bulletin

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PANORAMA

Thematic portfolio

Controlling bovine tuberculosis: a One Health challenge



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Protecting animals, preserving our future

Since its creation, the OIE has collected data on animal disease outbreaks in its Member Countries. While not all the publications in printed format prior to WAHIS have been digitised as yet, a large number of them are available online in the OIE Documentary Database, presenting a valuable mine of information.

One of the main missions of the OIE, as stated in its Organic Statutes [1], is to collect information from its Member Countries on the presence and distribution of animal diseases and the methods used to control them, the purpose being to avoid the spread of epizootic diseases at the international level.

The original list of nine diseases notifiable to the OIE has expanded considerably over the years to reflect developments in the world animal health situation. Two major changes that have taken place are that two lists – a list of 16 diseases justifying monthly reporting (List A) and a list of 40 diseases to be reported on annually (List B) – were adopted in May 1964 [2] before being combined into a single list in May 2004 [3]. In 2019, the OIE list includes 117 terrestrial and aquatic animal diseases selected according to criteria specified in the *Terrestrial Animal Health Code* and the *Aquatic Animal Health Code*, respectively.

Over time, the procedures related to notifying diseases and implementing control measures came to be refined and harmonised.

OIE archives accessible in various media

Historically, the OIE's publications relating to notifications of animal diseases consisted of the following (Fig. 1):

- the **OIE *Bulletin***, created in 1927, which, up to 1988, published information that included notifications of outbreaks and the annual reports of the Veterinary Services of Member Countries and non-members;
- a weekly publication, during the period 1988–2006 (***Disease Information***), containing the notifications received from countries;
- the compilations of ***Annual statistics and the animal health situation in Member Countries***, which, from 1949, summarised outbreaks by year, disease and country, were superseded in 1985 by a single annual publication, ***World Animal Health*** (since 2015 in digital format only).

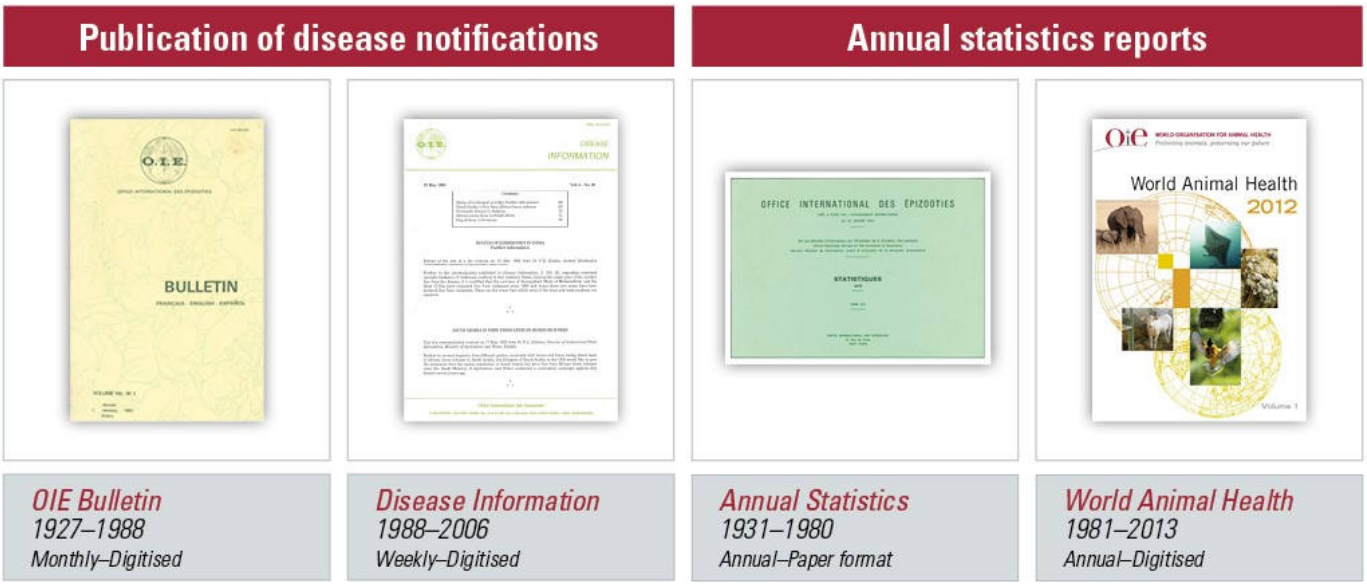


Fig. 1. Historical OIE publications on animal diseases

Since the beginning of the 1980s [4], the OIE has been operating an **international animal disease reporting system** (animal health information system), which has been progressively standardised and computerised. The data collected since 1996 are available online in World Animal Health, HandiStatus II (1996–2004), WAHIS (since 2005) and soon in its modernised version (OIE-WAHIS), due to be launched during 2019.

The example of bovine tuberculosis

Bovine tuberculosis was added to List B in 1968. However, a policy on the subject had started to take shape in the form of a Recommendation adopted by the International Committee of the OIE in May 1948 [5] and restated in 1950 and 1954. Since 2005, information on bovine tuberculosis has been collected on a six-monthly and annual basis, within the framework of the 'monitoring system' component of the OIE World Animal Health Information System, and can be reported in an immediate notification and subsequent follow-up reports within the framework of the 'early warning system' component.

For information prior to 1968, the *Bulletin* contains reports from Delegates on the statistically based results of the first control measures taken by developed countries at the start of the 20th century, including successful eradication campaigns in Nordic countries [6, 7], but it also sheds light on the progress made in fighting bovine tuberculosis worldwide [8] during the 20th century.

In 2017, the OIE, FAO and WHO joined together to launch the first *Roadmap for zoonotic tuberculosis* [9], based on a One Health approach. One of the priorities of this roadmap is to improve the scientific evidence base by collecting and presenting more complete and accurate data from human and animal populations.

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DOSSIER

Historical data on animal disease outbreaks

The contribution made by the OIE archives

KEYWORDS

#animal disease, #archive, #bovine tuberculosis, #disease outbreak, #history, #list of notifiable diseases, #Member Country, #statistics.

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The OIE is an international organisation created in 1924 with a mandate from its 182 Member Countries to improve animal health and welfare. Its activities are permanently supported by 301 centres of scientific expertise and 12 regional offices with a presence on every continent.

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