# Health & Safety Research and the Internet

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Canadian Centre for Occupational Health and Safety Sept. 2006

## Overview

- The Internet Challenge
- World Wide Web
  - Sources of information
  - Reliable sites
- E-mail-based discussion groups
- Evaluating what you have found
- Citing internet documents



# The Challenge?

## Finding:

 Useful and reliable information that you can trust

... and finding it fast!

# What are you looking for?

- Topic-based information
- Chemical information
- Legislation, legislative interpretation
- Policies, procedures, guidelines
- Research
- Advice, feedback, employment opportunities

# Sources of Information

- Search engines
- Directories
- "Reliable web sites"
- Discussion groups & blogs

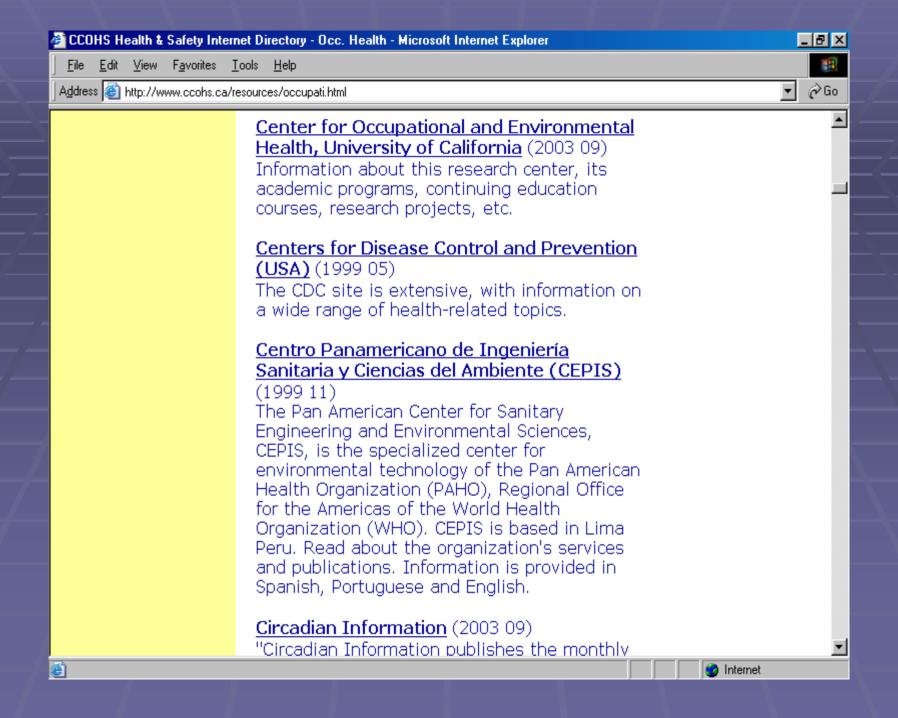
## Directories

- Directories
  - Listings by topic, compiled by humans
  - Main access is by browsing topics
  - Some searching possible, but just site names and some have brief descriptions – not content

# Types of Directories

- general purpose directories organized by subject provide access to Internet site
  - Yahoo! (www.dir.yahoo.com/Health/Workplace)
  - Open Directory (dmoz.org)
- H&S-specific directories provide access to sites containing H&S information
  - http://ccohs.ca/resources/hshome.html
  - http://www.ilpi.com/msds/index.html (where to find MSDSs on the web)

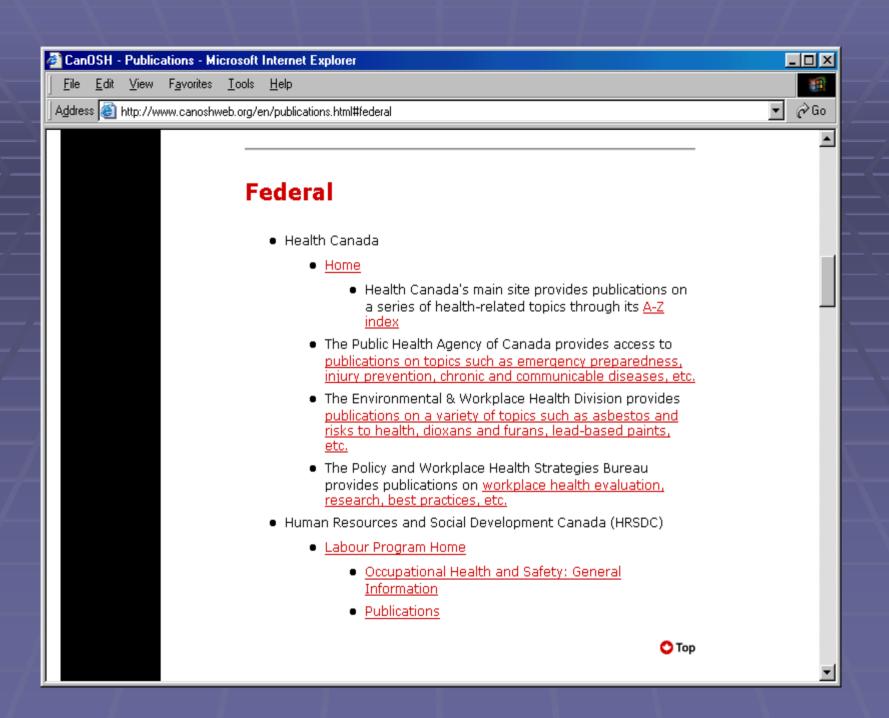




# Reliable web sites...

## http://www.canoshweb.org/en/





## http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/english/index.html



## http://www.influenza.gc.ca/index\_e.html



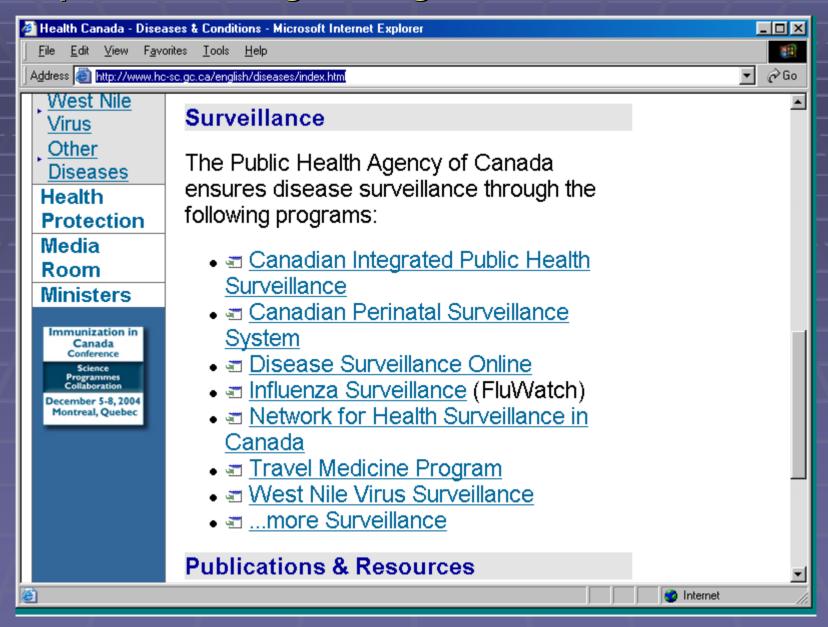
#### http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/dc-ma/wnv-vno/index\_e.html

