Available: http://www.york.ac.uk/inst/crd/crddatabases.htm (e.g. DARE – Database of Abstracts of Reviews of Effects; also included in the Cochrane Library).


(Describes over 36,000 clinical studies in over 130 countries. Useful for recruiting trials; complements Cochrane Library’s bibliography of (published) clinical trials.)

Cochrane Library, John Wiley. Online. Available: http://www.thecochranelibrary.com/ 1996–, quarterly updates. (The major resource for evidence-based medicine comprising several databases. Included is a database of about 3,000 full-text systematic reviews (+1,600 review protocols), with an increasing number on infectious and tropical diseases, a database of abstracts of reviews of effectiveness, a comprehensive bibliography of clinical trials as well as a handbook on critical appraisal and the science of reviewing research. Free to many developing countries via HINARI. For further details of the Cochrane Collaboration and its specialist groups (particularly the Infectious Diseases Group), see http://www.cochrane.org/).


Google Scholar. Online. Available: http://scholar.google.com/. (Based on the popular Google search engine, Google Scholar indexes a substantial part of the scientific literature. It contains an
Appendix V. Sources of Information in Tropical Medicine

internal mechanism for linking citations and is free. At this time, its selection criteria are not fully clear, and some major publishers are still missing.)

LILACS, Latin American and Caribbean Literature on Health Sciences, BIREME, São Paulo, Brazil. Online. Available: http://bases.bireme.br/, 1982–, free. (Includes references from 670 of the region’s medical and health journals, as well as theses, books, conferences and governmental publications. The database contains 350,000 records and is essential for the Latin American literature not indexed elsewhere. The BIREME server also contains a number of additional databases on Latin American health topics.)

Popline, Population Information Program, Johns Hopkins School of Public Health, Baltimore, MD, USA. Online. Available: http://db.jhuccp.org/popinform/index.stm, 1970–. (Important database on reproductive health with excellent coverage of AIDS and other STDs and maternal and child health in the developing world, including references from books, articles and technical reports. It also includes much unpublished material and grey literature from non-governmental organizations active in the developing world. Now contains over 360,000 records and is available free on the internet and available free to developing countries on CD-ROM, http://db.jhuccp.org/ics-wpd/popweb/cdromfr.html or Popline Digital Services, 111 Market Place, Suite 310, Baltimore, MD 21202, USA.)


SharingPointServer, Scientists for Health and Research for Development (SHARED). Online. Available: http://www.sharingpoint.net/ (SHARING health information from around the globe! Useful for identifying current health research projects, journal articles, abstracts, realtime health news and mailing list postings from Asia, Africa, Europe, North and South America.)

Source, London, UK. Online. Available: http://www.asksource.info/ (Useful free database providing access to more than 25,000 records, including books, articles, reports and training manuals, focusing on the management and practice of primary health care and disability in developing countries. It includes much material published in developing countries that is not available in other databases.)

TRIP Database. Online. Available: http://www.tripdatabase.com/ (Searches over 75 sites of high-quality medical information, giving direct, hyperlinked access to the largest collection of ‘evidence-based’ material on the web (including elements of the Cochrane Library, such as the systematic reviews and abstracts of reviews of effectiveness and Clinical Evidence), as well as articles from premier online journals such as the BMJ, JAMA, NEJM etc. Useful if access to the Cochrane Library is not available.)

Tsetse and Trypanosomiasis Information, Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), Rome, Italy. Online. Available: http://www.fao.org/paat/html/ttq.htm, 1978–, Semi-annual. (Covers all aspects of tsetse and trypanosomiasis research and control and is available in both English and French versions. Includes references with abstracts from journals, books, reports, conference proceedings etc.)

WHO Global Database on Child Growth and Malnutrition. Online. Available: http://www.who.int/nutgrowthdb/ (Compilation of child growth and malnutrition data from nutritional surveys conducted around the world since 1960.)

