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A strategic approach to research using Internet tools and resources.

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The spread of communication networks over the past ten years has made access to and, distribution of, multimedia information very easy. This has led to a rapid increase in the number and type of information resources which can potentially contribute to any reference or research query. Often, the information professional feels overwhelmed by the amount of relevant material which has to be organised and evaluated, and the concept of 'information overload' is an unfortunate reality. This paper describes a methodical approach to carrying out research in our contemporary environment, encompassing printed, electronic and Internet based resources. The framework was used to compile a listing of toxicology information resources, as part of a larger study on the effect of new information and communication technologies on scientific communication within this field. It is likely, however, that the approach can be applied to research in any subject, and the example of alcohol and drug related resources will now be considered.