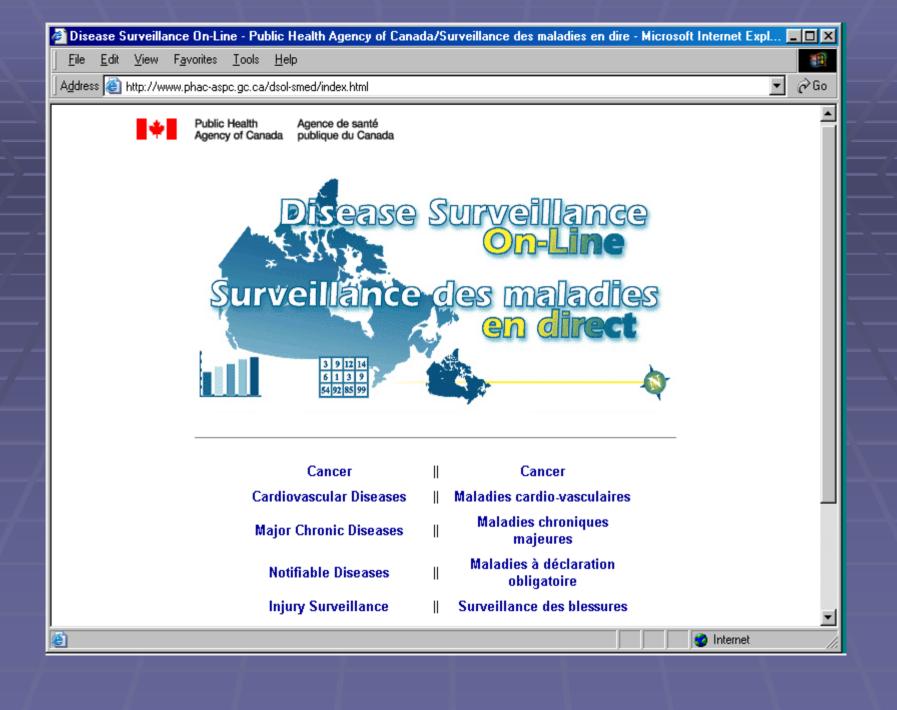


# http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/



#### http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/english/diseases/index.html

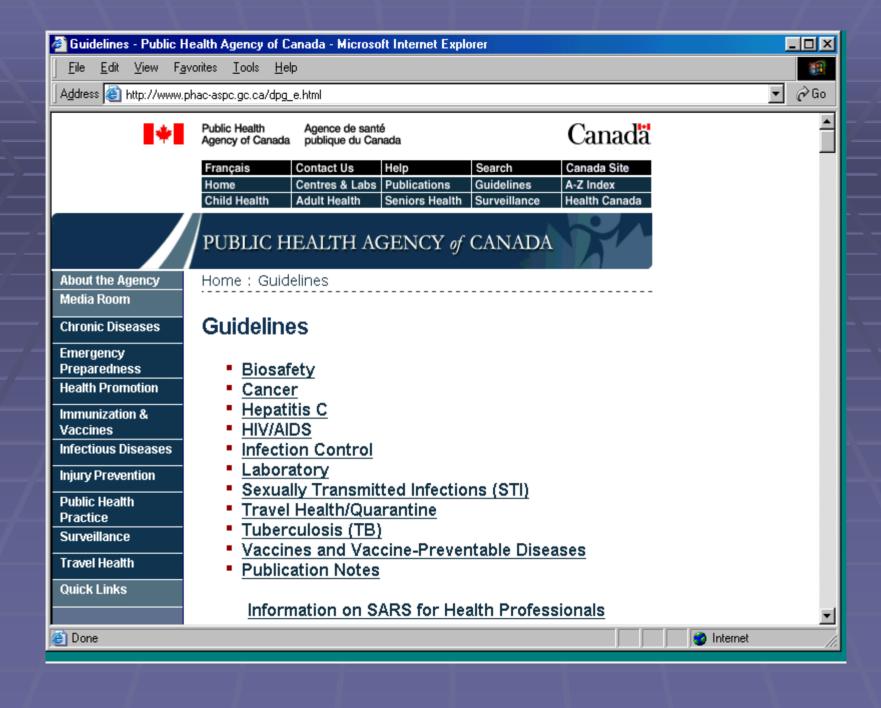


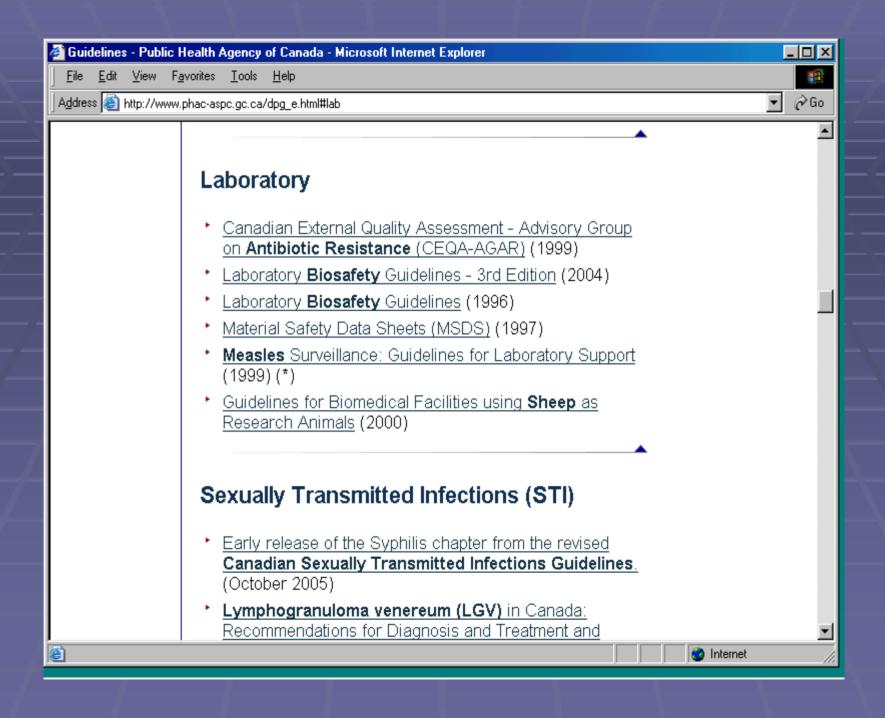


## http://www.canadian-health-network.ca/



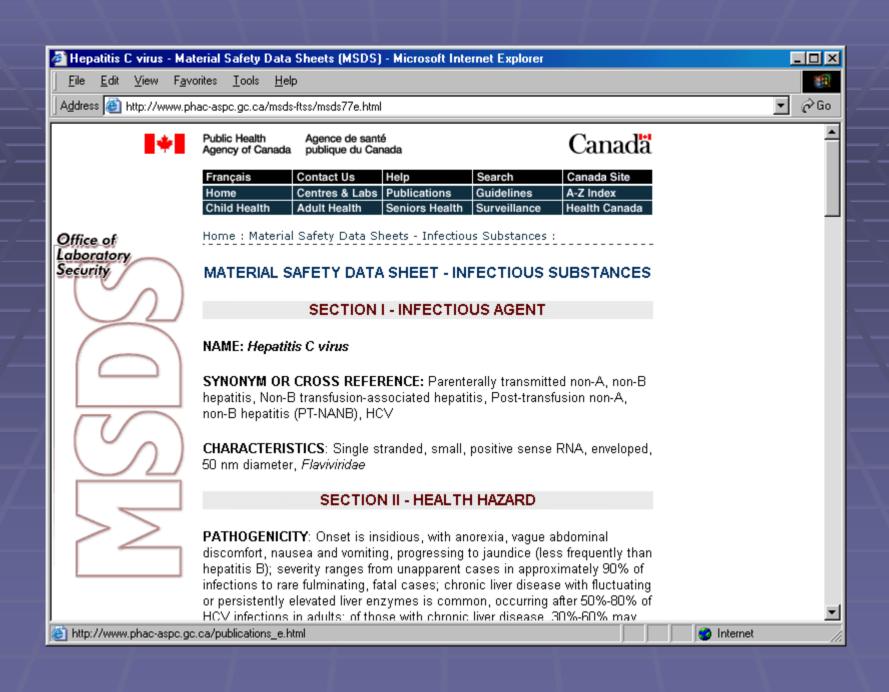




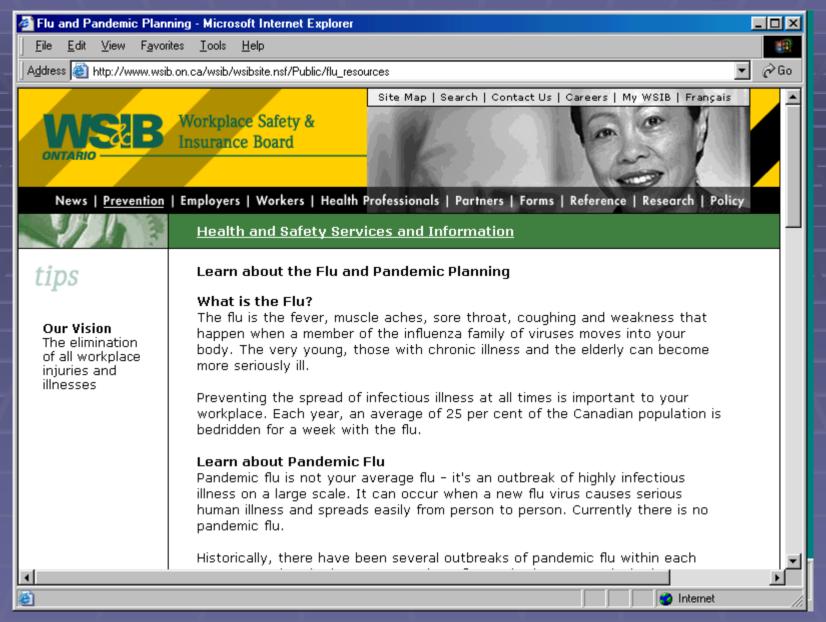


#### http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/msds-ftss/index.html

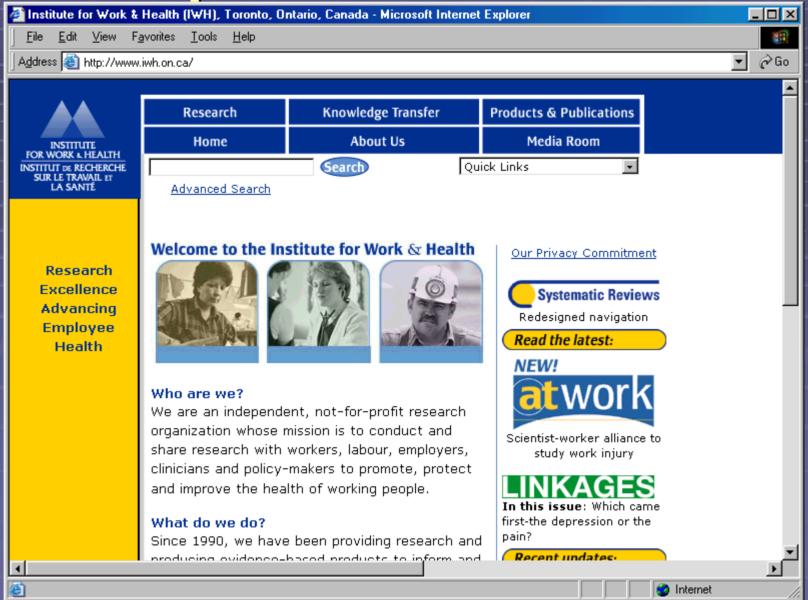


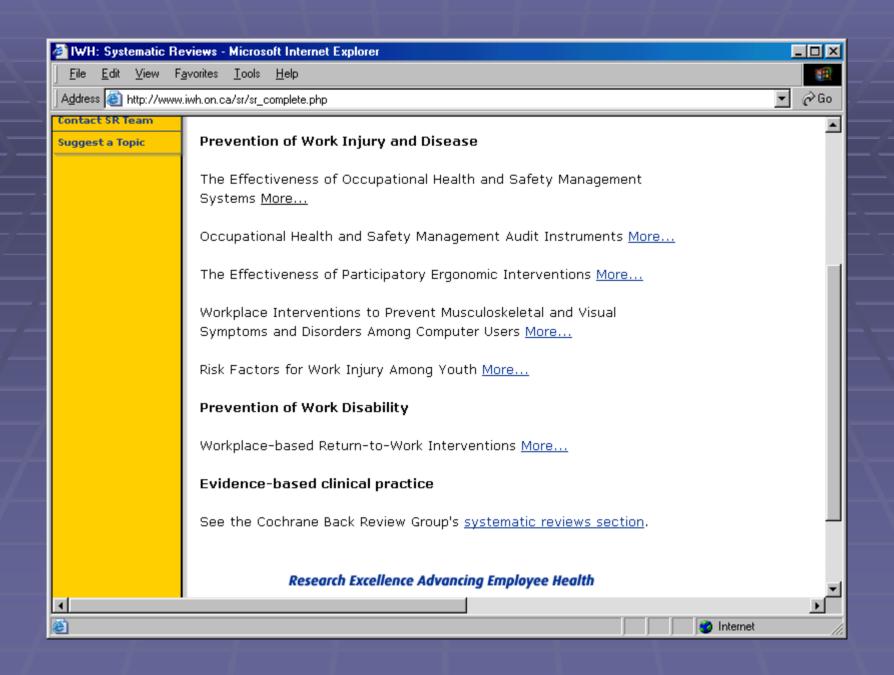


#### http://www.wsib.on.ca/wsib/wsibsite.nsf/Public/flu\_resources

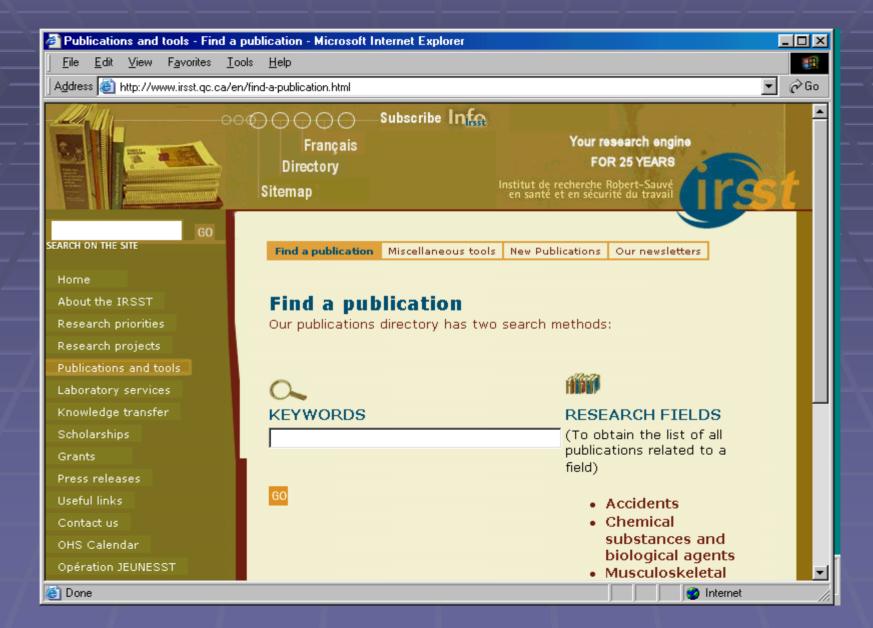