WHO Reproductive Health Library. Online. Available: http://www.rhlibrary.com/ (Published in English and Spanish both online and on CD-ROM, it is a collection of the best evidence-based research in reproductive health, including the full text of all relevant Cochrane reviews as well as other assessed articles. Practical advice is also available on implementing best evidence into practice. Free to developing countries via HINARI.)

Database hosts

Several databases are available free (e.g. PubMed, Popline), while others are available also or only as a subscription-based service from commercial suppliers. The same database may be available from several hosts in various formats and at different prices. Conversely, accessing a number of databases from the same host has the advantage of being able to use the same software interface and combination search, often with a duplicate removal option. Some of the better known (biomedical) database hosts are listed below:

DIMDI. Online. Available: http://www.dimdi.de/  

Schools and institutes of tropical medicine

The following are the most well-known schools of tropical medicine. Many offer postgraduate courses in clinical tropical medicine, but for a more comprehensive list of courses see the Medicus Mundi list of postgraduate training programmes in international health, at: http://www.healthtraining.org/

Bernhard Nocht Institute for Tropical Medicine, Bernhard-Nocht Straße 74, D-20359 Hamburg, Germany. Online. Available: http://www.bni-hamburg.de/  
James Cook University, Department of Public Health and Tropical Medicine, Townsville, Queensland 4811, Australia. Online. Available: http://www.jcu.edu.au/school/sphstm/  
Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine, Pembroke Place, Liverpool L3 5QA, UK. Online. Available: http://www.liv.ac.uk/stm/  
London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, Keppel Street, London WC1E 7HT, UK. Online. Available: http://www.lshtm.ac.uk/  
Mahidol University Faculty of Tropical Medicine, 420/6 Rajvithi Road, Bangkok 10400, Thailand. Online. Available: http://www.fm.mahidol.ac.th/  
Swiss Tropical Institute, Sociinstrasse 57, Postfach CH-4002 Basel, Switzerland. Online. Available: http://www.sti.unibas.ch/  
Tulane University School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine, Department of Tropical Medicine, 1430 Tulane Avenue, SL-17, New Orleans, LA 70112, USA. Online. Available: http://www.sph.tulane.edu/tropmed/
Electronic Journals Portals, Open Access and Open Archives

Societies

American Society of Parasitologists. Enquiries to: Dr John Janovy, Secretary, Treasurer, ASP, School of Biological Sciences, University of Nebraska Lincoln, Lincoln, NE 68588-0118 USA. Tel: (402) 472-2754; Fax: (402) 472-2083; e-mail: jjanovy1@unl.edu (http://asp.unl.edu/)

American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene, 60 Revere Drive, Suite 500, Northbrook IL 60062, USA. Tel: (847) 480-9592; Fax: (847) 480-9282; e-mail: astmh@astmh.org (http://www.astmh.org/)

BE-Cause Health. Belgian Platform for International Health, Nationalestraat 155, B-2000 Antwerp, Belgium. Tel: (32) 3247-6212; e-mail: info@be-causehealth.be

British Society for Parasitology, BSP Secretariat, Cathy Fuller, 27 Village Road, Cockayne Harley, Sandy, Beds SG19 2EE, UK. Tel/Fax: (0) 1767 631878; e-mail: cathy@gamesstorm.co.uk (http://www.bsp.uk.net/index.php)

Canadian Society for International Health, 1 Nicholas Street, Suite 1105, Ottawa, Canada K1N 7B7 Tel: 613 241 5785; Fax: 613 241 3845; e-mail: csih@csih.org (http://www.csih.org/)

Deutsche Gesellschaft für Tropenmedizin und Internationale Gesundheit e.V. (German Society for Tropical Medicine and International Health). Info Service, Postfach 40 04 66, 80704 München, Germany. Tel: (89) 21 80 38 30; Fax: (89) 33 60 38; e-mail: dig@lrz.uni-muenchen.de (http://www.dig.org/)

