

●原著 (Original Article)

A Comparative Study of the Drug Information Activities by Using the Internet and the Book/journal

Eiichi Akaho^{1),2)}, Chieko Suzuki¹⁾, and Miki Ueda¹⁾*

1) Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences and 2) High Technology Research Center, Kobe Gakuin University,
518 ARISE, IKAWADANI-CHO, NISHI-KU, KOBE 〒651-2180 JAPAN
akaho@pharm.kobegakuin.ac.jp

(Received October 14, 2001
Accepted November 28, 2001)

Abstract :

Objective — The Internet has been used widely in various fields including drug information centers. It is possible that useful and valuable information can be obtained through the Internet, but at the same time there exists some authenticity problem in the Internet information. Therefore, the book/journal information is still valuable and important. Under this circumstance, a comparative study was conducted to investigate quality and characteristics of answers to DI questions obtained by using the Internet and the book/journal.

Methods — Fourth year students in the Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Kobe Gakuin University (KGU), took a charge in obtaining answers of DI questions in the drug information room (from now on, DI center), and the teacher of the same faculty provided DI questions. As the first stage, the students tried to obtain answers to sixty DI questions by using the search engines in the Internet. As the second stage, the step was repeated by using the book/journal to the same DI questions. As the third stage, the teacher of the Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences gave students model answers and the evaluation of both answers was conducted.

Results — A clear difference was seen for the question to the toxicity and the side effect in which the book/journal gave 54% correct answers while the Internet was only 15%. Eighteen percent or more answers were obtained only by one information source, the Internet or the book/journal.

Conclusion — It showed that each information source enjoyed its usefulness and uniqueness as their information source, and DI specialists should be alert to the characteristics of both the Internet and the book/journal information sources. The Internet information has its unique characteristics such as quick transmission of information, up-to-date information provided, enormous amounts of searchable data, and freedom to provide information, while its information is not screened and one should evaluate the Internet information individually.

Keyword : Internet, drug information center, manual search, computer search, comparative study