

The Italian Portal for Classifications

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D039p

Abstract Among the first initiatives of the Italian Collaborating Center for the Family of International Classifications there is the design and development of a portal for hosting classifications and terminologies in their Italian translation. The portal has been designed according to recent technological trends, implemented and populated with the first classifications, that include ICD, ICF, and NAP (Nomenclatore di Anatomia Patologica).

Introduction

Among the first initiatives of the Italian Collaborating Center for the Family of International Classifications there is the design and development of a portal for hosting non only the WHO international classifications in their Italian translation, but also other classifications of national interest.

The portal has been designed in order to fulfill the development perspective individuated in the last years by the collaborating center network. This includes the following features:

- ClAML based representation of classifications;
- usage of SemanticWiki technologies for the maintenance and distribution part of the web site;
- exploratory works in the use of Semantic Web technologies and in particular of OWL (Ontology Web Language) and the Protégé editing tool.

The portal has been designed, implemented and populated with the first classifications, that include ICD, ICF, and NAP (Nomenclatore di Anatomia Patologica). Further classifications are expected to be introduced into the Portal.

Methods: the Portal

The Portal includes two subsections: a CMS module, for hosting documents, news, a forum, etc., and a Wiki module for classification management. The CMS has been developed in PHP, starting from already available software. The Wiki section has been developed basing on the SemanticMediaWiki open source software, with templates suitably developed accordingly with those adopted by LexWiki, with local modifications.

Methods: Classifications

The Italian translations of ICF, ICF-CY and ICD10 version 1 have been edited by means of Lexgrid Editor, and then exported towards ClAML using self-made scripts. ICF and ICF-CY are being made available in ClAML in a bilingual file, including Italian as well as English versions.

In addition to that, the Portal started an agreement with the Italian Society of Pathologists (SIAPEC) to host and support development of the Nomenclatore di Anatomia Patologica (NAP). For NAP, a prototype template for submission of modification proposals has been already developed and is being tested by the committee in charge of NAP development. With the commitment of Italian representatives using ICD11 TAG for rare diseases, also a section on ICD11 has been recently added, where proposals from the Italian group are gathered.

Conclusions

The Italian portal for classifications (<http://www.reteclassificazioni.it>) is becoming a national reference for classifications and terminologies, due also to the agreement with the Ministry of Labour, Health and Social Policies, that officially recognised the role of the Italian WHO-FIC Collaborating Centre in the development and management of classifications. The portal is thus not only meant at the WHO-FIC classifications, but also at others of national interest, among which a notable place is taken by NAP (Nomenclatore di Anatomia Patologica). Although ready since the beginning of the year, it has been formally presented only in September 2009; however, the community of users is starting to grow and cooperate.