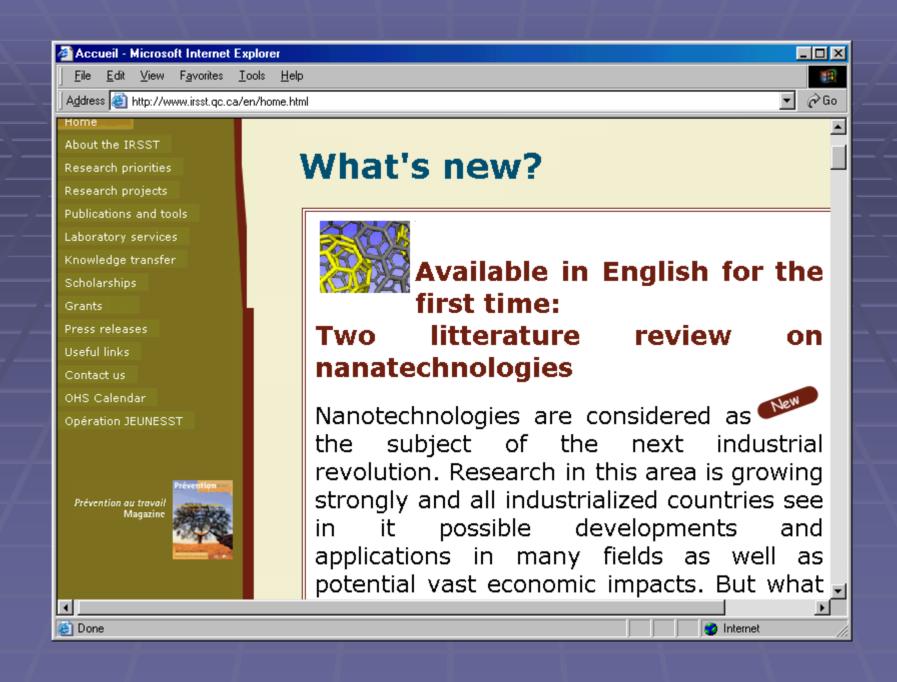
# http://www.iwh.on.ca





#### http://www.irsst.qc.ca/en/find-a-publication.html

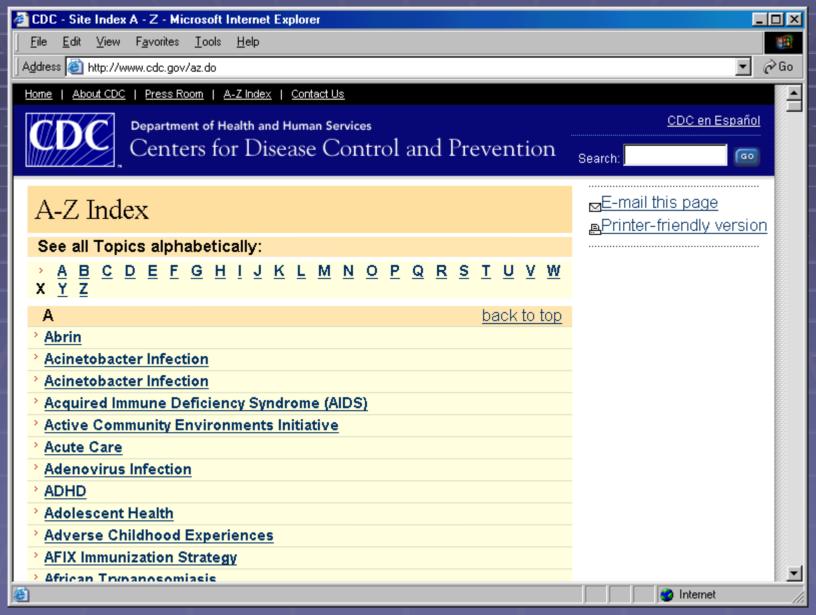




#### http://www.caw.ca/whatwedo/health&safety/index.asp

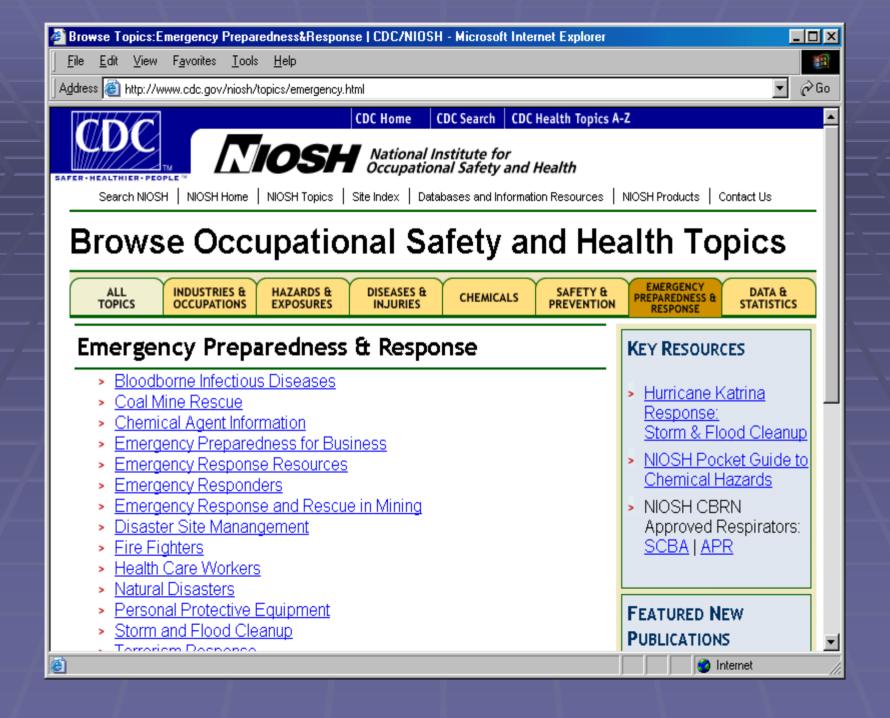


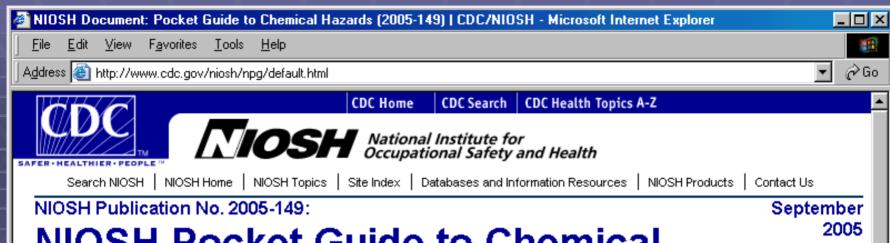
## http://www.cdc.gov/az.do



# http://www.pandemicflu.gov/





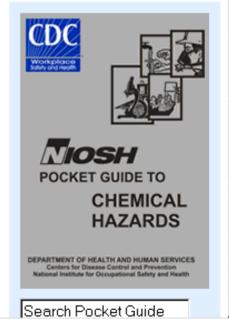


### NIOSH Pocket Guide to Chemical **Hazards**

The NIOSH Pocket Guide to Chemical Hazards (NPG) is intended as a source of general industrial hygiene information on several hundred chemicals/classes for workers, employers, and occupational health professionals. The