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for the FIC
in The Netherlands

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the Environment

WHO Family of International Classifications (FIC)

NEWSLETTER

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A Standard for Classification Indices

A classification scheme may contain one or more indices. Each index consists of terms that refer to one or more classes in the classification scheme. A term consists of an essential part that determines the classification code and may also contain non-essential parts, which do not affect coding. In some cases, a term is extended by one or more other terms, which together index one or more other classes. In other cases, the term (also) refers to other terms, that actually index one or more classes.

An index is typical for printed documents. Electronic documents are searched easily on individual terms. Word complexes are harder to find. In the case of classifications, the standard PC search functions are not sufficient. Indices to classifications are carefully constructed in order to guide the reader to the most appropriate codes. As such the index is a kind of knowledge base which implicitly represents part of the coding rules.

A quick scan on a variety of health related classification schemes has revealed that there is quite a diversity in indices found in the printed editions. Organisation of the index is not always strictly logical. Also the format is not always explicit and consistent. The example from ICD10:

-placenta (with hemorrhage) 072.0
--without hemorrhage 073.0

is easy to interpret by humans, but difficult to understand for machines.

The ICD9-CM goes further and also mixes traditional indices with tables, and explicit coding instructions.

Due to this diversity and complexity the Taskforce decided not to include indices in the CEN/TS 14463 (ClAML) standard. It is also not included in the proposed revision prEN 14463 which is now open to comments until 27th of September (See <http://www.who-fic.nl/documents/claml.html> if you are interested in being involved in the revision process).

In line with ClAML we propose to start an activity within the WHO-FIC network to develop a representation format for indices of classifications (CliML). This format could be submitted for integration in ClAML at a later stage. A preliminary study on this topic has been done in 2003 in collaboration with the colleagues at DIMDI.

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Editorial

This is an unusual version of our newsletter: one contribution concerning a general classification issue "A standard for classification indices"; a few contributions concerning related members of the WHO-FIC such as ISO9999 and ICECI; and finally information around ICF conferences and other ways of sharing information, including lots of ICF references. Light mental food for our readers to digest during the coming months. We will prepare a longer newsletter version in autumn after the annual WHO-FIC network meeting 2006 in Tunis.

For information concerning the annual WHO-FIC network meeting 2006, see <http://www.who.int/classifications/network/meeting2006/en/index.html>.

A pilot study on the structured collection of information relating to ICF implementation, education and related electronic tools has been carried out on behalf of the involved WHO-FIC committees. The results and follow-up will be showed during the annual WHO-FIC meeting 2006. The electronic form for information collection will be available and the database will be accessible in the near future through the website of our centre www.rivm.nl/who-fic

We wish you a pleasant summer/winter 2006!

International Organizations

WHO-FIC Network

Inquiry on the use of ICECI

Extract from the report on the use of ICECI.

The ICECI is a member of the World Health Organisation's Family of International Classifications. It has been developed to be used to record injuries all over the world. To gain insight in the use of ICECI or parts of it, a questionnaire has been developed to get this insight in the use of ICECI on an international level. The information from the questionnaire will help us (and you) to exchange knowledge and experiences between (potential) users and to further explore improvements in ICECI and its use.

The questionnaire has been pre-structured to facilitate the processing of information into an informative data-structure format in the same manner as for the collecting of information on ICF.

The questionnaire and an explanatory letter were sent to (Epidemiologic) Research Centres, Hospitals, Universities, Insurance Companies, National Institutes and Health Centres all over the world, known to be involved or interested in information in injuries in the period of January – February 2006.

The returned and completed forms were entered into an electronic structure, similar to the structure of the Questionnaire in an electronic (ClAML) format, allowing easy access and an online search functions in CBrowser.

Results

We received 15 forms and 7 emails with unstructured information.

10 Completed forms were received from: Singapore, China, Indonesia, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, Canada, Argentine and Columbia (3).

Five forms with minimal information were received from Germany, Norway, Canada (2), and the USA. One of the forms only mentioned not to make use of ICECI..

Unstructured reactions by E-mail were received from Hungary, Canada, New Zealand, Chile, Colombia and one of unknown origin. These reaction were all about not using ICECI. A Dutch E-mail mentioned that ICECI was an important classification used for developing the EU Injury Database (IDB) Coding Manual.

The ICECI-Info framework could be filled with 14 items on Use of ICECI, 9 items on Use of elements of ICECI, 13 items on Translation of ICECI, and 13 on Conversion, Implementation and General Questions on use of ICECI.

It is still planned to have the French and Portuguese translation ready this year.

Through the users questionnaires it turned out that ICECI is also translated into Norwegian, while a German and Indonesian translation is planned.

The information has been organised showing the affiliation of the submissions, within the items of the framework. All the information from the questionnaires has been processed into ClAML format and is now available for online browsing.

More in detail information will be presented at the WHO-FIC Network meeting in Tunisia.

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FIC around the World

Australia

Improving information on disability and functioning

The Australian Collaborating Centre (Australian Institute of Health and Welfare) organized last February in Sydney, Australia, a two days forum entitled "Improving information on disability and functioning, a forum for people who need, use or develop information". The titles of the sessions and the amount of presentations show how much the ICF is accepted and used in Australia. We mention the titles of the sessions as an indicator for the issues presented and discussed: ICF and international developments; ICF across specialty areas; measuring health and disability in surveys; the environment and participation – research and development of these components of the ICF; measurement and data capture in service delivery and information systems; ICF and connecting with what matters; rehabilitation, compensation and aged care; the ICF, sharing information and some challenges; ICF in rehabilitation. We expect the presentations to be posted at www.aihw.gov.au.

