INTERNET RESOURCES FOR THE ANAESTHESIOLOGISTS
Dr. Seema Dargan Mehrotra

SUMMARY
The internet is increasingly an important resource of medical information for the physicians. Substantial high-quality information exists within numerous government, university, professional association, and private sites. There are several “portal” websites which attempt to provide a wide variety of information, including up to date news coverage, teaching manuals, full text journals, textbooks, CMES, virtual case conferences, practice guidelines, and medical search capabilities. This article presents a comprehensive list of important web sites of educational value for the anaesthesiologists.

Keywords: Internet, Anaesthesia, Resources, Websites.

The internet is probably the largest revolution in the computer industry since the advent of the personal computer and the most powerful information medium currently available to the medical professionals. It is the largest single medical reference resource. The internet can serve as a “virtual library” for the practicing physician.

There is a colossal wealth of knowledge available on the World Wide Web in all the fields of medicine. Web is growing at an exponential rate with the daily addition of new web sites. One of the biggest problems facing people new to the internet is the sheer volume of information. From the myriads of websites, retrieving the requisite information is like catching a fish from the ocean. There is considerable useful information about anaesthesia available on the World Wide Web. However, at present it is very incomplete and scattered around many sites. Even the literature regarding internet resources on anaesthesia is inadequate.

In this article, the important websites which are felt to offer high educational value for the anaesthesiologists have been selected from an extensive search on the internet. These web sites have been organised and categorised on the basis of their contents. GASNET (Global Anesthesiology Server Network) and ASA (American Society of Anesthesiologists) are the most popular sites according to a survey of internet use among anesthesia residents in the United States and U.K.

General Information Resources
These are the good starting points for the broad general information on anaesthesia.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Website Name</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Anesthesiahelpline</td>
<td><a href="http://www.anesthesiahelpline.org">http://www.anesthesiahelpline.org</a>. This is online helpline for the practicing anaesthesiologists in India.</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Anesthesiology, Medical Matrix</td>
<td><a href="http://www.medmatrix.org/_SPages">http://www.medmatrix.org/_SPages</a> Anesthesiology.asp.</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>GasNet-Global Anesthesia Server network</td>
<td><a href="http://gasnet.med.yale.edu">http://gasnet.med.yale.edu</a>. Excellent source of links to anaesthesia information, online teaching resources, jobs, societies, meetings, educational synopses in anaesthesiology and critical care medicine, an online journal, and the Global Textbook of Anesthesiology.</td>
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15. Wright's anesthesia and critical care resources on the internet - http://www.eur.nl/fgg/anest/wright. Very inclusive database of sites for anaesthesia and critical care including web sites, journals, books, and e-mail lists.

Anaesthesia societies and associations
Most anaesthesia societies and associations have websites providing information including newsletters, information regarding scientific and professional meetings, membership applications, important on-line links, and even continuing medical education and access to journals.


Centres/Institutes of Anaesthesia


Departments of Anaesthesia
Many anaesthesia departments publish their own guidelines and protocols which include management details for specific diseases and surgical procedures.


Educational

2. Anaesthesia for the Pregnant Patient -
3. Anaesthesia Manuals, University of Chicago -
4. Anaesthesia Reference Materials, Walter Reed Army Medical Center -
5. Anaesthesiology Educational Server, Cleveland Clinic Anesthesia -
6. Anaesthesiology, Learning Modules for Continuing Education, MedPharm -
http://www.medfarm.unito.it/education/anestes.html.
8. Cardiac Anaesthesia Manual, Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center -
10. Digitised Anaesthesia Lectures, University of Queensland -
11. Educational Resources, Department of Anaesthesiology, University of Miami -
http://umdas.med.miami.edu/Educational_Resources/educationalresources.html.
12. Emergency Airway Management Course -
http://anesthesiology.mc.vanderbilt.edu/resweb/eamg/eamg1.htm. Handouts from the course taught at Vanderbilt
14. Epidural Misadventures -
16. Neuroanaesthesiology Manual, Cleveland Waterman- 
17. Obstetrical Core Program, Anaesthesia, University of Ottawa -
18. Postgraduate Course Material, University of Queensland -
19. Primary Anaesthesia Topics, University of Wisconsin-
http://www.anesthesia.wisc.edu/kw_contents.html.

