

THE REPLACEMENT OF ANIMALS IN PRACTICAL CLASSROOMS: THE ACTIVITIES OF THE EUROPEAN RESOURCE CENTER FOR ALTERNATIVES (EURCA)



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The 3 Rs (Russell and Burch 1959)

- Replacement
- Reduction
- Refinement



Article 25 of the European Convention for the
Protection of Vertebrate Animals used for
Experimental and other Scientific Purposes

- *“procedures carried out for the purpose of education, training or further training of professionals... shall be restricted to those absolutely necessary for the purpose of the education or training concerned and shall be permitted only if their objective cannot be achieved by comparably effective audiovisual or any other suitable method”*



Alternatives

- Models, mannequins, mechanical simulators
- Films, interactive videos
- Computer simulations, virtual reality
- Self-experimentation
- Plant experiments
- Field studies
- Waste materials from slaughterhouses
- In vitro studies on cell lines
- Dead animals
- Clinical practice

Advantages of alternatives

- Repetition of experiments
- Unambiguous and complete data
- Built-in self-assessment
- Demonstration of phenomena that are unobservable
- Cheaper than animals
- Save time

Problems related to the Introduction of Alternatives

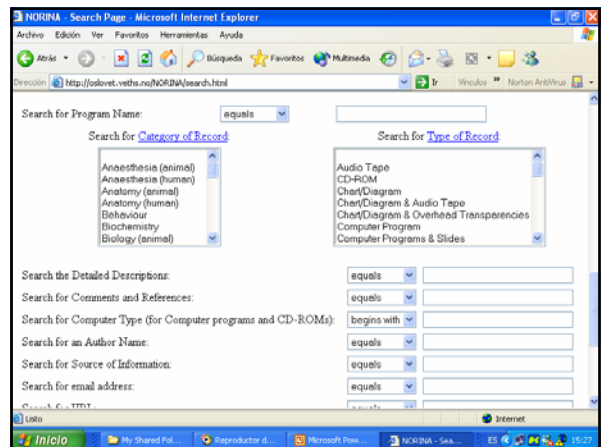
- Resistance to change
- Initial investment of time and money
- Dissemination of Information
- Quality variability
- Financial and technical factors

How to find information?:

A wide range of alternatives exist to reduce or replace the use of animals in higher education.

The NORINA database

<http://oslovet.veths.no/NORINA>





EURCA

European Resource Center for Alternatives
in Higher Education

<http://www.eurca.org>



WORKSHOP

“Alternatives to the use of animals in
higher education”
sponsored by 'ECVAM' (The European Centre
for the Validation of Alternatives Methods).

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Aims of EURCA

- to actively promote the use of alternatives to using animals in higher education (HE);
 - to provide a mechanism for effective dissemination of useful information about alternatives to using animals in HE;
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Activities of EURCA

- set up a content-rich web-based database of selected ('tried and tested') alternatives to using animals in HE
 - assemble a collection of quality alternatives (CAL, video, models, using humans rather than animals to teach experimental science etc) and make them available to teachers for evaluation
 - actively disseminate information about alternatives by taking the resource centre to major international scientific meetings
 - offer advice to teachers on good practice in using alternatives based on the experiences of teachers who have implemented alternatives at universities throughout Europe
 - encourage and promote the findings of evaluative studies on the effectiveness of alternatives in HE
 - establish a European network of teachers actively using alternatives to share experience
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Thanks for your attention

