



Introduction to the WHO Library

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Training course in research
methodology, research protocol
development and scientific writing

Geneva, 2023



Objective

- To introduce readers to the WHO Library resources and how to search for information in the Library

WHO website

Global

Regions ▾



Health Topics ▾

Countries ▾

Newsroom ▾

Emergencies ▾

Data ▾

About ▾



About us

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WHO website

WHO logo | Health Topics | Countries | Newsroom | Emergencies | Data | About WHO

Latest news from WHO

All

- 

13 August 2021 | Information
WHO initiative digital new technology agreements on COVID-19 technologies
- 

13 August 2021 | Information
WHO launches new initiative to support countries in strengthening their health systems
- 

13 August 2021 | Information
WHO launches new initiative to support countries in strengthening their health systems
- 

13 August 2021 | Information
WHO launches new initiative to support countries in strengthening their health systems

Emergencies

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- 

COVID-19
Situation, data and research
- 

Ebola outbreaks
Facts and trends
- 

Ebola outbreaks
Situation and response
- 

Ebola outbreaks
Situation and response

Opioid overdose

Read the feature story

Extreme heat

Listen to the latest podcast

Preventing sexual misconduct

Learn how WHO is tackling sexual misconduct

WHO video channel

Watch the videos

Publications

Find a publication

Director-General's speeches

Read the speeches

Campaigns

All

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World Suicide Prevention Day
14 September 2021
- 

World Patient Safety Day
17 September 2021
- 

World Health Day | WHO's 75th anniversary
April 2022 - April 2024

Events

All

- 

Working together for equity and health for generations: sustainable environmental collaboration based on Health in All Policies approaches
13 September 2021 09:00 - 10:00
- 

WHO stakeholder dialogue series on WHO cancer initiatives
13 September 2021 09:00 - 10:00
- 

World Suicide Prevention Day 2021 - Creating Hope Through Action
14 September 2021
- 

International and vaccine related implementation research advisory committee (IIRVAC) - September 2021
14 September 2021
- 

WHO Global Conference: Engaging Patients for Patient Safety
14 - 17 September 2021

WHO website

Global Regions ▾

🔍  Select language ▾



Health Topics ^

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A B C D E F G H I J
K L M N O P Q R S T
U V W X Y Z

Resources »

Fact sheets
Facts in pictures
Multimedia
Publications
Questions & answers
Tools and toolkits

Popular »

Air pollution
Coronavirus disease (COVID-19)
Hepatitis
Monkeypox



About us

Learn more

Latest publications

All --



5 September 2023
Weekly Epidemiological Record, 11 August 2023, vol. 98, 32 - Report of the Meeting of the WHO Global...

[Download](#) [Print View](#)



5 September 2023
Optimized supportive care for Ebola virus disease

[Download](#) [Print View](#)



4 September 2023
Ending the COVID-19 emergency and transitioning from emergency phase to... longer-term disease

[Download](#) [Print View](#)

- [Book orders](#) >
- [Journals and series](#) >
- [WHO guidelines](#) >

Documents

All --

Useful links

- 14 September 2023
2022-2024 Workplan of the ASHCN Low Carbon Sustainable Health Systems Working Group (LCSHS WG)
- 14 September 2023
2022-2024 Workplan of the ASHCN Supply Chain Working Group (SC WG)



iris.
Institutional Repository for Information Sharing

Institutional Repository for Information Sharing (IRIS)
Browse our digital library. It contains full-text publications on our website.



WHO Library

Latest COVID-19 publications

All --

Publications

- 17 September 2023
Global preparedness, readiness and response update for COVID-19
- 14 August 2023
COVID-19 Essential Supplies Forecasting Tool
- 2 February 2021
COVID-19: Occupational health and safety for health workers: interim guidance, 2 February 2021

Documents

- 17 September 2023
Weekly epidemiological update on COVID-19 - 1 September 2023
- 14 August 2023
COVID-19 Surveillance Insights Report - 14 August 2023
- 21 August 2020
Weekly epidemiological update on COVID-19 - 21 August 2020