Journals

Many traditional peer-reviewed journals have developed electronic outposts on the World Wide Web. Publication on the internet offers the added advantages that information can be distributed world wide and can be easily and rapidly updated. Electronic publications use video, sounds, and pictures to present some ideas (e.g., characteristics of a heart murmur) that may be difficult to convey with printed text.6

1. http://www.sciencekomm.at/journals/medicine/ana.html. Location for many anaesthesia journals.
5. Anesthesiology - http://www.anesthesiology.org


18. Update in Anaesthesia - [http://www.nda.ox.ac.uk/wfsa](http://www.nda.ox.ac.uk/wfsa)

**Anaesthesia books**


5. Hypertextbook of Regional Anaesthesia for Obstetrics- [http://www.freebooks4doctors.com](http://www.freebooks4doctors.com)


**Practice Guidelines**

1. American Society of Anesthesiologists - [http://www.asahq.org/Practice](http://www.asahq.org/Practice)


**CME’s**

Internet is becoming one of the most convenient, widely available, and cost-effective ways of providing CMEs.


3. [http://www.asahq.org/continue.htm](http://www.asahq.org/continue.htm)


**Case Conferences**

1. Electronic Case Conference, Penn State University - [http://www.anes.hmc.psu.edu/caseconferencefolder/caseconferencewelcome](http://www.anes.hmc.psu.edu/caseconferencefolder/caseconferencewelcome).


**Conclusion**

The internet is a promising technology for disseminating information. It is growing at a rapid rate, and new resources, which offer new ways to learn and to communicate, are added almost daily. As the technology matures, the internet will play an even greater role in medical education, research, and clinical practice. Nevertheless, the quality of information on the internet is questionable due to the freedom to post any information by anybody and lack of any standardising body. Therefore, it is left to the users of on-line resources to discriminate sites with quality information. There is a need of peer review of educational websites for ensuring high quality as in the case of established medical journals. This article has briefly listed some of the important websites that provide educational information to the anaesthesiologists. Although every effort has been made to provide accurate web addresses of various sites, the dynamic nature of the
internet ensures that some of these addresses may change over time.

References

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**ISACON-2004**

52nd Annual National Conference of ISA : BHOPAL : 26th-30th DEC 2004

**REGISTRATION CHARGES**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>CATEGORY</th>
<th>Upto 30-04-2004 (Early bird)</th>
<th>Upto 30-09-2004 (Regular)</th>
<th>Upto 30-11-2004 (Delayed)</th>
<th>From 01-12-2004 (Incl. Spot)</th>
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<td>ISA Members Conference</td>
<td>Rs. 1700/-</td>
<td>Rs. 2100/-</td>
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<td>C.M.E+Conference</td>
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<td>Trade Delegates &amp; Accompanying Persons Spouse &amp; Children (Above 5 Years)</td>
<td>Rs. 1000/-</td>
<td>Rs. 1000/-</td>
<td>Rs. 1000/-</td>
<td>Rs. 1200/-</td>
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<tr>
<td>Overseas delegate</td>
<td>US $ 125</td>
<td>US $ 150</td>
<td>US $ 175</td>
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<tr>
<td>Overseas Accomp person</td>
<td>US $ 75</td>
<td>US $ 100</td>
<td>US $ 125</td>
<td>US $ 150</td>
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- Registration is mandatory (irrespective of the type of participation).
- ISA members eligible for concessional registration: Up-to-date/Life members. (Subject to confirmation by Hony. Secretary (National), ISA).
- Exemption of registration: Past presidents of ISA 7 Life members beyond 75 years.
- P.G. Students : Certificate from respective Head of department is mandatory.
- Compliments and accommodation : not guaranteed for delayed and spot registration.

Mode of payments: all payments must be made by crossed demand drafts in favour of “ISACON2004” payable at “BHOPAL”.

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