NPG does not contain an analysis of all pertinent data, rather it presents key information and data in abbreviated or tabular form for chemicals or substance groupings (e.g. cyanides, fluorides, manganese compounds) that are found in the work environment. The information found in the NPG should help users recognize and control occupational chemical hazards.

#### Contents

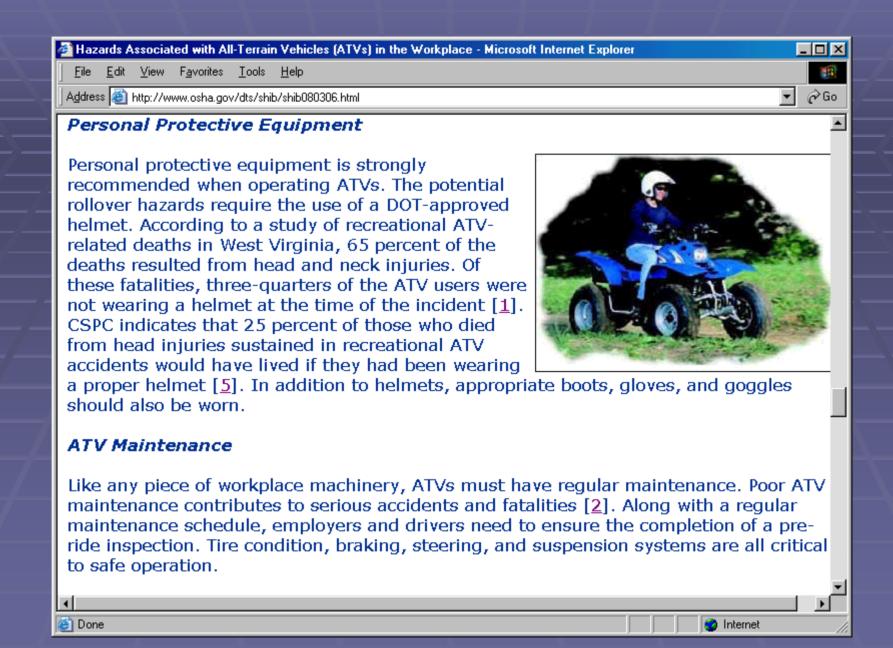
- Introduction
- Search the Pocket Guide
- Index of Chemical Names, Synonyms and Trade Names

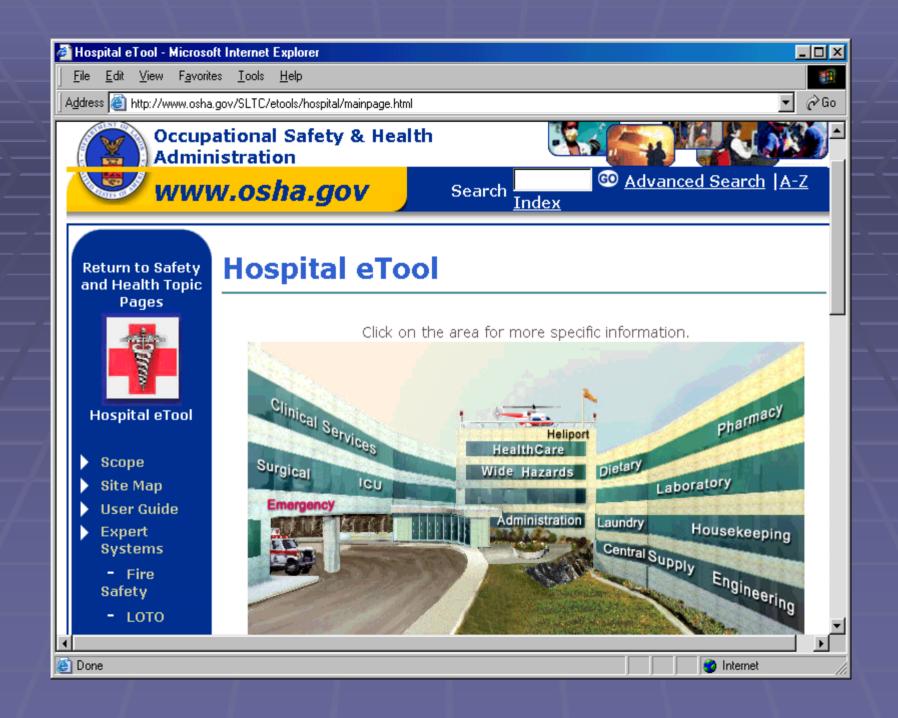


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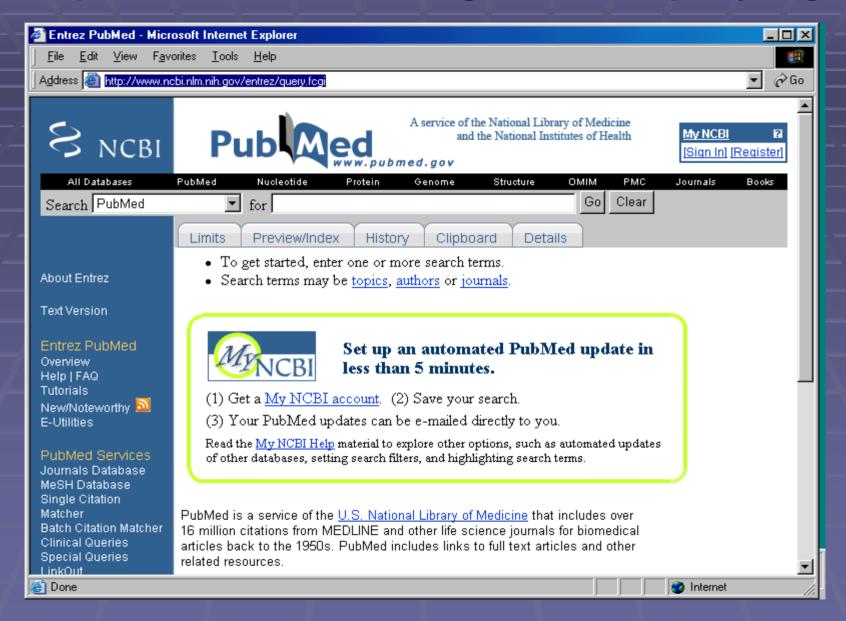
## http://www.osha.gov/SLTC/index.html

