

# ORGANIZATION OF HEALTH CARE IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

(1990-2004)



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## PREFACE

[2004 edition]

The present edition of this selective bibliography is a partial upgrade of the 2001 list, not a cumulative replacement. Evidently, many references from the last 3 years have been added, but the pre-1990 literature is no longer represented (even early 1990's references are scarce). Also, because of the inherent evolution of research and education trends, some of the earlier topics have not been retained, while new ones were added. Therefore, the previous edition, still freely available from <http://lib.itg.be/healthdc.pdf> remains a useful selection in its own right. For the electronic version of the present edition, please go to <http://lib.itg.be/health04.pdf> (PDF) or '\*.doc' (MS Word).

This new edition is based on the same general principles as explained in the 2001 introduction, i.e. relevant international health literature that is locally available for a specific audience. As far as the presentation is concerned, short alphabetically ordered topics were replaced by logically ordered chapters featuring subdivisions, often on several levels. Within each section the references are now arranged in reverse chronological order, so the most recent literature is always listed first. We have retained our library codes for easy local usage of the lists, and also have included URL's for more or less 'grey' documents and reports that are freely available on the World Wide Web. We have limited these URL's to the server or (sub)directory level, as in our experience these tend to be more persistent than document-specific URL's. We have chosen not to include URL's for the mainstream literature (i.e. journal articles), as actual accessibility generally depends on library subscriptions, and is best resolved in this context.

The increasing dominance of English language publications is striking. In our *Health Care in Developing Countries* database, the post-1989 publications — on which this selection is based — constitute 80%; of these, 83.3% are in English. Yet where available, we have also included the French literature.

Finally, the current editors acknowledge their debt to former ITM librarian Gilbert Roelants, who initiated both the *Health Care in Developing Countries* database and this anthology series, and selected the literature up until 1999.

June 2004,

Veerle Demedts & Dirk Schoonbaert  
ITM Library

## **INTRODUCTION**

[2001 edition]

Never before 'information' has been produced and made publicly available at a scale comparable to what we experience today. WWW indexes mine hundreds of millions of webpages, a substantial part of which dealing with health care in one way or another. A multitude of websites offer a hierarchically structured choice of resources, or specialise in particular health topics. Several of the more traditional bibliographic databases such as *Medline*, analysing the peer-reviewed literature with controlled vocabularies, have been freely available on the Internet for years.

Still, it may not be easy to identify published reports of quality studies in international health, especially when information on specific research topics or individual countries is required. The major bibliographic databases generally focus on the Western European and North American situation, and far less on that of developing countries. Their inherent selectivity of core sources will generally exclude both local journals and all non-journal article formats such as books, book chapters, and all kinds of reports and documents (e.g. by the *World Health Organization*) often referred to as grey literature. The enormous extent and impact of the biomedical literature published by international quality journals justifies these limitations. But it is unfortunate for the field of international health, as there such alternative publication types tend to have a greater relative importance than for other, more clinically or experimentally oriented biomedical disciplines.

While finding adequate bibliographic references is one thing, getting hold of the actual full-text items is often even more problematic, especially when they are not published in the core journal literature. Books are more difficult to locate than journals; actually finding the grey literature is often a hopeless enterprise.

Participants of *ITM's International Course of Health Development (ICHD)* organized by our *Public Health Department* (and now well into its fourth decade) are invariably confronted with this problem. In order to assist them in gathering adequate research literature, we built our own niche database named *Health Care in Developing Countries* [<http://lib.itg.be/bs.htm>]. From its start in the late 1980's this endeavour has been based on two simple rules: only quality publications that are immediately relevant for research topics central to the *ICHD* course are selected, and the full-text item must be available in the *ITM* library. As such we have no ambition whatsoever to analyse the whole field of international health. Specialists may perhaps rightly protest that certain key publications are not to be found in this database. But while this somewhat idiosyncratic selection is intended as an immediate utility for a specific group of master students, we hope it may also prove valuable for others in the international health sector.

The following literature lists consist of a still more rigid selection of items from the database, arranged by a number of specific research topics. Only literature published from 1980 onwards is included. Within each section the references are presented in alphabetical order by author. Where multiple language versions exist (mostly French/English), both have been included. As this selection is so closely linked to our physical collection, *ITM* library book codes have been added for the benefit of our local users.

April 2001,

Veerle Demedts, Dirk Schoonbaert, Gilbert Roelants

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## HEALTH POLICY

*Health systems research — Health policy — Horizontal versus vertical health programs — SWAp — World Health Report 2000 controversy*

### Health systems research

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*Sexually transmitted diseases and services — Contraception and family planning services — Infertility  
— Integrating reproductive health care — Refugees — Adolescents*

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*National drug policies — Accessibility — Rational drug use — Intellectual property rights — Orphan drugs — Pricing — Quality assurance — Generics — Self-medication*

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*Performance—competence—training — Staffing and scheduling — Salaries and fringe benefits —  
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## **HEALTH CARE SEEKING BEHAVIOR**

### *Determinants — Provider choice*

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