WHO Regional publications

- [African Region](#) >
- [Region of the Americas \(PAM\)](#) >
- [South-East Asia Region](#) >
- [European Region](#) >
- [Eastern Mediterranean Region](#) >
- [Western Pacific Region](#) >





Home / Publications / Journals

Journals and series



African Health Monitor



Bulletin of World Health Organization



Eastern Mediterranean Health Journal



Pan American Journal of Public Health



Public Health Panorama



Weekly Epidemiological Record



Western Pacific Surveillance and Response



WHO Drug Information



WHO South-East Asia Journal of Public Health

WHO website: The Bulletin of the World Health Organization



- A **fully open-access** journal of public health with a special focus on low and middle-income countries, first published in 1948.
- There are **no article-processing charges** associated with submitting to, or publishing in, the *Bulletin*.
- All peer-reviewed articles and the journal archives are indexed, including in the Web of Science and MEDLINE, and are freely available under the Creative Commons Attribution 3.0 IGO license (CC BY 3.0 IGO).

WHO website

Global

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K L M N O P Q R S T
U V W X Y Z

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Europe
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Western Pacific

WHO in countries »

Statistics
Cooperation strategies
Ukraine emergency

Bulletin of the World Health Organization

<https://www.who.int/>

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News releases

Statements

Campaigns

Commentaries

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Feature stories

Speeches

Spotlights

Newsletters

Photo library

Media distribution list

Headlines »

WHO initiative signs new licensing agreements on COVID-19 technologies

29 August 2023 | News release

Botswana National HIV Reference Laboratory designated WHO Collaborating Centre

28 August 2023 | Joint News Release

New WHO Civil Society Commission to strengthen civil society organizations' role in accelerating progress in global health

24 August 2023 | News release

<https://www.who.int/>

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Focus on »

- Afghanistan crisis
- COVID-19 pandemic
- Northern Ethiopia crisis
- Syria crisis
- Ukraine emergency
- Monkeypox outbreak
- Greater Horn of Africa crisis

Latest »

- Disease Outbreak News
- Travel advice
- Situation reports
- Weekly Epidemiological Record

WHO in emergencies »

- Surveillance
- Research
- Funding
- Partners
- Operations
- Independent Oversight and Advisory Committee
- WHO's Health Emergency Appeal 2023

<https://www.who.int/>

WHO website

Global Regions ▾

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🏠 Health Topics ▾ Countries ▾ Newsroom ▾ Emergencies ▾ Data ▲ About WHO ▾

Data at WHO »

- Global Health Estimates
- Health SDGs
- Mortality Database
- Data collections

Dashboards »

- COVID-19 Dashboard
- Triple Billion Dashboard
- Health Inequality Monitor

Highlights »

- Global Health Observatory
- SCORE
- Insights and visualizations
- Data collection tools

Reports »

- World Health Statistics 2022
- COVID excess deaths
- DDI IN FOCUS: 2022

<https://www.who.int/>

WHO website

The Global Health Observatory



[GHO Home](#) [Indicators](#) [Countries](#) [Data API](#) [Map Gallery](#) [Publications](#) [Data Search](#)

THE GLOBAL HEALTH OBSERVATORY

Explore a world of health data

[Indicators](#)

[Countries](#)

[Universal Health Coverage](#)

[Health Emergencies](#)

[Health and Well-Being](#)

Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) data

Data on the Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic is currently available directly from these sources.

Please note that the GHO APIs do not currently provide COVID-19 data. A data extract from the WHO Situation dashboard is available from UNOCHA's [Humanitarian Data Exchange \(HDX\)](#) platform. This content is provided as a set of regularly updated CSV files.



Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Situation dashboard

This interactive dashboard/map provides the latest global numbers and numbers by country of COVID-19 cases on a daily basis.



Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Situation reports

This report archive provides the latest available global data and an overview of the current situation.