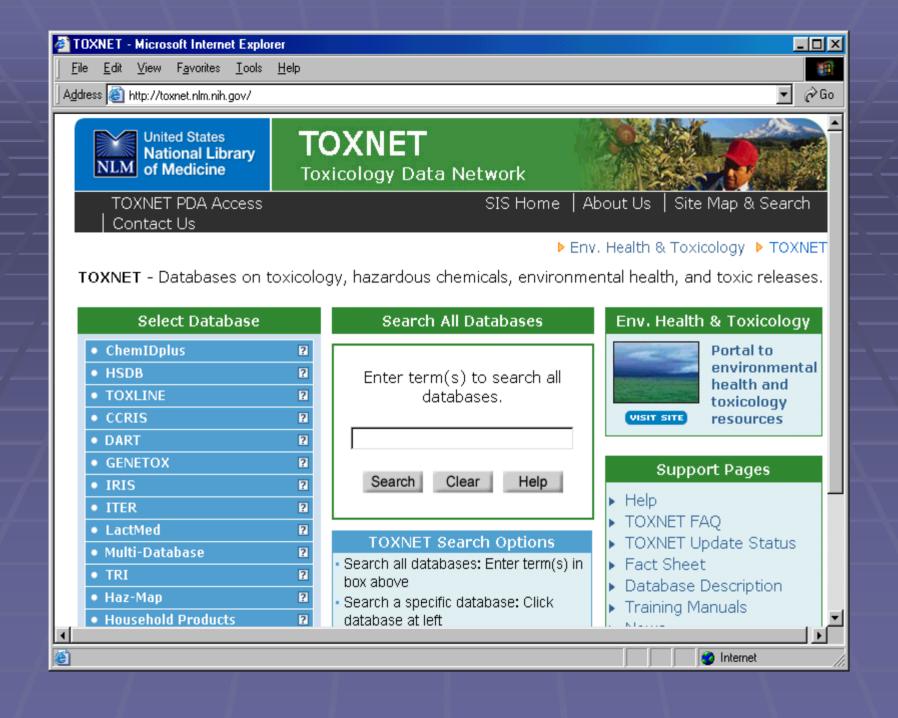




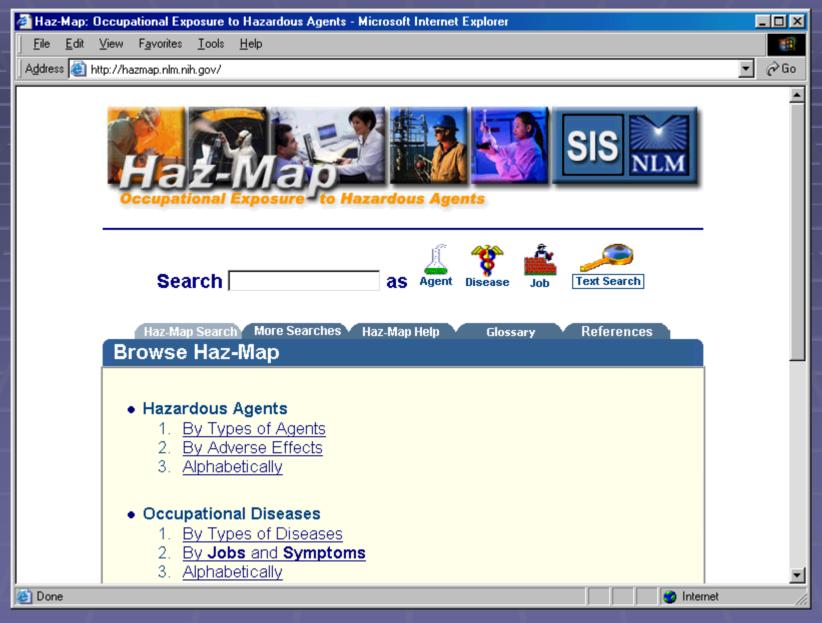


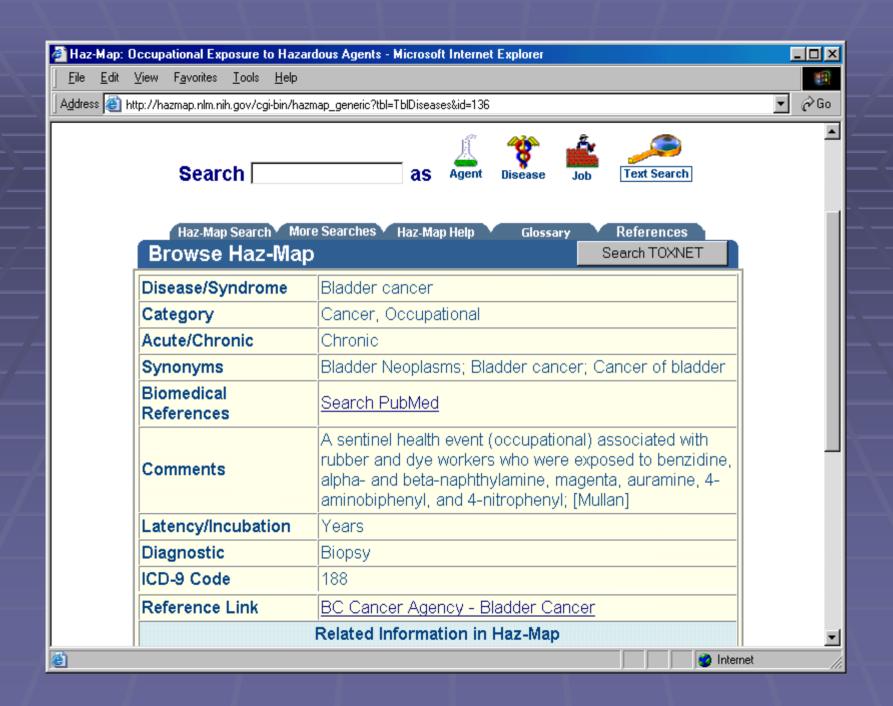
#### http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/entrez/query.fcgi