Federation of European Societies for Tropical Medicine and International Health (FESTMIH) e-mail: m.hommel@liverpool.ac.uk (http://www.festmih.net/)

Infectious Diseases Society of America (IDSA), 66 Canal Center Plaza, Suite 600, Alexandria, VA 22314, USA. Tel: (703) 299-0200; Fax: (703) 299-0204; e-mail: info@idsociety.org (http://www.idsociety.org/)

International Federation for Tropical Medicine (IFTM) (http://www.iftm.org/)

International Society of Travel Medicine, PO Box 871089, Stone Mountain, GA 30087-0028, USA. Tel: (770) 736-7060; Fax: (770) 736-6732; e-mail: istm@istm.org (http://www.istm.org/)

Royal Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene, 50 Bedford Square, London WC1B 3DP, UK. Tel: (020) 7580 2127; Fax: (020) 7436 1389; e-mail: mail@rstmh.org (http://www.rstmh.org)

Société de Pathologie Exotique, Institut Pasteur 25, rue du Docteur-Roux, 75724 PARIS Cedex 15, France. Tel: 33 (0)1 45 66 88 69, Fax: 33 (0)1 45 66 44 65, e-mail: socpatex@pasteur.fr (http://www.pathexo.fr/)

Discussion groups/listservs

These are e-mail-based forums for discussions and news relating to specific topics. They are usually free and are open to anyone having a professional interest in the subject; most are usually moderated in some way and are a useful way of discussing current professional practice with colleagues worldwide and as a means of keeping up-to-date. Some clinical discussion lists are open only to those who are medically-qualified. All require prior registration via e-mail to receive and send messages. Some multidisciplinary searchable general lists include TILE-Net (http://tile.net/lists/), Catalyst (http://www.lsoft.com/catalist.html) and JISCMail (http://www.jiscmail.ac.uk/).


Funding agencies


Foundation Center. Online Available: http://fdncenter.org/funders/


Wellcome Trust. Online. Available: http://www.wellcome.ac.uk/


International organizations

In addition to current information on activities and opportunities these websites contain a wealth of (often multilingual) full-text resources such as books, (annual) reports, journals, newsletters:


WHO Regional Office for South East Asia. Online. Available: http://www.searo.who.int/

WHO Regional Office for the Western Pacific. Online. Available: http://www.wpro.who.int/
Appendix V. Sources of Information in Tropical Medicine

Useful websites on specific topics

The following websites are not intended to be comprehensive, but are a representative sample of some of the internet resources in tropical medicine currently available.

Directories, starting points

CDC, Diseases and conditions. Online. Available: http://www.cdc.gov/node.do/id/0900f3ec8000e035
WHO Health topics. Online. Available: http://www.who.int/topics/

Several of these general tropical medicine-related websites (e.g. WHO) contain excellent information on individual diseases. As such, they are not systematically repeated in the selections of relevant resources for specific topics in the sections below, but they should not be forgotten as worthwhile information resources on individual diseases.

Health data on developing countries


HIV/AIDS

HIV Insite Knowledge Base online textbook. Online. Available: http://hivinsite.ucsf.edu/InSite?page KB

Leprosy


Malaria

MIM, Multilateral Initiative on Malaria. Online. Available: http://www.mim.su.se/
MIMCom, Multilateral Initiative on Malaria Resources (NLM). Online. Available: http://www.mimcom.net/

Medical entomology

Iowa State University Entomology Resources. Online. Available: http://www.ent.iastate.edu/list/

Outbreak and sentinel sites

Acknowledgements

The authors thank Veerle Demedts for helpful comments and suggestions.

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2. Schoonbaert D. Citation patterns in tropical medicine journals. Trop Med Int Health 2004; 9:1142–1150.


5. Eyers JE. All health information should be free to the developing world? [editorial]. Trop Med Int Health 2002; 7:637–638.


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