<https://www.who.int/>

WHO website

The Global Health Observatory

Search the theme you are interested in 

enter keywords here to simplify list of themes



Air pollution



Antimicrobial resistance (AMR)



Assistive technology



Child malnutrition and mortality



Environment and health



Global Dementia Observatory (GDO)



Global Health Estimates: Life expectancy and leading causes of death and disability



Global Information System on Alcohol and Health

Health financing



Health Inequality Monitor



Health workforce



HIV



Immunization coverage and vaccine-preventable diseases



International Health Regulations (2005) monitoring framework



Malaria



Maternal and reproductive health



Mental health



Neglected tropical diseases



Noncommunicable diseases



Nutrition

Oral Health



Resources for Substance Use Disorders



Road Safety



SDG Target 3.8 | Achieve universal health coverage (UHC)



Sexually Transmitted Infections



Sustainable Development Goals



Tobacco control



Tuberculosis



Vaccine-preventable communicable diseases



Violence prevention



Water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH)



Women and health



World Health Statistics

<https://www.who.int/>

WHO website

The Global Health Observatory

<https://www.who.int/>

The screenshot shows the WHO Global Health Observatory website homepage. At the top, there is a dark blue navigation bar with the WHO logo and several menu items: Health Topics, Countries, Newsroom, Emergencies, Data, and About WHO. Below this is a secondary navigation bar with links to GHO Home, Indicators, Countries, Data API, Map Gallery, Publications, and Data Search.

The main content area is divided into several sections:

- Featured portals:** This section contains four cards. The first is 'Maternal, Newborn, Child and Adolescent Health and Ageing', which provides the most up-to-date global health data. The second is 'Global Strategy for Women's, Children's and Adolescents' Health (2016-2030)', a collaborative product of various UN agencies. The third is 'Global Observatory on Health R&D', a centralized source of information on global health R&D activities. The fourth is 'Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights Policy Portal', a virtual summary of policies and practices from 135 countries.
- Featured data sets:** This section contains three cards. The first is 'Global health estimates', which provides data on causes of death and disability. The second is 'Mortality database', a platform for visualizing mortality data. The third is 'Mortality due to unsafe abortion', which provides information on unsafe abortions.
- Search sets and collections:** A link to search for data sets and collections.
- Featured dashboards:** This section contains four cards. The first is 'COVID-19 situation dashboard', which provides the latest data on cases and deaths. The second is 'Triple Billion dashboard', which tracks progress towards the Triple Billion targets. The third is 'WHO Health Equity Monitor', which provides evidence on health inequalities. The fourth is 'WHO Mortality dashboard', which provides the latest available data on causes of death and disability.
- About:** A section at the bottom of the page with links to 'About Global Health Observatory' and 'Frequently Asked Questions'.

WHO website

Global Regions ▾

🔍 🌐 Select language ▾



Health Topics ▾

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About WHO ▲

About WHO »

- People
- Teams
- Structure
- Partnerships and collaboration
- Collaborating centres
- Networks, committees and advisory groups
- Transformation

Our Work »

- General Programme of Work
- WHO Academy
- Activities
- Initiatives

Funding »

- Investment case
- WHO Foundation

Accountability »

- Audit
- Programme Budget
- Financial statements
- Programme Budget Portal
- Results Report

Governance »

- World Health Assembly
- Executive Board
- Election of Director-General
- Governing Bodies website
- Member States Portal

Universal Health Coverage

Health Emergencies

Health and Well-Being

<https://www.who.int/>

WHO website

Regions

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- [Ethics](#)
- [Permissions and licensing](#)
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WHO Library

<https://www.who.int/library>



- The world's leading library on public health.
- It provides access to knowledge from WHO as well as to other sources of scientific literature produced around the world.
- WHO library resources and expertise provide scientific evidence and knowledge to low- and middle- income countries through a set of low-cost/high-use initiatives.

WHO Library initiatives

WHO Library initiatives

 <p>Institutional Repository for Information Sharing (IRIS) IRIS is the digital library of WHO's published material and technical information in full text produced since 1948. Its content is freely accessible and searchable in the six official languages (Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian & Spanish).</p>	 <p>Global Index Medicus The Global Index Medicus (GIM) provides universal access to biomedical and public health literature produced by and within low- and middle-income countries.</p>
 <p>WHOLIS: WHO Geneva Library print catalogue All library collections in print are included in an unified database</p>	 <p>COVID-19 Database Global literature on coronavirus disease</p>