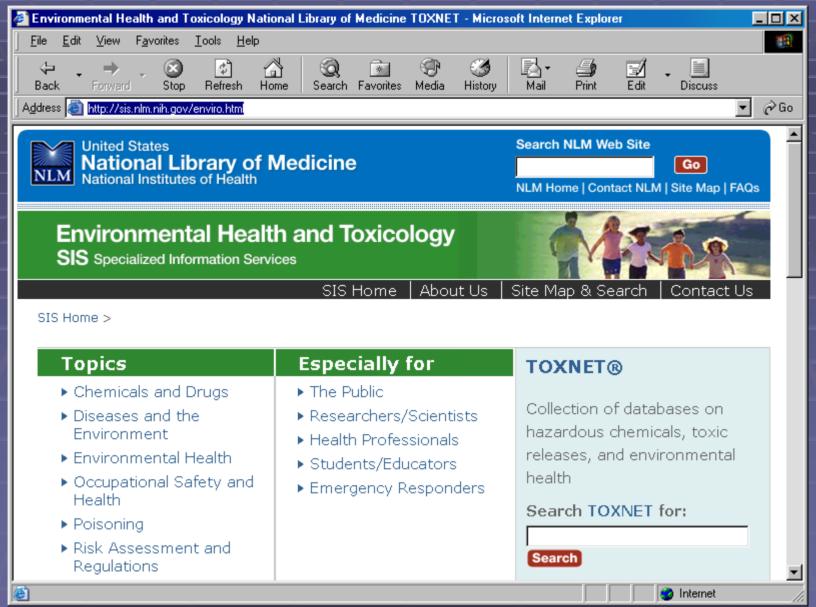


#### http://hazmap.nlm.nih.gov/

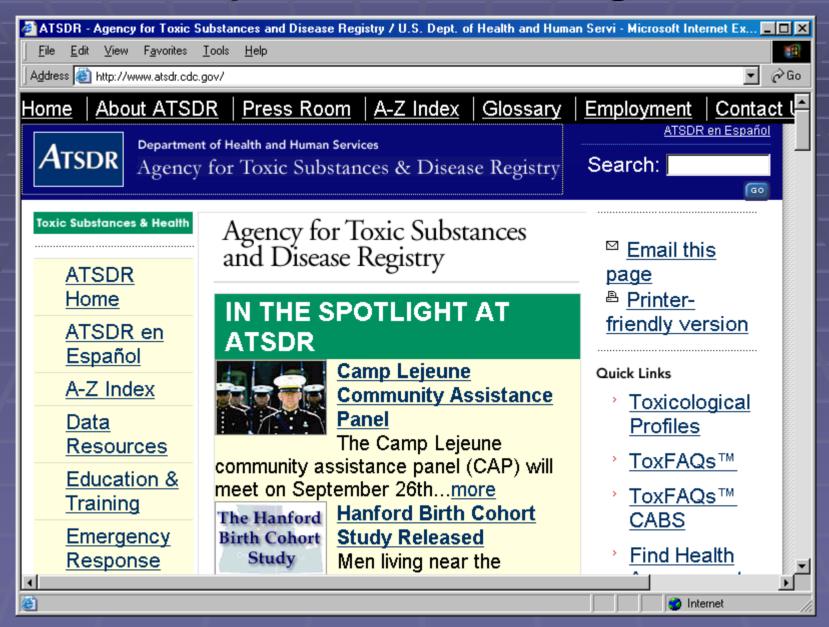


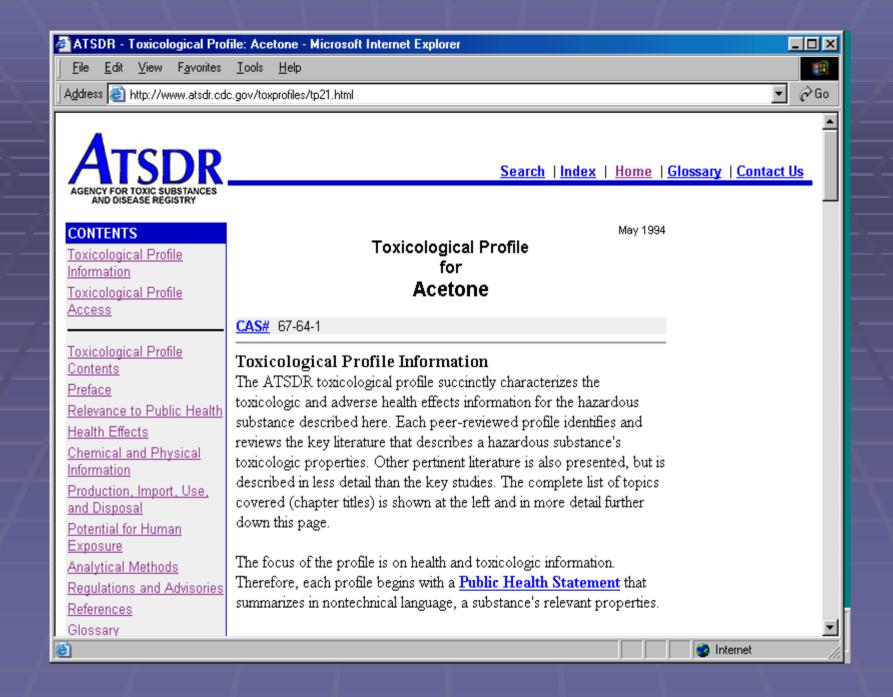


#### http://sis.nlm.nih.gov/enviro.html

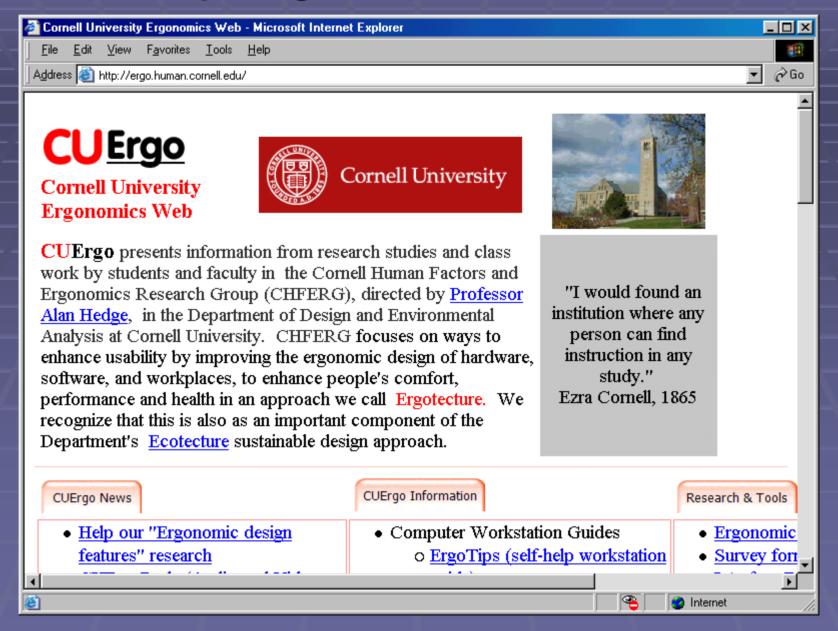


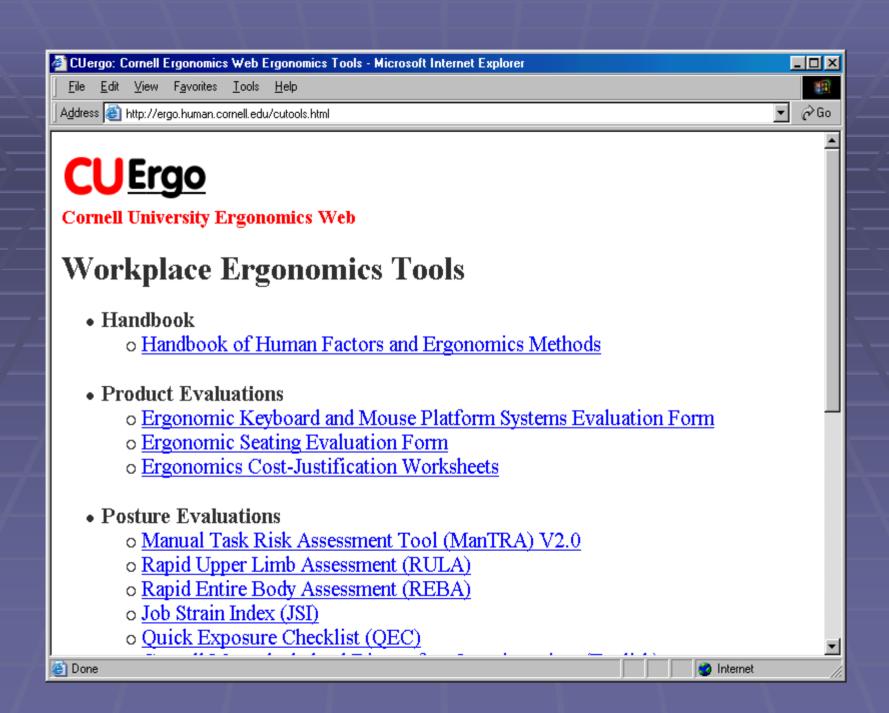
#### http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/



