The Internet has become the single largest source of mass medium which provides access to all kinds of resources across the globe, at once instantly and inexpensively online. It is growing at a scorching pace with the availability of information. It is thus becoming impossible to browse and evaluate completely all the web sites in one single area, leave alone the quality of information retrieved in terms of accuracy, relevance and its being up-to-date. There has been a phenomenal increase in the number of Internet users since last few years. Specifically, an estimated 817.45 million people are using the Internet globally. Worldwide, Internet usage growth during the past five years, 2000-2005, has recorded a phenomenal growth of 126.4% with a penetration in 12.7% population. In Asia, Internet usage growth is 133.4% with a penetration in 7.4% population. Among the top 10 languages used in the web, English tops the tally with 283.36 million users (34.7%) followed by Chinese (13.8%), Japanese (8.3%), Spanish (9.6%), and German (6.5%).

New information being created, generated continuously all the time is just phenomenal. It is stored in four physical media viz., print, film, magnetic and optical and seen or heard in four information flows through electronic channels – telephone, radio and TV, and the Internet. The total volume of new information flows on the Internet is stupendous. It is estimated to be 532,897 terabytes (1 terabyte = 10¹² bytes) during 2002, of which 167 terabytes were on the surface web and 91,850 terabytes on deep web.

The net result of this phenomenal information flow vis-à-vis usage makes Internet as an important source of information in almost all fields/areas/disciplines including medicine and the health sciences. The proliferation of medical research/health care web sites has been significant during the last decade from various sources including professional organizations, government agencies, non-government organizations, publishers, health libraries etc. The Internet and more particularly the world wide web (www) has a great potential to provide information for medical researchers in diverse areas including full text scholarly journals!

With this backdrop, attempts have been made to focus on the resources, especially in HIV/AIDS information on the web. These efforts, essentially aimed at raising awareness of the types of resources available, also give an idea of how Internet resources can be used to support teaching, clinical practice or research. However, the greatest threats to the use of the Internet will be expensive telecommunications, intellectual property rights and data protection regulation.

The present compilation is one more addition to these efforts, which is essentially based, among others, on the hits obtained with PubMed (http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/entrez/query.fcgi), Google Scholar (http://scholar.google.com/), Scirus – for scientific information only (http://www.scirus.com/srsapp/) etc., and is also collected from various published sources. Hopefully, this write-up may help one select a list of some important sites (accessibility verified during March 16-18, 2005) (Table). We are conscious that the selection of these sites on HIV/AIDS has not been based on any guidelines or criteria but purely on the basis of our experience in the field of biomedical communication for over two decades. There are serious concerns of
the reliability of information put on the web as most of it may not be peer-evaluated. There are steps towards authentication of information / data on the web. The National Institutes of Health (NIH), USA has come out with some criteria for such evaluation[^19]: (i) Who runs this site; (ii) Who pays for this site; (iii) What is the purpose of this site; (iv) Where does the information come from; (v) What is the basis of the information; (vi) How is the information selected; (vii) How current is the information; (viii) How does the site choose links to other sites; (ix) What information about you does the site collect, and why; and (x) How does the site manage interactions with visitors?

Anju Sharma & N.C. Jain

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**Table.** Searching the Internet

**BASIC SCIENCES**


Bioresearch U.K. [http://bioresearch.ac.uk/browse/mesh/D006678.html](http://bioresearch.ac.uk/browse/mesh/D006678.html)


HIV Molecular Immunology Database (Los Alamos Laboratories) [http://hiv-web.lanl.gov/content/immunology/index.html](http://hiv-web.lanl.gov/content/immunology/index.html)

HIV Resistance Database (Los Alamos Laboratories) [http://resdb.lanl.gov/Resist_DB/default.htm](http://resdb.lanl.gov/Resist_DB/default.htm)

HIV ResistanceWeb.com (Free registration required) [http://www.hivresistanceweb.com/](http://www.hivresistanceweb.com/)


HIV Sequence Database (Los Alamos Laboratories) main page [http://hiv-web.lanl.gov/content/hiv-db/mainpage.html](http://hiv-web.lanl.gov/content/hiv-db/mainpage.html)

Microbiology and Immunology Online (University of South Carolina School of Medicine) [http://www.med.sc.edu:85/book/welcome.htm](http://www.med.sc.edu:85/book/welcome.htm)


**CHILDREN, YOUTH AND AIDS**


Camp Heartland [http://www.campheartland.org/](http://www.campheartland.org/)


Teens Teach Kids about HIV! [http://www.caps.ucsf.edu/hotindex.html](http://www.caps.ucsf.edu/hotindex.html)


YouthHIV.org [http://www.youthhiv.org/](http://www.youthhiv.org/)