- **Institutional Repository for Information Sharing (IRIS)** <https://apps.who.int/iris/>
- **Global Index Medicus** <https://www.globalindexmedicus.net/>
- **WHOLIS: WHO Geneva Library print catalogue** <http://kohahq.searo.who.int/>
- **COVID-19 Database** <https://search.bvsalud.org/global-literature-on-novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov/>

Institutional Repository for Information Sharing (IRIS)



English ▾

🏠 Contact Help

Search IRIS

Search

- Accessible from: <https://apps.who.int/iris/>
 - Digital library of WHO's published material and technical information in full text produced since 1948
 - Freely accessible and searchable content in the six official languages (Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian & Spanish)
 - Information can be browsed by communities & collections, issue date, authors, titles, subjects, countries or the most popular subject
- **Watch the following video guides:**
 1. [New IRIS interface – quick tour](#) (1:13 mins)
 2. [How to search in IRIS - quick tour](#) (2.28 mins)

Institutional Repository for Information Sharing (IRIS)

<https://apps.who.int/iris/>



iris.
Institutional Repository
for Information Sharing

English ▾

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Search IRIS

Search

BROWSE

[All of IRIS](#)

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[By Issue Date](#)

[Authors](#)

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DISCOVER

[Author](#)

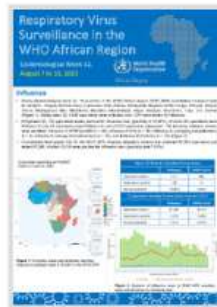
[World Health Organization \(56392\)](#)

[World Health Organization. Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean \(10524\)](#)

[Organisation mondiale de la Santé \(6096\)](#)

[World Health Organization. Regional](#)

Latest



Respiratory Virus Surveillance in the WHO African Region Epidemiological Week 32: August 7 to 13, 2023

World Health Organization. Regional Office for Africa (World Health Organization. Regional Office for Africa, 2023-08-13)

Cardiovascular disease mortality based on verbal autopsy in low- and middle-income countries: a systematic review

Acharya, Ajay; Chowdhury, Hafizur Rahman; Ihyauddin, Zulfikar; Mahesh, Pasyodun Korlage Buddhika; Adair, Tim (World Health Organization, 2023-9-01)

No Electronic Version

Global Index Medicus (GIM)

<https://www.globalindexmedicus.net/>

- Provides universal access to biomedical and public health literature produced by and within low- and middle-income countries.
- Main objective is to increase the visibility and usability of these resources.
- Material is collated and aggregated by WHO Regional Office Libraries on a central search platform allowing retrieval of bibliographical and full text information.

Global Index Medicus (GIM)

<https://www.globalindexmedicus.net/>

- All information from the Regions can be found in the same [search interface](#).
- Also possible to access them individually from the Regional Indexes Medici:
 - [African Index Medicus \(AIM\)](#)
 - [Index Medicus for the Eastern Mediterranean Region \(IMEMR\)](#)
 - [Index Medicus for the South-East Asia Region \(IMSEAR\)](#)
 - [Latin America and the Caribbean Literature on Health Sciences \(LILACS\)](#)
 - [Western Pacific Region Index Medicus \(WPRO\)](#)

Global Index Medicus (GIM)

<https://www.globalindexmedicus.net/>

The screenshot shows the homepage of the WHO Global Index Medicus website. At the top, there is a blue navigation bar with links for 'Main content', 'Menu', 'Search', and 'Footer'. On the right side of this bar, there are icons for accessibility (high contrast) and social media. Below the navigation bar, the WHO logo and 'World Health Organization' text are on the left, and the 'Global Index Medicus' title is on the right. A secondary navigation bar contains links for 'Home', 'Scientific and Technical Literature', 'About GIM', and 'Promotional Material', along with social media icons. The main content area features a grid of six images: a healthcare worker in a green uniform, a person in a yellow protective suit, a group of people in blue scrubs, a family with a child, a woman at a computer, and a group of people in a hallway. A large red play button is overlaid on the top row of images. A blue text box over the bottom-left image reads 'WHO's 7 policy recommendations on building resilient health systems' with a 'Read More [+]' link. At the bottom, there are dropdown menus for 'All indexes' and 'All Information Sources', a search bar with the placeholder 'Enter what you are looking for', and a link to 'Search by DeCS/MeSH descriptors'.