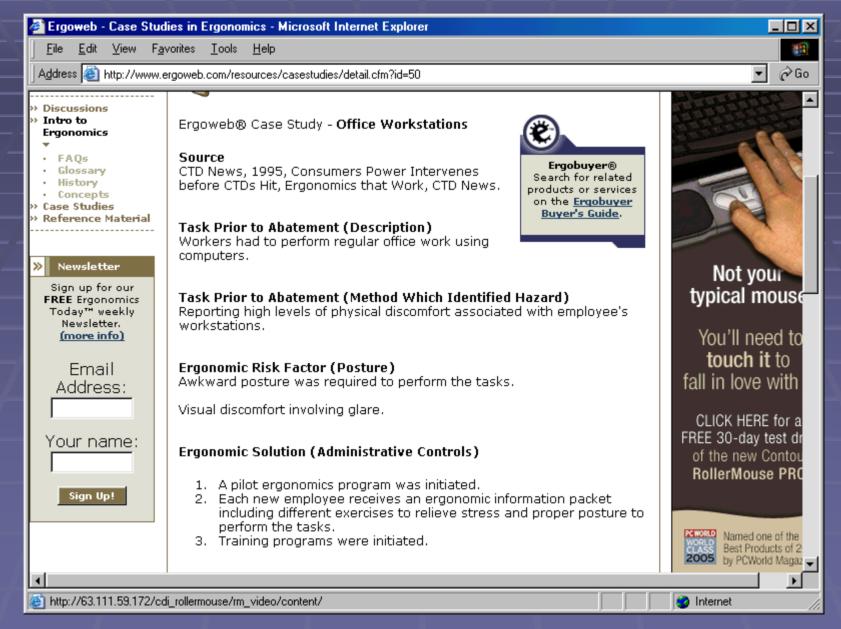


#### http://ergo.human.cornell.edu/

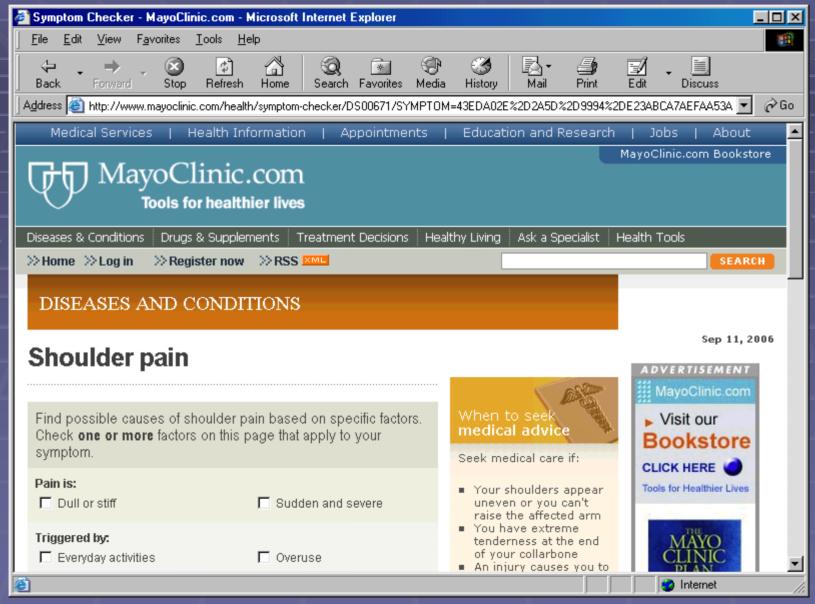




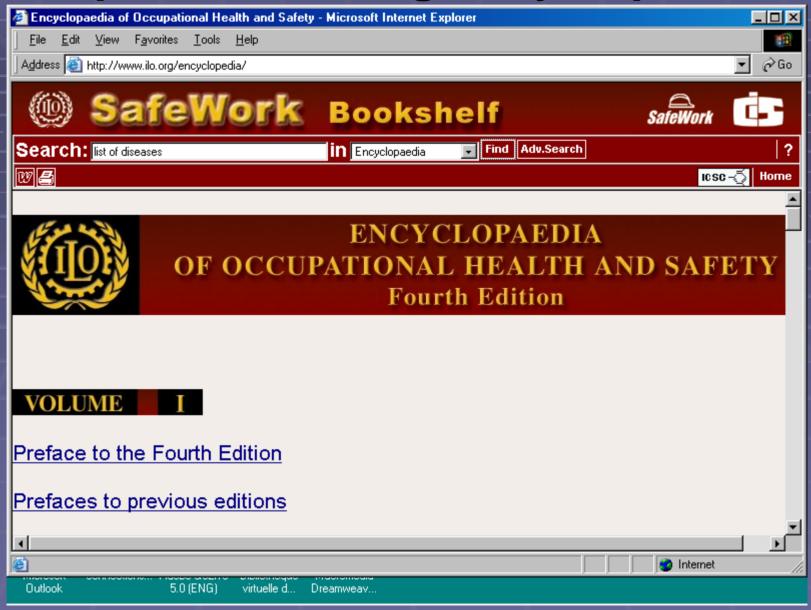
#### http://www.ergoweb.com/resources/



## http://www.mayoclinic.com/



#### http://www.ilo.org/encyclopedia/



### http://www.who.int/en/

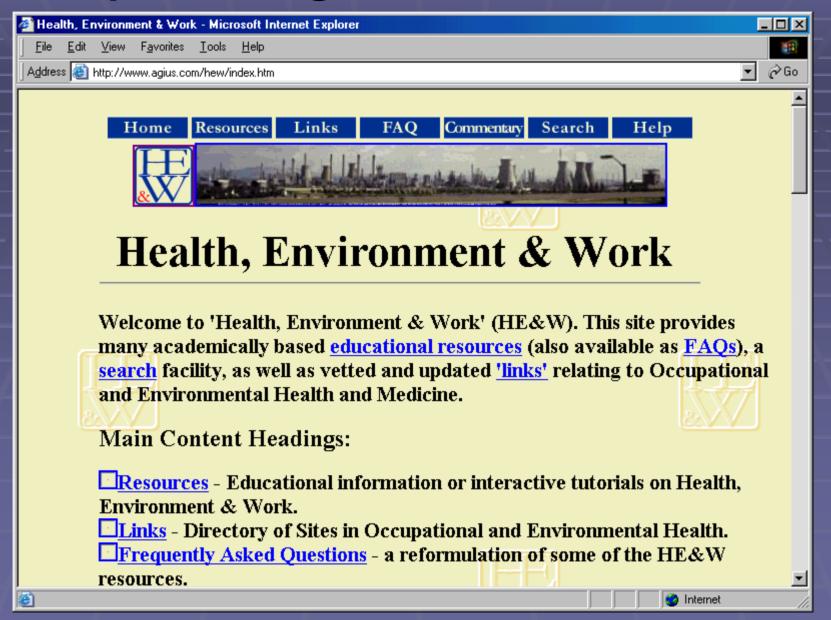




## http://www.inchem.org/



#### http://www.agius.com/hew/resource/



#### http://www.phs.ki.se/occupmed/

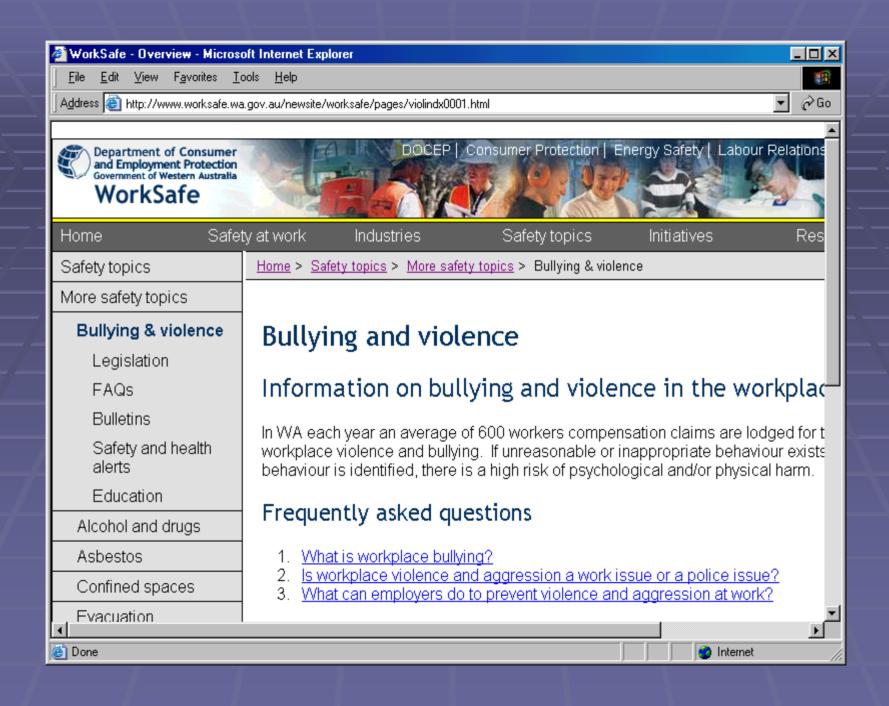


## http://www.tuc.org.uk

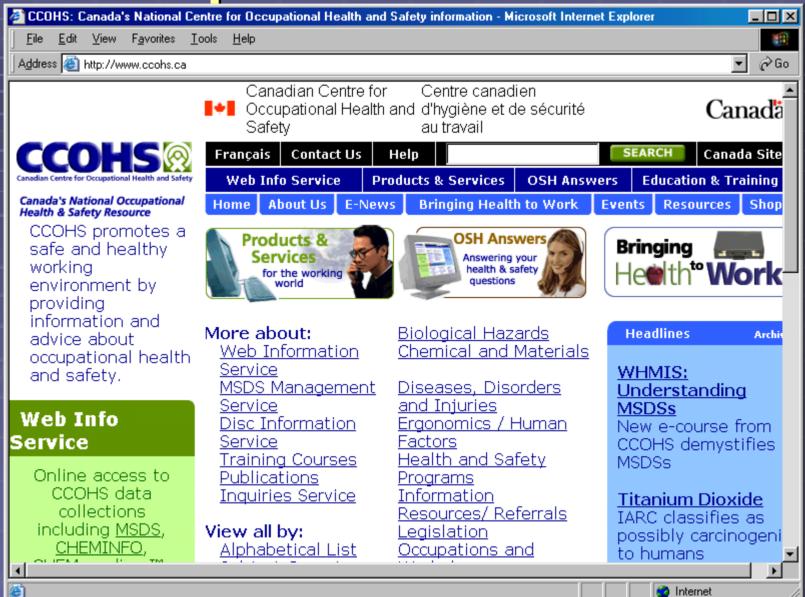


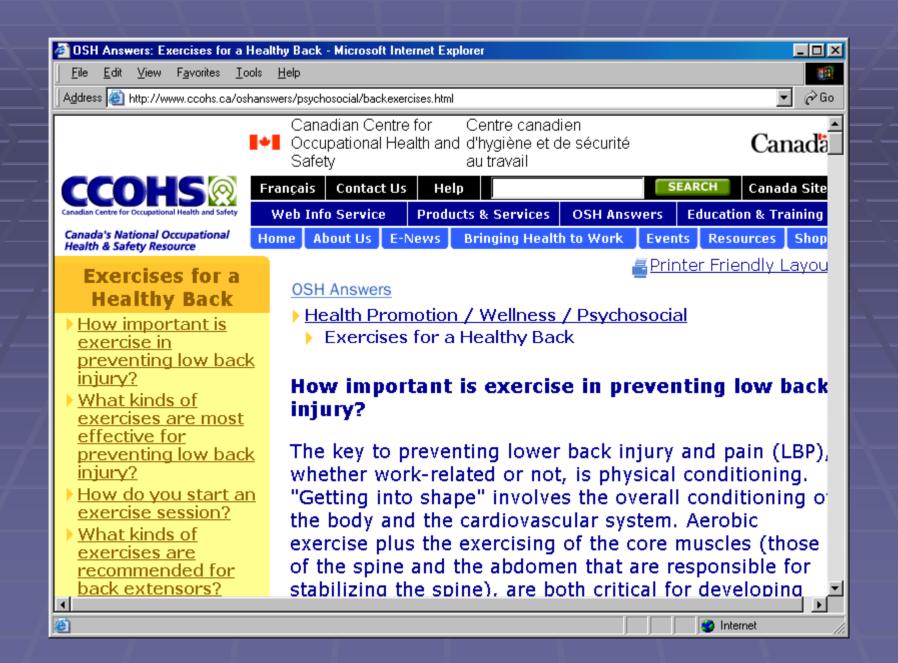
#### http://www.worksafe.wa.gov.au/newsite/worksafe/