**WOMEN AND AIDS**

Center for AIDS Services of Montreal (Women) [http://netrover.com/~casm/](http://netrover.com/~casm/)


What are Women Who Have Sex With Women’s HIV Prevention Needs? [http://www.caps.ucsf.edu/wws.html](http://www.caps.ucsf.edu/wws.html)

What are Women’s HIV Prevention Needs? [http://www.caps.ucsf.edu/womenrev.html](http://www.caps.ucsf.edu/womenrev.html)

Wise Words [http://www.projinf.org/pub/ww_index.html](http://www.projinf.org/pub/ww_index.html)


Women and HIV/AIDS; Confronting the Crisis 2004 UNAIDS, UNFPA and UNIFEM.
http://www.genderandaid.org/

Women, Children and HIV: Resources for Prevention and Treatment http://www.womenchildrenhiv.org/

Women’s Interagency HIV Study http://www.statepi.jhsph.edu/wihs/index.html

Women Organized to Respond to Life Threatening Disease (WORLD) http://www.womenhiv.org/

Women’s Place - Info. On HIV and AIDS for Women
http://www.geocities.com/HotSprings/Villa/2998/

Women's Voices http://www.geocities.com/Women_Voices/


The International Community of Women Living with HIV/AIDS.
http://www.icw.org/tiki-view_articles.php

CLINICAL TRIALS

ACRIA (AIDS Community Research Initiative of America) HIV/AIDS Clinical Trials Directory
http://www.acria.org/clinical_trials/index.html

Adult AIDS Clinical Trials Group (AACTG) http://aactg.s-3.com/


American Foundation for AIDS Research (AmFAR) http://www.amfar.org/gl

Clinical Trial Results.org http://www.clinicalstudyresults.org/

ClinicalTrials.gov http://www.clinicaltrials.gov/

Division of Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (DAIDS), National Institute of Allergy & Infectious Diseases (NIAID), National Institutes of Health (NIH) http://www.niaid.nih.gov/research/Daids.htm

Forum for Collaborative HIV Research http://www.hivforum.org/

Health Prevention Trials Network http://www.hptn.org/

HIV Vaccine Trials Network http://www.hvtn.org/

International Antiviral Therapy Evaluation Center (IATEC) http://www.iatec.com/update.html?folder=3&page=108

Medical Research Council Clinical Trials Unit http://www.ctu.mrc.ac.uk/BrowseHIV.asp

Multicenter AIDS Cohort Study (MACS) http://www.statepi.jhsph.edu/macs/macs.html

National Institutes of Health Clinical Center http://www.cc.nih.gov/

Office of AIDS Research http://www.nih.gov/od/oar/


The Johns Hopkins AIDS Service: Clinical Trials http://www.hopkins-aids.edu/resources/trials/trials_toc.html

The Johns Hopkins School of Hygiene and Public Health http://www.statepi.jhsph.edu/

DRUGS AND DRUG INTERACTIONS

Access Project: Patient Assistance Programs http://www.atdn.org/access/pa.html

Access to Essential Medicines http://www.accessmed-msf.org/


AIDS Treatment Data Project: Glossary, Drugs & Treatments http://www.atdn.org/drugloss.html

Antiviral Agents Fact File http://www.mediscover.net/hivbycat.cfm

The Antiretroviral Pregnancy Registry http://www.apregistry.com/


Cytochrome P450 Drug Interaction Table http://medicine.iupui.edu/flockhart/

Helping Patients.org (Patient assistance programs, all manufacturers) http://www.helpingpatients.org/

HIV Drug Interactions (University of Liverpool) http://www.hiv-druginteractions.org/
HIV Drugs Database http://www.coreynahman.com/antiHIVdrugdatabase61499.html
HIV InSite Anti-HIV Drug Database http://hivinsite.ucsf.edu/InSite.jsp?page=ar-00-00
HIV InSite: HIV Therapy - Drug Interactions http://hivinsite.ucsf.edu/InSite.jsp?page=kbr-03-02-03
HIV Medication Guide http://www.jag.on.ca/asp_bin/Main.asp
HIV Pharmacology.com http://www.hivpharmacology.com/
HIV Pharmacotherapy Network http://hiv.buffalo.edu/
Methadone and HAART Interactions http://www.harmreduction.org/issues/health/haartmeth/haartmethmain.html
RxList - The Internet Drug Index http://www.rxlist.com/