[Read the GIM search quick guide](#)

Global Index Medicus (GIM)

<https://www.globalindexmedicus.net/>

- More than 1.9 million of documents available in all Regional Indexes Medici together, of which more than 1 million have full text access.

Regional Indexes Medici



African Index Medicus (AIM)

More than 18.000 bibliographic references
from 258 scientific journals



Index Medicus for the Eastern
Mediterranean Region (IMEMR)

More than 272.785 bibliographic references
from 880 scientific journals



Index Medicus for the South-East
Asia Region (IMSEAR)

More than 187.000 bibliographic references
from 49 scientific journals



Latin America and the Caribbean
Literature on Health Sciences
(LILACS)

More than 914.000 bibliographic references
from more than 800 scientific journals



Western Pacific Region Index Medicus
(WPRO)

More than 776.000 bibliographic references
from 678 scientific journals

Global Index Medicus (GIM)

<https://www.globalindexmedicus.net/>

- Menu: search by title, author or subject

The screenshot displays the homepage of the Global Index Medicus (GIM) website. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for 'Main content', 'Menu', 'Search', and 'Footer'. To the right of the navigation bar are accessibility options: '+A', 'A', '-A', and 'High contrast'. Below the navigation bar is the World Health Organization logo and the text 'World Health Organization'. To the right of the logo are language options: 'العربية', '中文(中国)', 'English', 'français', 'Pycckий', 'Español', and 'Português'. The main heading 'Global Index Medicus' is prominently displayed. Below the heading is a secondary navigation bar with links for 'Home', 'Scientific and Technical Literature', 'About GIM', and 'Promotional Material'. To the right of this bar are social media icons for Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, and YouTube. The main content area features a large image of hands using a tablet displaying a bar chart. Overlaid on this image is a blue banner that reads 'More than 2 million of bibliographic records on health sciences'. Below the banner is a search interface with a dropdown menu for 'All indexes' containing options for 'Title', 'Author', and 'Subject'. To the right of the dropdown is another dropdown menu for 'All Information Sources'. Below these menus is a search input field with the placeholder text 'Enter what you are looking for' and a search button. To the right of the search input field is a link that reads 'Search by DeCS/MeSH descriptors'.

Global Index Medicus (GIM)

<https://www.globalindexmedicus.net/>

- Menu: search by information sources

The screenshot displays the Global Index Medicus (GIM) website. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for 'Main content', 'Menu', 'Search', and 'Footer'. The World Health Organization logo and name are prominently displayed on the left, while the site title 'Global Index Medicus' is on the right. Below the logo, a secondary navigation bar includes 'Home', 'Scientific and Technical Literature', 'About GIM', and 'Promotional Material'. A large banner image shows people in blue vests with the WHO logo walking in a hallway. A dropdown menu is open over the banner, listing 'All Information Sources' and 'Regional Indexes Medicus' with sub-items: AIM (AFRO), LILACS (AMRO/PAHO), IMEMR (EMRO), IMSEAR (SEARO), and WPRIM (WPRO). Below the banner, there are search filters for 'All indexes' and 'All Information Sources', and a search input field with the placeholder text 'Enter what you are looking for' and a search button. The footer area includes a link to 'Search by DeCS/MeSH descriptors'.

WHOLIS: WHO Geneva Library print catalogue

<https://kohahq.searo.who.int/>

- Contains all library collections in print in a unified database.

The screenshot displays the WHO Library Catalog website. At the top, there is a blue navigation bar with a shopping cart icon, a 'Lists' dropdown menu, and a 'Log In with Azure' button. Below this is the WHO logo and the title 'WHO Library Catalog'. A secondary navigation bar contains links for 'Home', 'About Us', 'Online Database', 'More Resources', 'WHO Library Homepage', and 'Contact Us'. The main search area features a search bar with a dropdown menu currently set to 'Library catalog' and a green 'Go' button. Below the search bar, there are links for 'Advanced search', 'Tag cloud', 'Most popular', and 'Library'. A 'Home' button is also visible. The main content area begins with a 'Welcome' message and the heading 'Library and Digital Information Networks'. A paragraph of text follows, describing the WHO as a leading library on public health. At the bottom, there are two tabs: 'New Arrivals' and 'Top-Circulating Books'.