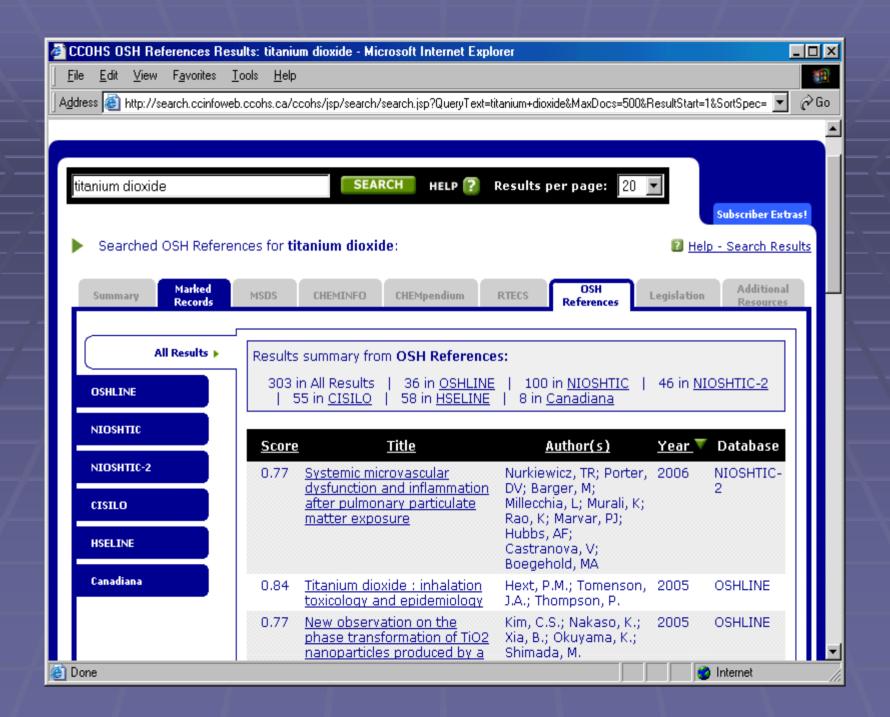
### http://www.ccohs.ca/

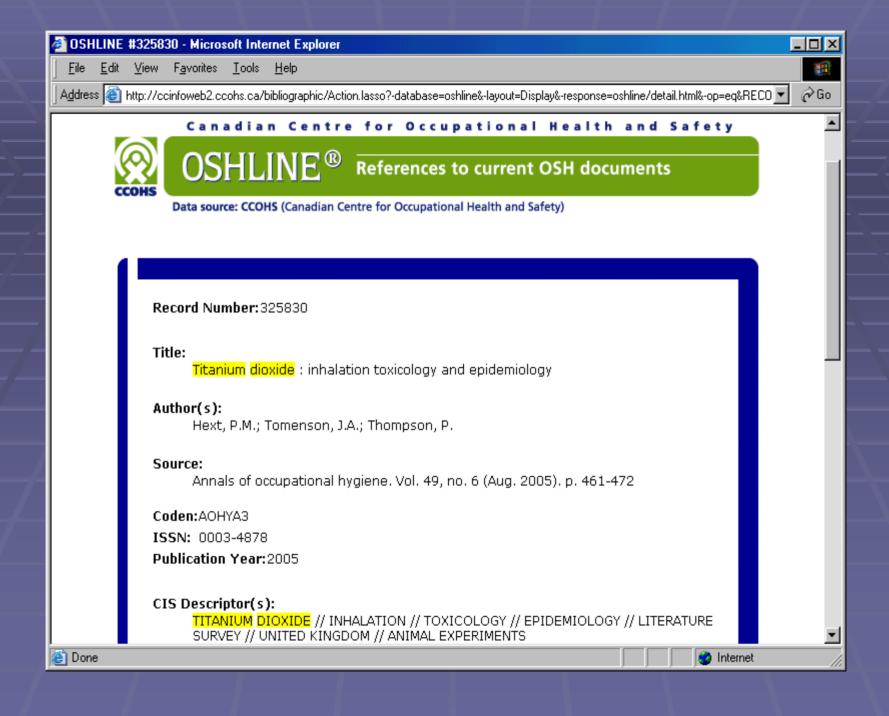




## http://ccinfoweb.ccohs.ca/







## Mailing Lists

- E-mail based discussion groups
- Uses
  - Daily Conferencing with Peers
  - Problem Solving
  - News on Hot Issues
  - Announcements of Internet information sources
  - Job postings

#### Mailing Lists

- HS-Canada (CCOHS)
- Safety (University of Vermont)
- Occ-Env-Med-L (Duke University)
- GlobalOccHyg-L
  - & thousands more to choose from....

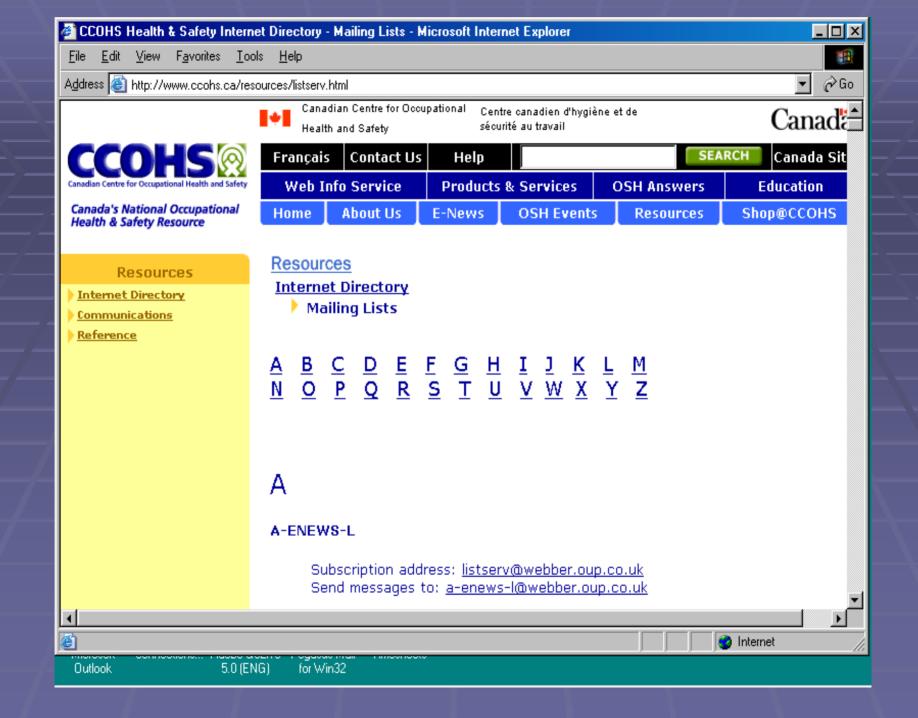
## Mailing List Archives

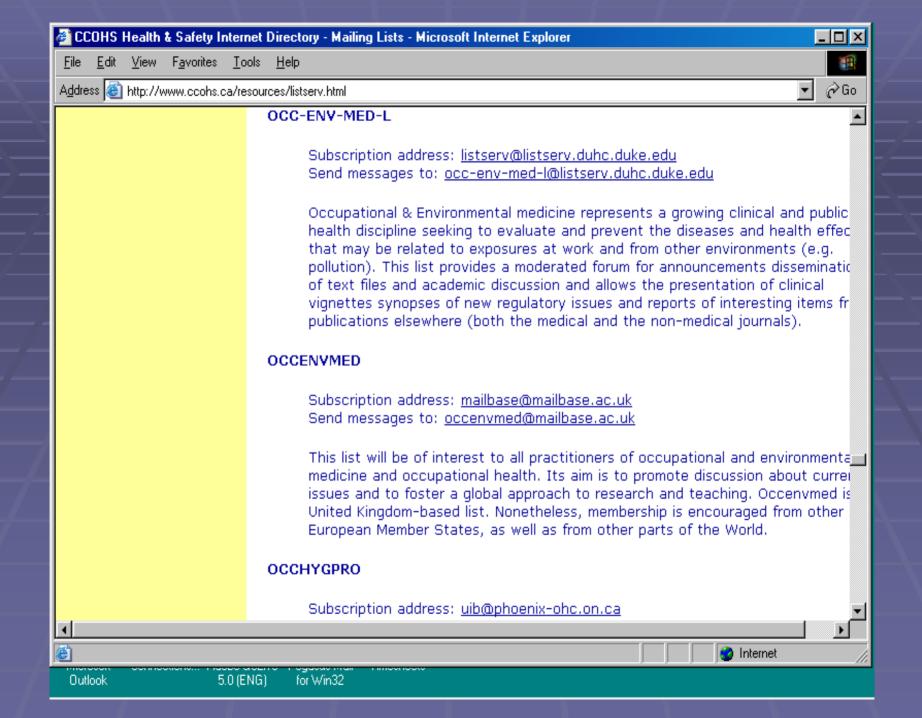
- View all messages that have been sent to a specific list
- Search by subject
- Generally available whether you participate in the list or not

### http://siri.org/



# Where to find other discussion groups...





#### Blogs

- Internet journals (weblogs)
- Useful for current awareness
- Information can be editorial/opinion-based on topics of interest to the blog authors
- Be careful to verify information derived from blogs
  - e.g. TCE (trichoroethylene) blog (http://www.tceblog.com/)

## Professional Concerns

- Reliable
   (is the resource accessible when you need it?)
- Authoritative (reasoned, unbiased, verifiable, etc.?)
- Current

## **Evaluating Web Information**

- Who wrote it?
- Who published it (web site, print publisher)?
- Is there obvious bias?
- Are there referrals to other sources?
- Can the information be verified? (references, contact info., etc.)
- How current is it?

(Johns Hopkins University)

## Evaluating Information from Discussion Groups

- Very dependent on the type of question
- If you ask for advice or people's opinions, treat the responses as such
- If someone makes a statement, verify it independently (e.g. what a specific piece of legislation says, which issue of a journal a particular article appeared in)

## Evaluating Information from Discussion Groups (cont'd)

- Is the author identifiable?
  - Signature file on his/her message credentials, employment
  - Frequent contributor of good information
- Are statements publicly supported or refuted?

#### **How to Cite Internet Documents**

- Provide sufficient information to identify the document
- e.g. CCOHS. (2005). The MSDS: a Practical Guide to First Aid. [Online].
   Available:http://www.ccohs.ca/products/publicati ons/msds\_firstaid.html [2006, Sept. 11]
- http://tuglibraries.on.ca/internetsearch/cite\_docs.html (TriUniversity Group of Libraries -Guelph, Waterloo & Wilfred Laurier)

#### For more information

- http://www.ccohs.ca/
- Flora Simpson floras@ccohs.ca