

A Weekly FAX from the Center for Substance Abuse Research

University of Maryland, College Park

The Invisible Web: Hidden Substance Abuse Information

The Invisible Web, also sometimes called the Deep Web or even the Dark Web, refers to pages on the World Wide Web that Google™ and other search engines can't find. It's not a new phenomenon—the term was coined about 10 years ago. But both the visible and invisible webs have grown astronomically since then and are still growing. It is estimated that as much as 99% of the Web is invisible to general search engines. Some pages are invisible simply because the huge size of the web makes it impossible for search engines to keep up. Other pages are blocked by passwords or firewalls. The truly invisible pages are those that search engines can't find or index because they are temporary pages created “on-the-fly” in response to a database query. The vast majority of these pages are found in free and for-fee databases from universities, libraries, associations, and government agencies from around the world. These databases tend to focus on a particular topic, and, therefore, are usually more authoritative, better-indexed, and provide higher quality information than the Web as a whole. Here are just a few of the free, high-quality databases relevant to alcohol and other drug use available on the Invisible Web.

Website Name	Address
Alcohol and Alcohol Problems Science Database (ETOH)*	http://etoh.niaaa.nih.gov
Alcohol Policy Information System	http://alcoholpolicy.niaaa.nih.gov
Alcohol Studies Database	http://www.scc.rutgers.edu/alcohol_studies
Drugscope DrugData Database	http://www.drugscope.org.uk/library
European Gateway on Alcohol, Drugs, and Addictions	http://www.elisad.uni-bremen.de
Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders Database	http://www.fascenter.samhsa.gov/search
Legacy Tobacco Documents Library	http://legacy.library.ucsf.edu/
Project Cork Database	http://www.projectcork.org/database_search
Published International Literature on Traumatic Stress (PILOTS) Database	http://www.ncptsd.org/publications/pilots
Smoking and Health Database	http://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/search
Substance Abuse Information Database (SAID)	http://said.dol.gov

*Unfortunately the ETOH database has not been updated since 12/03 due to a discontinuation of funding.

For more information, contact Clare Imholtz, CESAR Librarian, at cimholtz@cesar.umd.edu or 301-405-9785.

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