COVID-19 Database



<https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/global-research-on-novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov/>

COVID-19 Database

<https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/global-research-on-novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov/>

- Latest international multilingual scientific findings and knowledge on COVID-19.
- Updated daily (Monday through Friday)
- A comprehensive multilingual source of current literature on the topic.
- A collaborative work between WHO evidence retrieval subgroup and key partners.
- The database is built by BIREME, the Specialized Center of PAHO/AMRO and part of the Regional Office's Department of Evidence and Intelligence for Action in Health.
 - [Read the WHO COVID-19 Research Database: user guide and information](#)

COVID-19 Database

<https://search.bvsalud.org/global-literature-on-novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov/>

The screenshot shows the WHO COVID-19 Research Database search results page. At the top, there is a navigation bar with 'Main content 1', 'Search 2', and 'Footer 3'. The WHO logo and 'World Health Organization' text are on the left. The title 'WHO COVID-19 Research Database' is in the center. On the right, there are language options: العربية, 中文(中国), english, français, Русский, español, and português. Below the language options are buttons for 'News/Update/Help' and 'Advanced Search ?'. A search bar contains the text 'Title, abstract, subject' and a search icon. Below the search bar, the breadcrumb 'Home / Search / (875,339)' is visible. The search results section shows 'Order by' (dropdown), 'Show: 20 | 50 | 100', and 'Results 1 - 20 de 875.339'. On the left, there are filter buttons: 'Add filters', 'Filter', and 'Full text (724976)'. The main result is a preprint titled 'Elevated Arterial Blood Pressure as a Delayed Complication Following COVID-19 - Systemic Review (preprint)' by Emilia Bielecka, Piotr Sielatycki, Paulina Pietraszko, Agnieszka Zapora-Kurej, and Edyta Zbroch. The preprint is from preprints.org, 2023, and has the ID ppzamed-10.20944.preprints202308.2002.v1. On the right, there are options to 'See more details', 'SEND TO: Email', 'Export', and 'Print'.

- Search by title, abstract or subject.
- Use filters to refine search by: Full text availability, Database, Main subject, Type of study, Topics, Language, Journal, Year of publication, Document type, Year range.

WHO Regional office libraries

- [WHO African Region \(AFRO\)](#)
- [WHO Region of the Americas \(AMRO/PAHO\)](#)
- [WHO Eastern Mediterranean Region \(EMRO\)](#)
- [WHO European Region \(EURO\)](#)
- [WHO South-East Asia Region \(SEARO\)](#)
- [WHO Western Pacific Region \(WPRO\)](#)

Other information sources

- [BIGG](#) – International database of GRADE guidelines
- [Epistemonikos](#) – Combines the best of Evidence-Based Health Care, information technologies and a network of experts to provide a unique tool for people making decisions concerning clinical or health-policy questions
- [Hinari](#) – Access to Research for Health programme
- [PAHO IRIS](#) – Institutional Repository of PAHO/WHO
- [Pubmed](#) – Comprises more than 29 million citations for biomedical literature from MEDLINE, life science journals, and online books. Citations may include links to full-text content from PubMed Central and publisher web sites.
- [RedETSA/BRISA](#) – Regional Base of Health Technology Assessment Reports of the Americas
- [SciELO](#) – Scientific Electronic Library Online.
- [Virtual Health Library \(VHL/BVS\)](#) – coordinated by BIREME/PAHO/WHO, contains more than 30 information sources, including Medline and LILACS, with about 30 million of bibliographic records.
- [WHO video channel](#)

WHO Library contact

- **World Health Organization
WHO Library and Digital Information
Networks
Avenue Appia 20
1211 Geneva 27
Switzerland
Telephone: +41 22 791 21 11
Email: Library@who.int**
- **You can also use the WHO Library
research/information request form
available at:
<https://extranet.who.int/dataformv3/index.php/282679?lang=en>**



Thank you!

