DRUG INFORMATION RETRIEVAL AND STORAGE

A complete search of the drug information is necessary for the clinical pharmacist so as to satisfy the queries about pharmacology, drug interactions, adverse drug reactions, toxicology etc. This job of searching can be simplified by using computers.

In 1964, National Library of medicine created a computerised medical information retrieval system MEDLARS (Medical Literature Analysis and Retrieval System). In 1971, they developed a fast working system MEDLINE (MEDLARS ON-LINE).

The computerised information retrieval has following advantages over the manual search.

(i) It is time saving and pleasant.

(ii) It is more thorough and timely than manual search.

To operate the information retrieval system, the equipments needed include a micro-computer, a printer, a telephone line and a modem.

For information retrieval, the choice of a database is also very important. The databases may be

(a) Bibliographic database,

(b) Journal information and

(c) Textbook material.

Generally, bibliographic database is adopted, as usually there is a medical library nearby from where one can get the articles.

The databases are medicine oriented like MEDLINE, or pharmacy oriented, like International Pharmaceutical. Abstract may be chosen. Some on-line Databases of the medical and pharmaceutical literature is shown are Table 15.1.

Table 15.1

Database	Produced by	Data
1. Medline	National Library of Medicine (NLM).	Around 3000 Biomedical journals dating back to 1966.
2. Toxicology Data Bank (TDB)	<t _	Toxicological data.
3. International Pharmaceutical Abstracts	American Society of Hospital Pharmacists	More than 600 publications from 1970 are covered.
4. Biosis	Bioscience Information Service	Biological Abstracts