

# As a mandatory database, what level of contribution does the LILACS database provide in regards to the search for evidence of neglected diseases?

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## The Problem

LILACS (Latin American and Caribbean Health Sciences Literature, free accessed in <http://lilacs.bvsalud.org/en/>) is the most important and embracing index of scientific literature from Latin America and Caribbean (AL&C). Nowadays, it includes around 924 journals and non conventional documents as theses and governmental documents from 26 countries.<sup>1</sup> The importance of LILACS is related to the publication, promotion and dissemination of relevant studies considering the AL&C context. In this sense, for retrieving evidences about neglected disease and tropical Diseases - as leprosy, malaria, tuberculosis and dengue – is indispensable to access LILACS database.

## Objectives

To compare searching results retrieved from LILACS, Cochrane Library and MEDLINE for neglected diseases.

## Methods

We constructed equivalent search strategies for 'neglect diseases', 'yellow fever' and 'chagas disease' for LILACS (via BVS), Cochrane Library (via Wiley) and MEDLINE (via Pubmed) (**Table 1, 2 and 3**). For LILACS, we used English, Spanish and Portuguese term, since this database encloses studies published in all these languages. The results obtained were then compared in terms of number of records. Two authors assessed the records and collected the data.

## Key Results

The main findings are presented in **Table 4**.

**Table 4:** Findings comparisons

	Records retrieved Neglected diseases	Records retrieved Yellow fever	Records retrieved Chagas disease
<b>LILACS via BVS</b>	18,362	13,327	25,074
<b>Cochrane Library via Wiley</b>	606	238	245
<b>MEDLINE via Pubmed</b>	13,177	6,685	18,312

## Conclusions

For neglected diseases, LILACS via BVS retrieved a higher number of records than Cochrane Library and MEDLINE and may be considered a valuable source of evidence for these conditions.

### • Relevance to diversity:

Neglected diseases affect people living in poverty, specially from developing economies countries. LILACS (a Latin America and Caribbean database) is an important source of information about this type of diseases.

### • Relevance to patients and consumers:

One billion people of the world population has the diagnosis of some neglected disease.<sup>2</sup> When evaluating the evidence on interventions to prevent or treat them, LILACS database may enhance the results and identify studies that are not available on a global database.

**Table 1.** Main findings for 'neglected diseases' for each database.

Database	Search strategy
<b>LILACS</b>	Mh:"Doenças Negligenciadas" OR Mh:"Neglected Diseases" OR Mh:"Enfermedades Desatendidas" OR (Doenças Negligenciadas) OR (Neglected Diseases) OR (Enfermedades Desatendidas) OR (Doenças Esquecidas) OR (Doenças Tropicais Negligenciadas) OR (Doença Negligenciada) OR (Disease Neglected) OR (Diseases Neglected) OR (Neglected Disease) OR (Neglected Tropical Diseases) OR (Enfermedades Descuidadas) OR (Enfermedades Olvidadas) OR (Enfermedades Negligenciadas) OR (Enfermedades Tropicales Desatendidas) OR (Enfermedad Desatendida) OR Mh:C23.550.291.890\$
<b>Cochrane Library</b>	#1 MeSH descriptor: [Neglected Diseases] explode all trees #2 (Neglected Diseases) OR (Disease Neglected) OR (Diseases Neglected) OR (Neglected Disease) #3 #1 OR #2
<b>Medline</b>	"Neglected Diseases"[Mesh] OR ((Neglected Diseases) OR (Disease, Neglected) OR (Diseases, Neglected) OR (Neglected Disease))

**Table 2.** Main findings for 'yellow fever' for each database.

Database	Search strategy
<b>LILACS</b>	MH:"Febre Amarela" OR MH:"Yellow Fever" OR MH:"Fiebre Amarilla" OR (Fever Yellow) OR (Fever Yellow) OR (Yellow Fevers) OR MH:C02.081.980\$ OR MH:C02.782.350.250.980\$ OR MH:C02.782.417.881\$ OR MH:SP4.001.012.183.294\$
<b>Cochrane Library</b>	#1 MeSH descriptor: [Yellow Fever] explode all trees #2 (Yellow Fever) OR (Fever, Yellow) OR (Fever, Yellow) OR (Yellow Fevers) #3 #1 OR #2
<b>Medline</b>	"Yellow Fever"[Mesh] OR (Yellow Fever) OR (Fever, Yellow) OR (Fever, Yellow) OR (Yellow Fevers)

**Table 3.** Main findings for 'chagas disease' for each database

Database	Search strategy
<b>LILACS</b>	MH:"Doença de Chagas" OR MH:"Chagas Disease" OR MH:"Enfermedad de Chagas" OR (Tripanossomíase Sul-Americana) OR (Tripanossomose Sul-Americana) OR (Tripanossomíase Americana) OR (Mal de Chagas) OR (Infecção por Trypanosoma cruzi) OR (American Trypanosomiasis) OR (Chagas' Disease) OR (Trypanosoma cruzi Infection) OR (Infection, Trypanosoma cruzi) OR (Infections, Trypanosoma cruzi) OR (South American Trypanosomiasis) OR (Trypanosoma cruzi Infections) OR (Trypanosomiasis, American) OR (Trypanosomiasis, South American) OR (Tripanosomiasis Sudamericana) OR (Tripanosomiasis Americana) OR (Infección por Trypanosoma cruzi) OR MH:C03.752.300.900.200\$ OR MH:SP4.001.012.148.149\$
<b>Cochrane Library</b>	#1 MeSH descriptor: [Chagas Disease] explode all trees #2 (Chagas Disease) OR (Chagas' Disease) OR (American Trypanosomiasis) OR (Trypanosomiasis, American) OR (Trypanosomiasis, South American) OR (South American Trypanosomiasis) OR (Trypanosoma cruzi Infection) OR (Infection, Trypanosoma cruzi) OR (Infections, Trypanosoma cruzi) OR (Trypanosoma cruzi Infections) #3 #1 OR #2
<b>Medline</b>	"Chagas Disease"[Mesh] OR (Chagas Disease) OR (Chagas' Disease) OR (American Trypanosomiasis) OR (Trypanosomiasis, American) OR (Trypanosomiasis, South American) OR (South American Trypanosomiasis) OR (Trypanosoma cruzi Infection) OR (Infection, Trypanosoma cruzi) OR (Infections, Trypanosoma cruzi) OR (Trypanosoma cruzi Infections)



**Could LILACS database be a relevant source for evidence about neglected diseases?**

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