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# Web & Media

**TECHNOLOGIES DIVISION**

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## Introducing the World Wide Web

During the mid-1990s the World Wide Web became available as a service on the Internet, causing a revolution. Millions of web sites appeared, allowing people to shop online, communicate with colleagues on the other side of the globe, and find information about any conceivable topic.

## Formal establishment of a web entity

Once the website was established on the internet, a web office was created within the IT Division. Since then, the responsibilities of the web office have grown exponentially, and moved to the Knowledge Management Division when this was established four years ago. The web office continued to grow and expand its services, and when the IKM Directorate was restructured last year, it eventually became a separate entity: the WMTD.

## Vision

The vision of this division is to translate and disseminate MRC research and knowledge assets to our stakeholders and the public, mostly through online services, but also through offline media in a format that audiences can understand. There is a large IT component to the work in the division, and suitable technologies are evaluated continuously to meet this vision.

Start imagining the potential offered by web and media technologies in your workplace...

## What we do

We provide two Internet portals: AfroAIDSinfo, an HIV/AIDS information resource for southern Africa, and the Intranet portal, which caters for the unique requirements of MRC staff. The eight web sites range from the MRC's corporate site to the SA HealthInfo (a health knowledge network), with three more under development.

Our services extend to online databases and applications that are vended through a web front-end. These range from databases for web site registration, managing MRC publications and administering funding for research, to corporate developments for the management of travelling, conference attendance and BEE suppliers. We also have designed an application for CV's and budgets, and many more.

The WMTD assists MRC staff in discovering how to work smarter by harnessing multiple applications that truly facilitate knowledge management in their own environments. This is done by presenting specifically developed courses, or by compiling courses on demand.

A new venture of the division is the establishment of a production studio with a specific focus of translating research done at the MRC. This will be done through radio broadcasts, scientific videos and films with an emphasis on encouraging community participation. The various audiences will thus be able to understand and identify with this research area.

## The WMTD and you

In future issues of this newsletter we hope to share our projects with you in more detail. As you learn more about our projects, you are also encouraged to let us know how we can assist you in your work with the powerful media at our disposal.

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