Digital Malaria Information Sharing in Asia

By Joseph Yap
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MMDC

- Mekong Malaria Documentation Center
- Started by Dr. Carlo Urbani and established in Hanoi, Vietnam in 2001
- Revitalized and transferred to ACTMalaria custody in 2005 after the report of a needs assessment by David Curtis of Healthlink Worldwide last February 2004. Malaria Consortium commissioned the consultancy.
MMDC Role

MMDC was set up to serve the information needs of malaria professionals in the 6 countries of the Mekong region: Vietnam, Cambodia, Thailand, Laos, Myanmar and China. An outcome of the EC RMCP and WHO partnership to provide an informal communication tool and openly exchange information among countries involved.
AIRC

- ACTMalaria Information Resource Center
- “Your Online Malaria Channel in Asia”
Vision / Mission

Our Vision
To be the one-stop source of online malaria information in Asia

Our Mission
To provide free malaria resources to member countries, partners and stakeholders of malaria in Asia, facilitating dissemination of knowledge and reliable information with focus on drug related studies and research
Aims / Objectives

(1) Facilitate a venue where countries affected by malaria and other mosquito-borne diseases can share information;

(2) Make information accessible to users;

(3) Pool resources from member countries to strengthen information exchange.

- To strengthen information sharing among ACTMalaria member countries and partners;
- To enhance the capabilities of the ACTMalaria Key Contacts for each country or region;
- Expand data gathering to other vector borne and parasitic diseases in addition to malaria and other mosquito borne diseases.
Collection

- Published full-text documents (in English and local language)
- Manuals/Guidelines
- Case studies/Research Proposals
- Unpublished/On-going research
- Photographs
- IEC Materials/AV Materials
Database Components

• FOSS
• Linux Cent OS – Platform
• Apache – Software program
• MySQL – Database
• PHP – Scripting language
### Online Records

- Bibliographic Records - screenshots
- Contacts Records

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Record</th>
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<th>Sep 2008</th>
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<tr>
<td>Bibliographic</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Download Requests</td>
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</table>
AIRC Databases

Types of Databases
- Bibliographic Database - screenshots
- Contacts Database

Main Parts of the Database
- About the Resource Center
- Sharing a Resource
- My Library
Database Searching

- Go to the website: [http://resource.actmalaria.net](http://resource.actmalaria.net)
- Enter the term or phrase you intend to find;
- Click search;
- Searching can either be simple or advance;
- Results will be displayed alphabetically.
Average Users

- We have an average of 85 online hits per hour and a maximum of 2,923 per day.
Resource Sharing: Downloading and Uploading

• Go to the website:  
  http://resource.actmalaria.net

• Download the AIRC manual for overview.

• Requests (downloads) and sharing (uploads) can only be provided once you became a member and should be logged-in.

• Blogs can be posted even if not a member.
Collaborative Sharing: Partner Libraries

- Collaboration from Seven Libraries and Institutions
Roles of Librarians

- They classify and index malaria documents from their institution;
- They scan snippets of the material;
- They provide the metadata and abstract of the material;
- They upload and submit scanned materials using ACTMalaria OMS; and
- They attend to succeeding queries of AIRC.
Roles of Editors

• They validate and check the accuracy of encoded metadata provided by the librarian;
• They check if the attached scanned document corresponds with the metadata;
• They input the necessary keywords based from the document; and
• They check the spelling and grammar of the abstract.
Flow of Transactions

1. Share a resource
2. Fill up the form
3. Submit Scanned Document
4. Editing
   - Approved
   - Disapproved
   - Published online
   - Kept in the database
5. Download or Request for a material
6. Viewed online
Future

• Increased Partnership
• Adopt-a-library Program
• Donations/ Grants
• Database Management Development
• Database Trainings/ Advocacy
• Information Literacy Programs
Conclusions

AIRC is indeed, still, in its infancy stage. Continued database management including the evaluation of user interface, database architecture and infrastructure should be implemented.

Collection management should also be instigated.

Finally, sustainability from funding institutions is necessary to continue this superb project.


• Yap, Joseph. Resource sharing and communication: serving the needs of the malaria clientele. *Journal of Malaria and Parasite Diseases Control* 2008; Special edition: 68.
Thank you for your attention.

http://resource.actmalaria.net