VACCINES AGAINST HIV
AIDS Vaccine Advocacy Coalition http://www.avac.org/
AIDS Vaccine Clearinghouse http://www.aidsvaccineclearinghouse.org/
EuroVacc vaccines trials network http://www.eurovac.net/
Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization http://www.vaccinealliance.org/
HIV Vaccine Trials Database (Los Alamos Laboratories) http://hiv-web.lanl.gov/content/vaccine/html/index.html
HIV Vaccine Trial Network http://www.hvtn.org/
International AIDS Vaccine Initiative http://www.iavi.org/
South African AIDS Vaccine Initiative http://www.saavi.org.za/
US Centers for Disease Control, Vaccine Research http://www.cdc.gov/hiv/vaccine.htm
US National Institutes of Health Vaccine Research Center http://www.vrc.nih.gov/
World Health Organization - UNAIDS HIV Vaccines http://www.who.int/hiv/topics/vaccines/Vaccines/en/

HIV/AIDS – GUIDELINES
Guidelines for Performing Single-Platform Absolute CD4+ T-Cell Determinations with CD45 Gating for Persons Infected with Human Immunodeficiency Virus http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/rr5202a1.htm
HIV Health Education and Risk Reduction Guidelines http://www.cdc.gov/hiv/HEERG/HIV_HEERG.htm
HIV Guidelines. New York State Department of Health AIDS Institute http://www.hivguidelines.org/
HIV Clinical Resource – Clinical Guidelines http://www.hivguidelines.org
Revised Guidelines for HIV Counseling, Testing and referral http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/rr5019a1.htm

STATISTICS ON HIV/AIDS
AIDS in Africa.net Epidemic map http://www.aidsinafrica.net/map.php
A VERT HIV & AIDS Statistics from around the world http://www.avert.org/statindx.htm
Centers for Disease Control, Division of HIV/AIDS Prevention, Basic Statistics http://www.cdc.gov/hiv/stats.htm

ORGANIZATIONS
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention http://www.cdc.gov
International Community of Women With HIV/AIDS http://www.icw.org/
International Council of AIDS Service Organizations http://www.icaso.org/
International HIV/AIDS Alliance (support for organizations in developing countries) http://www.aidsalliance.org/
National AIDS Control Organisation NACO, India http://naco.nic.in
UNAIDS (http://www.unaids.org): The Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS, UNAIDS, is the main advocate for global action on the epidemic. It leads, strengthens and supports an expanded response aimed at preventing transmission of HIV, providing care and support, reducing the vulnerability of individuals and communities to HIV/AIDS, and alleviating the impact of the epidemic.
WHO (http://www.who.int): World Health Organization is the United Nations specialized agency for health. WHO’s objective, as set out in its Constitution, is the attainment by all peoples of the highest possible level of health. WHO is governed by 192 Member States.

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS
American Academy of HIV Medicine http://www.aahivm.org/
American Psychiatric Association AIDS Resource Center http://www.psych.org/aids/
Association of Nurses in AIDS Care (USA) http://www.anacnet.org/
HIV Medicine Association http://www.hivma.org/HIV/toc.htm
International AIDS Economics Network http://www.iaen.org/
International AIDS Society http://www.ias.se/
International AIDS Society - USA http://www.iasusa.org/
International Association of Physicians in AIDS Care http://www.iapac.org/
National Alliance of State and Territorial AIDS Directors http://nastad.org/
National HIV Nurse’s Association (United Kingdom) http://www.nhivna.org.uk/
Physicians Assistant AIDS Network (PAAN) http://www.paan.org/
US Department of Health & Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration, HIV/AIDS Bureau http://www.hab.hrsa.gov/

PEER-REVIEWED JOURNALS
AIDS, AIDSonline http://www.aidsonline.com/
AIDS and Behavior www.kluweronline.com/issn/1090-7165
AIDS Care http://www.tandf.co.uk/journals/titles/09540121.html.
AIDS Clinical Review
Journal of Immunity http://www.keephopealive.org/ phn.html
Living + (British Columbia PWA Society) http://www.bcpwa.org/pubs_living.php
Nadir HIV Treatment Group (Italia) http://www.nadironlus.org/
Positive Living (Australian Federation of AIDS Organizations) http://www.afao.org.au/index.asp then follow links to “Publications” and “Positive Living”
Positive Nation http://www.positivenation.co.uk/
Positively Aware (Use link from home page) http://www.tpan.com/
POZ Magazine http://www.poz.com/
The PRN (Physicians’ Research Network) Notebook http://www.prn.org/
Project Inform Perspective http://www.thebody.com/pinf/pinf ix.html
RITA! (Research Initiative/Treatment Action!) newsletter http://www.centerforaids.org/ rita/index.htm
STEP (Seattle Treatment Education Project) publications http://www.thebody.com/step/stepix.html
TAGline from Treatment Action Group http://www.thebody.com/tag/tagix.html#tagline
Treatment Review from AIDS Treatment Data Network http://www.atdn.org/trs/trs.html
What is The DIRT (on AIDS) http://www.critpath.org/aric/dirtmain.htm
Wise Words http://www.projinf.org/pub/ww_index.html
Wyoming Positives for Positives Newsletter http://www.pos4pos.org/newsletter.htm

