

Teaching Materials and Services

Tropical Diseases ‘Electronic museum’; Wellcome Trust, London

Based on the Wellcome Museum of Medical Science, we are creating a sophisticated teaching archive in the area of tropical medicine. Our 3-part ‘electronic museum’ will consist of an archive, interactive learning material and software tools.

The Archive contains the basic units of information—pictures and text. It takes the form of a videodisc and database containing up to 30,000 video stills as well as a limited amount of moving material. **Interactive Learning Material** is currently being created by teachers using the archive with a computer program called an authoring system. This structured material will be accessible via menus leading to *diseases* (e.g. malaria), *topics* (e.g. malnutrition), *countries* (e.g. Ghana), and *clinical features* (e.g. jaundice). The system will also contain a ‘Challenge Option’, which will provide the user with the opportunity to diagnose and treat simulated cases of tropical disease. Easy to use look-up facilities will enable users to browse any part of the archive. We also hope to provide access within the system to CD-ROM based texts such as the Oxford Textbook of Medicine.

The Software Tools going out with a delivery workstation will include authoring facilities which will enable the creation of further interactive learning modules as a continuous process. Other facilities will enable the editing of existing learning material to suit local needs. The tutorials produced with the archive are not intended to provide a full coverage of the field of tropical medicine. They will, however, serve examples of the ways in which learning material can be produced from the archive, as well as provide a reasonable volume of instantly usable material.

The first part of the Project has necessarily been concerned with the building of computer structures, the acquisition of staff and the gaining control of a very large visual database.

We are now able to begin to switch the focus of activity to the production of the interactive learning modules which will make the videodisc into a powerful learning tool.

Dr Marshall, in consultation with Professor Harold Lambert and other members of the Advisory Group, has restructured the disease and clinical feature lists into a series of ‘units’ of information. These units may take the form of diseases, clinical features or countries, or a fourth option we have added, that of topics. Examples of topics are blindness, malnutrition and child mortality. This will enable us to tackle a number of diseases in natural groupings and cover other important issues.

We are now developing strategies for the future. These are intended to achieve the following:

The evaluation and dissemination of this archive in ways which will maximize its use to the tropical community.

- 2 Mechanisms to receive and referee interactive learning material produced using the archive at institutional level worldwide.
- 3 Mechanisms to collect new pictures and other images and to use them to produce further editions of the videodisc.
- 4 Development of academic and technical support networks which will include the supranational agencies. These will facilitate the use of the archive worldwide for learning as well as for the production of further learning material.

- 5 Research and development into cheaper hardware platforms to deliver the material. These will include methods of image storage that avoid the use and therefore the cost of a videodisc player.
- 6 Development of software that will enable the printing of the computer based learning material in the form of booklets which will increase its availability in areas unable to afford or support the delivery hardware.
- 7 Translation of the material into other languages.

For further details write to: The Wellcome Trust Tropical Diseases Videodisc Project, 183 Euston Road, London NW1 2BN.

INFOLEP: Leprosy Information Services

INFOLEP Leprosy Information Services is a project of the Netherlands Leprosy Relief Association (NSL) in Amsterdam, The Netherlands.

INFOLEP's services are to a great extent, aimed at the leprosy field projects in countries supported by the NSL.

INFOLEP also functions as a library and documentation centre offering its services to all those who need information on leprosy, in all its various aspects.

The objective of INFOLEP is to set up and maintain a vivid information network in the field of leprosy primarily for the NSL-supported leprosy projects and for those studying or preparing to work in this field.

On a pro-active basis, INFOLEP supplies information to all the NSL-supported leprosy field projects. This occurs through regular mailings, consisting of publications, articles, journals and other materials deemed relevant.

Local initiatives, in endemic countries, to produce teaching and learning materials in leprosy control can receive technical and financial support through INFOLEP.

INFOLEP has an extensive collection of materials on leprosy and leprosy control, consisting of books, journals, brochures, articles, reports, slides, (video) films and others, which can be consulted and/or borrowed. The greater part of the collection deals with scientific medical aspects, whereas the smaller, but steadily increasing part, focuses on teaching and learning materials on leprosy.

