



NOTES TO READERS OF AND CONTRIBUTORS TO
THE WHO/FIL AND WHO/ONCHO SERIES OF DOCUMENTS

The WHO/FIL and WHO/ONCHO series of information documents have now been appearing for 25 years. The present distribution list of about 1000 names is an indication that they probably reach almost everyone working on, or concerned with, filariasis and onchocerciasis in every country of the world.

The purpose of these series is to ensure the world-wide distribution of new, significant and important information on filarial infections in a rapid and concise manner to those who need to know. Therefore these series are aimed at (i) the personnel in national institutions, who are responsible for solving the health problems of their countries, (ii) individual research and public health workers, and (iii) WHO staff. In order to minimize the printing and postage costs, papers in the series must be kept short.

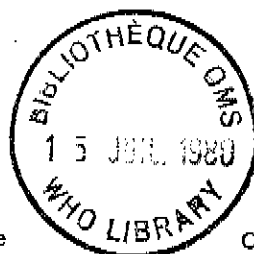
To attain these objectives it has been decided that the series will, in future, include documents in the following categories.

1. Summaries or abstracts of important new findings which are being prepared for publication in the scientific press but which deserve to be communicated with minimum delay to other workers on filariasis or onchocerciasis

Contributions in this category will be strictly limited to 500 words (i.e. one document page), so that summaries of two papers can, if necessary, be printed recto-verso on a single sheet. These summaries should be factual, should outline the contents of the paper, and should draw attention to the main conclusions and to any new information. The complete texts of papers which are about to be published elsewhere will no longer be accepted for issue in the WHO/FIL and WHO/ONCHO series.

The purpose of such contributions will be to convey rapidly to all recipients of the WHO/FIL and WHO/ONCHO series the essentials of important and new findings. Many recipients, especially those working in less-developed tropical countries where filarial diseases are endemic, may not have access to the journal(s) wherein the new information is to be published, or even to the abstracting journals which relay the information in shortened form a year or more after publication. They may therefore for long remain ignorant of important new advances.

Contributors to this category are reminded that papers appearing in the WHO/FIL and WHO/ONCHO series of information documents do not constitute formal publications, and this fact is clearly stated in the footnote printed on the front page of each document. Authors do not therefore compromise their position by submitting a preview summary of their findings to the WHO/FIL and WHO/ONCHO series; and they are free thereafter to submit the fully-detailed versions of their contributions for publication in any scientific or medical journal of their choice. They should, however, indicate on the summary sent to the WHO/FIL and WHO/ONCHO series the name of the journal in which the full text is likely to be published.



The issue of this document does not constitute formal publication. It should not be reviewed, abstracted or quoted without the agreement of the World Health Organization. Authors alone are responsible for views expressed in signed articles.

Ce document ne constitue pas une publication. Il ne doit faire l'objet d'aucun compte rendu ou résumé ni d'aucune citation sans l'autorisation de l'Organisation Mondiale de la Santé. Les opinions exprimées dans les articles signés n'engagent que leurs auteurs.

2. Preliminary reports of findings that appear to be of importance, but which are unlikely to be ready for submission to a journal for at least another year

Such contributions must be limited to 2000 words (i.e. 4 document pages), but may include up to 4 additional pages of essential tabular or graphic material.

3. Reports of negative findings, which are unlikely ever to be formally published, but which could, nevertheless, serve an important function in preventing other scientists from fruitless effort

In this category particularly, contributions should be brief and confined to essentials. They must be limited to 2000 words (i.e. 4 document pages). If essential tabular or graphic material is to be included, this will have to be at the expense of word space (e.g. for a half-page graph deduct 250 words).

4. Review articles, reports, working papers, etc., of general interest to workers on filariasis and onchocerciasis, prepared by WHO scientific working groups, consultants, temporary advisers or staff members

Original contributions to categories 1, 2 and 3 above, written in English or French, are henceforth invited from the readers of these series or their associates. Acceptance of papers for issue in the series will be at the discretion of WHO and will be conditional on their conforming to the above requirements with the understanding they will be subject to editorial revision.

Readers who subsequently require additional information concerning any particular paper in the series are invited to write directly to the author(s) of the document concerned.