CONFERENCE REPORTS
HIV Presentations http://www.hivpresentation.com/
International AIDS Economics of AIDS in Developing Countries symposium, Barcelona(2002)
http://www.iaen.org/files.cgi/7341_whiteside.pdf
International Workshop on Clinical Pharmacology of HIV Therapy http://www.virology-education.com/index2.html
International Workshop on Adverse Drug Reactions and Lipodystrophy in HIV http://www.intmedpress.com/lipodystrophy/
NATAP conference reports http://www.natap.org/
Retrovirus & Opportunistic Infections Conferences http://www.retroconference.org/
Sida: Respuesta Regional: América Latina y el Caribe http://www.calsplus.com/sida/

GLOSSARIES AND DICTIONARIES
CPCRA Glossary of Medical, Statistical, and Clinical Trials Terminology https://sdmc.cpcra.org/gloss.html
Engender Health HIV and AIDS. http://www.engenderhealth.org/res/onc/hiv/glossary/
Glossary: Conditions and Symptoms (AIDS Treatment Data Network) http://www.atdn.org/oisggloss.html
Glossary: Drugs and Treatments (AIDS Treatment Data Network) http://www.atdn.org/drugloss.html
HIV Vaccine Glossary http://www.niaid.nih.gov/factsheets/GLOSSARY.htm
Medical Dictionary Online http://www.online-medical-dictionary.org/

LINKS TO OTHER AIDS SITES & RESOURCE GUIDES
AIDS Health Web Links
http://www.internet-health-directory.com/Conditions_and_Diseases_Immune_Disorders___Immune_Deficiency_AIDS.html
AIDS Info BBS Database - Home Page http://www.aidsinfobbs.org/
AIDS Library (Project of Philadelphia FIGHT) http://www.aidslibrary.org/
AIDS.ORG. http://www.aids.org/
aidsinfonyc (New York City AIDS Organizations) http://www.aidsinfonyc.org/
BioMedNet http://bmn.com
Cells Alive http://www.cellsalive.com
Commonwealth Homepage http://www.thecommonwealth.org
Division of HIV-AIDS Prevention (DHAP) Home Page http://www.cdc.gov/hiv/dhap.htm
Harvard AIDS Institute http://www.hsph.harvard.edu/ha/ha/index.html
Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation http://www.kff.org/hivaids/
HIV InSite http://hivinsite.ucsf.edu/InSite
HIV InSite Comprehensive, up-to-date information on HIV/AIDS Treatment, Prevention, and Policy from the University of California
San Francisco School of Medicine http://hivinsite.edu/
Index of AIDS Links http://www.critpath.org/aric/pwarg/links.htm
Johns Hopkins AIDS Service http://www.hopkins-aids.edu/
Medical Matrix http://www.medmatrix.org
Other AIDS and HIV Resources http://www.unaids.org/ Click on “Links”
Pan American Health Organisation (PAHO) http://www.paho.org
Population Reference Bureau (PRB) http://www.prb.org/
Seahorse http://www.seahorse.oxi.net/nu/
UNIFEM Gender and HIV/AIDS Portal http://www.genderaids.org/
Wisconsin AIDS/HIV Program http://dhfs.wisconsin.gov/aids-hiv/
ADVOCACY
Access to Essential Medicines http://www.accessmed-msf.org/
AIDS Action Council http://www.aidsaction.org/
AIDSChannel.org (United Kingdom) http://www.aidschannel.org/
AIDS Empowerment and Treatment International http://www.aidseti.org/
AIDS Treatment Activists Coalition http://www.atac-usa.org/
AIDS Vaccine Advocacy Coalition http://www.avac.org/
Global Treatment Access Campaign http://www.globaltreatmentaccess.org/
Health Gap Global Access Project http://www.healthgap.org/
Human Rights Watch http://www.hrw.org
TAG: Treatment Action Group http://www.aidsinfolinc.org/tag/
T2CANN – A Voice for Our Community http://www.ticann.org/
UNIFEM Gender and HIV/AIDS Portalhttp://www.genderandhiv.org/

SEARCH TOOLS
AEGIS database http://www.aegis.org/
Med Help International http://www.medhelp.org/
Medscape - Use the search box at http://www.medscape.com/hiv-aids/home
MetaCrawler Search Tool (searches many web databases)http://www.go2net.com/cgi-bin/swizzle?origin=/search.html&server=www.go2net.com
Steinhauser Verlag - HIV.NET http://www.hiv.net/ Select “Literatur”

References
10. http://indmed.nic.in