The collection is accessible through different catalogues. Since January 1990, retrospective storage and retrieval takes place by a computerized system (CDS/ISIS). This offers the possibility of free text searching, which enables you to find your information on title, author, subject or keyword.

INFOLEP is subscribed to two CD-ROM databases, i.e. MEDLINE from 1985 and HealthPLAN from 1981 onwards.

Both databases are frequently updated and complement each other. MEDLINE covers the biomedical, clinical aspects of medicine, whereas HealthPLAN gives information on the non-clinical aspects of health care, like health education, management, administration, social aspects etc. Both are bibliographic files with informative abstracts giving you an idea of the contents of an article.

Other services include:

- * photocopy service (for a fee)
- * inter-library loans, including photocopy service (for a fee)
- * international bibliography on teaching and learning materials on leprosy
- * audiovisual equipment for the use of video-films and slides.

For further information please write to: INFOLEP: Leprosy Information Services, Netherlands Leprosy Relief Association (NSL), Wibautstraat 135 II, NL-1097 DN Amsterdam, The Netherlands.

Tuberculosis control as an integral part of primary health care; WHO

The summary of this 48-page booklet begins:

'The era of specialized health programmes, each aimed at a specific disease, is over. But while countries acknowledge the need to integrate various disease control activities into their general health services, the integration process is fraught with difficulty. The aim of this book is to help the managers of primary health care programmes and of tuberculosis control programmes to achieve step-by-step integration, giving priority to case-finding and management.'

Available from: WHO, 1211 Geneva 27, Switzerland. Price: Sw.Fr. 9.

Workbook on Community-based rehabilitation services

This 136-page book, written by S P Murthy and Lyn Gopalan, has been sent in by Dr Maya Thomas, Field Director, Disability Projects, Action Aid, P.B. 5406, Rest House Road, Bangalore 560 001, India. It is a joint publication of 'Vikasa' Community-based Rehabilitation Project of Karnataka Welfare Association for the Blind and the Disability Division of Action Aid. The subject matter is detailed and wide-ranging and includes procedures for evaluation and assessment in order to analyse the difficulties which have been encountered by many CBR programmes in the past 10 or more years.

Leprosy in Haiti (La maladie de Hansen en Haiti)

This is a well produced 48-page book by Dr Claude Péan and published by the Institut Cardinal Leger contre la lèpre, 130 avenue d l'Épée, Outremont, Québec, H2V 3T2, Canada. There are very good colour pictures of the clinical aspects of leprosy, including reactions and differential diagnosis. This book deserves wide circulation in French-speaking countries where leprosy is endemic.

The Heiser Program for Research in Leprosy and Tuberculosis

The Heiser Program, well known for many years in the field of leprosy research, now includes tuberculosis. Awards are available under the heading of post-doctoral research fellowships and research grants. All enquiries to: Mrs Barbara Hugonnet, Director, Heiser Program for Research in Leprosy and Tuberculosis, 450 East 63rd Street, New York New York 10021, USA.

Questions and Answers on the Implementation of MDT for leprosy (in Portuguese)

This booklet on multidrug therapy and originally published by OXFAM, England, is now available in Portuguese under the title *Perguntas e Respostas sobre a Implementacao da Multidrogaterapia (MDT) em Hanseniose*. Over 2000 copies have been distributed and used by the National Leprosy Programme in Brasil. It is available from CERPHA, Rua Guapeni 54/101 CEP 20.520, Caixa Postal 24046, Rio de Janeiro, Brasil

Teaching and learning materials on leprosy (in French)

Lèpre: Matériel Didactique en Langue Française, 1990 is available from L'Association Française Raoul Follereau, 31 rue de Dantzig, BP 79, 75722 Paris Cedex 15, France. This is a comprehensive account of what is available in French under the main headings: Ouvrages fondamentaux; Généralités sur la lèpre; épidémiologie-enrégistrement; clinique dermatologique; laboratoire; traitement (PCT); chirurgie-réhabilitation; éducation sanitaire; thèses et mémoires.