For information:

Ros.madden@aihw.gov.au

North America

NACC meeting 2006

Last June the North American Collaborating Centre (NACC) organized its 12th annual ICF meeting in Vancouver Canada entitled "Living in our environment: the promise of ICF". Several interesting contributions (papers and posters) relating to social and physical environmental factors (subjective and objective measurement) have been presented, including one special session devoted to oral health and the environment. Other plenary or concurrent sessions were dealing with topics such as: ICF

in surveys; social policy and the European Union; rights, rehabilitation and disability; ICF Children and Youth; ICF in clinical practice; ICF through the stages of life. The power point presentations of the meeting are available at:

http://www.icfconference.com/prog_pr es.html

and papers will be available at

<http://www.icfconference.com/>

NACC meeting 2007

Information concerning the NACC meeting 2007 (Niagara Falls, NY, USA) is to be found at

<http://cirrie.buffalo.edu/icf/icfconferen ce.html>

ICF Community of Practice

A new activity relating to the ICF has been started: a Community of Practice (COP). This is a group of people who share a common concern or passion for an activity and attempt to do it better through interacting regularly. The ICF Forum-COP is an interactive venue dedicated to fostering online threaded discussion of various ICF topics suggested by the moderator. Present topics include: clinical applications with ICF-based assessment tools; clinical applications with cross-mapping ICF; survey applications; use of technology in processing electronic health records; reliability and validity studies; Activity and Participation, the four WHO options; convergence and integration; education; formal coursework and CME education; training tools and techniques, training and coding; policy; assistive technology; environmental assessment and issues; ICF-CY; life cycle and ICF; needed research.

Your suggestions, ideas, comments and participation are welcome.

For information:

<http://cirrie.buffalo.edu/icf/cop>

John Stone, manages the overall direction of the COP, jstone@buffalo.edu

Paul Placek, manages message threads and discussions, pjplacek@verijzon.net

Marcia Daumen, responsible for web architecture, daumen@buffalo.edu

NACC ICF clearing house

A somewhat longer existing way of sharing information around the ICF is the newsletter of the NACC ICF clearing house. A monthly newsletter is being sent to all participants on the mailing list for free. The newsletters are to be found as well on the website.

For information:

http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/about/otheract/ic d9/icfactivities_yr06.htm

The Netherlands

Collection of comments on ISO 9999-ICF cross-references

A draft version of the cross references between the **Error! Reference source not found.** (ISO/FDIS 9999:2005(E).2) is now available for comments. For this purpose the secretariat of ISO (NEN) in collaboration with the Dutch WHO-FIC Centre has processed the ISO 9999 text document into electronic format (ClAML) and from this central document into a Request For Comments (RFC) document.

The collection of comments works on the principle of personalised documents and a central moderator providing direct personal feedback. This means that all persons who are requested to comment on a document or want to participate in this process, have to be known and registered by the central moderator. These persons will receive a personalised RFC document which is uniquely identified by the Dutch Centre.

For the collection of comments on documents, the Dutch WHO-FIC Collaborating Centre has a web based Response Service. By means of this Response Service comments are collected in one central point and in a structured way through a web-interface.

Comments are entered directly in the comments section of the Response Centre's webpage and after submission, the person immediately

receives a copy of the comments by e-mail.

The Dutch WHO-FIC CC intends to use this service on a request for comments for the ISO9999-ICF cross-reference document. WHO-FIC Collaborating Centres, RO's and other members of the Network are invited to participate in the inquiry.

The web address for this inquiry is:

<http://www.who-fic.nl/documents/iso9999-icf.html>

The online facility may be a useful tool in the future but is not yet the official commenting tool. Please try it as it may become of great importance in our efforts to increase efficiency in the work of the WHO-FIC Network

Further information on document preparation and procedures can be found at <http://rfc.who-fic.nl>. Please read the instructions carefully.

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The screenshot shows a web interface for the 'RFC Collect Service'. At the top left is the WHO Collaborating Centre logo. To its right are logos for 'rivm' (National Institute for Public Health and the Environment) and 'UMC St Radboud'. Below these is a header 'WHO Family of International Classifications (FIC)'. The main title is 'RFC Collect Service'. The document being commented on is 'ISO9999-ICF.doc' with 'release: 2'. On the left, there are buttons for 'All Page 57 Comments' and 'My Comments'. The form fields include: 'Comment From' (Huib ten Napel), 'Page / Line' (57 / 6), 'Marked text' (09.12.30 TOILET ROLL HOLDERS definition, Devices for holding toilet paper in an accessible position, ICF, Hand and arm use (d445), Toileting (d530)), 'Nature of comment' (Editorial selected, minor selected, major unselected), 'Comment on Page 57 / 6' (a large text area), and a 'Submit Comment' button at the bottom.

Example of Request For Comment Collect Service window

New online browse facility for Classifications

The WHO-FIC Collaborating Centre for the Dutch language offers a facility for browsing translated versions of WHO-FIC Classifications by means of CBrowser. This requires local installing of CBrowser on a MSWindows PC and connects the user with the Centre's Terminology Server. Before the end of 2006, CBrowser will be replaced by an online browsing facility through a web interface, which no longer

requires installing of local software. This also makes it possible to offer

the services of online browsing for classifications in other languages, such as the ICPC-2, ICECI, ISO9999-ICF in the English language, etc. This change also implies availability on a variety of operating systems, as well as in firewall-protected environments.

The availability of the online browser will be announced on the Centres website and in the second Newsletter of 2006 after the WHO-FIC Network

meeting in Tunis. A beta-version will be available soon at the permanent link <http://classifications.who-fic.nl>.

For information:

newsletter@who-fic.nl

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