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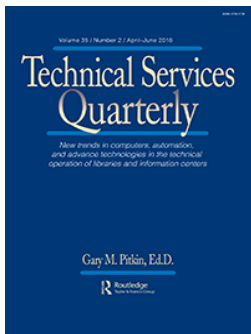
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Using Medical Subject Headings MeSH in Cataloging.pdf

Lisa Romano

Using Medical Subject Headings (MeSH) in Cataloging

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of UC Berkeley's takedown of 20,000 educational videos from YouTube in response to a 2017 complaint regarding those videos' inadequate closed captioning. The toolkit also omits key recent developments in the law and best standards, such as the federal government's 2017 revisions to Section 508 accessibility standards. Among other changes, these revisions added colorblindness to the list of disabilities requiring accommodation. While comprehensive and nicely curated, the toolkit needs updating.

Alongside content and currency, usability and accessibility are key for quality assessment. The toolkit excels at both benchmarks. Testing with free versions of the Web Accessibility Evaluation Tool (wave.webaim.org), the AChecker (achecker.ca), and SortSite (powermapper.com/products/sortsite/) disclosed only a handful of minor accessibility problems: one obsolescent HTML <bold> tag, one empty label field, a couple of absolute rather than relative CSS units, one instance of redundant text, and other comparatively trifling concerns. The website boasts a small sticky sidebar that enables users to toggle font size and colors. In-person usability testing, with two academic librarians who had not previously encountered the toolkit, was also satisfactory. Testers praised the descriptive anchor text and chunking of content, the distinctive bold headings and subheadings, clear color contrast, and consistent use of white space. The pages proved fully responsive on mobile devices and smaller viewport sizes. One tester complained that the homepage was not labeled "Home" in the top navigation bar. Overall, however, this website excels at universal design.

Overall, the ARL Web Accessibility Toolkit is an excellent online resource that sets a high bar for any successors focusing on web accessibility in libraries. Updates must occur on a regular basis for the toolkit to remain relevant and useful, reflecting the most current standards and practices for accessibility. ARL should dedicate staff or volunteer time to refresh the site every year.

Rating: 4 out of 5

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Check for updates

Using Medical Subject Headings (MeSH) in Cataloging

https://www.nlm.nih.gov/tsd/cataloging/trainingcourses/mesh/intro_010.html

In August 2017, the National Library of Medicine (NLM) released an updated version of their training website "Using Medical Subject Headings (MeSH) in Cataloging," which gives an overview of subject analysis and the various elements of MeSH. The site consists of an introduction plus eight modules. A list in the left column provides direct access to the modules. Within each module, the training is broken down into several subsections. These subsections can be accessed by clicking the plus sign symbols next to the module names in the left column. Additionally, Previous Section and Next Section links are available at the bottom of the site pages.

The Introduction module contains system requirements and some introductory information. However, it is missing an overall introduction to the site. Module 1 Subject Analysis Principles offers an overview of the basic concepts of subject analysis including determining subject content, objectivity, and controlled vocabularies. This information is helpful for new catalogers and useful review for others, whatever the types of headings used.

The second module Introduction to Medical Subject Headings (MeSH) includes the definition and structure of MeSH, types of MeSH records, and examples. It explains the differences between the three types of records (descriptor, qualifier, and supplementary concept) and when to use them. The text mentions that qualifiers and supplementary concept records have two tabs without explaining them. The MeSH browser section (Module 3) first gives an overview of the fields in the MeSH browser and then shows how to search in the browser. It also describes several search options, though it might be more helpful if the searching examples were included in the search descriptions instead of at the end of the section. These two modules present a large amount of information and form the basis of assigning MeSH.

Modules 4 Descriptors: Selecting the Main Concept(s) provides key information on assigning the main NLM subject headings, detailed information for specific types of terms, several examples, selecting terms, and using descriptors in a catalog record. Qualifiers (Subheadings), Module 5, contains a definition of qualifiers, examples, and guidelines on when to use each term. These two modules offer helpful insight for users who are unfamiliar with medical terminology. Geographicals (Module 6) includes information on when to use these terms, catalog coding, and name changes. A brief description of how to use the geographic trees and a sample screenshot in this module would be beneficial.

The Publication Characteristics (Module 7) explains how to apply publication types in NLM. It offers advice on when and how to use these terms, information on historical terms, and catalog coding. Additionally, it provides special instructions on different types of publications. Module 8 Names or Work Titles as Subjects describes how to assign personal, corporate, and conference names plus an introduction to work titles. Most of these terms are taken outside MeSH from the name authority file (NAF), but unfortunately this module does not provide a link to NAF.

Each module ends with review questions. After selecting an answer to a review question, correct or incorrect appears next to the selection. In many of the modules, the exercises reinforce the concepts by having users look up terms in the MeSH browser which helps clarify the information presented. Only Module 1 has a summary section. Other modules may benefit from a summary review.

This site is easy to use but does present a few display issues. The modules do not cover the full screen and there is no way to expand them. The display is better on a tablet where it fills the screen. The introductory material in each module is repeated. Users may need to click Next section again to advance the module. Additionally, some pages have a Next page option near the bottom of the page. This option is little confusing and distracting. There should probably be one set of navigational icons on the pages or the pages could be longer. Some of the links (such as the MeSH browser link in the Module 3 review) should bring up a new window instead of replacing the current one.

The "Using Medical Subject Headings (MeSH) in Cataloging" site offers a free introduction to NLM subject headings that is clearly presented. Plus, it delivers an overview of subject analysis by providing some overall concepts that are also good for other headings such as Library of Congress. This site is useful training for all catalogers.

Rating: 4 out of 5

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VOSviewer

http://www.vosviewer.com/

VOSviewer is a free tool for making maps to visualize bibliometric network data. The name comes from visualization of similarity, and it was developed by the Center for Science and Technology Studies (CWTS) at Leiden University by Nees Jan van Eck and Ludo Waltman. The developers also created the CitNetExplorer tool for visualizing citation patterns that was reviewed in *Technical Services Quarterly* issue 31.4 in 2014.

The latest VOSviewer version 1.6.6 was released on October 23, 2017, and requires Java support. The major functionality enhancement of version 1.6.6 is that it allows uploading freely available data from CrossRef. In addition, VOSviewer can read data from PubMed, RIS files, Pajek files, GML files, and proprietary databases such as Web of Science and Scopus.

VOSviewer can be used for purposes such as these that are illustrated on the Products page of the site:

- To visualize a university's research profile to show the strengths and weaknesses of output and the publication distribution across scientific fields to make comparisons with other universities.
- In a disciplinary field, to show the research areas of publications and visualize the impact of research groups or areas of interest.
- To see topics of high impact using the text mining feature on citation density maps to show an overview of the keywords from abstracts and titles from a set of publications during a given time period.
- To show collaboration between authors, groups, or universities and track citation relationships through time to see how researchers are working with one another at a glance.

Many colorful visualization examples are featured on the center of the VOSviewer homepage and throughout the site to build interest in the tool. The homepage is easy to navigate and has horizontal tabs at the top of the page. The Getting Started tab has a tutorial video and documents that walk through the steps to create a variety of maps. The book chapter has the easiest to follow step-by-step instructions on creating networks for researchers, journals, and terms on pages 18–23, but the users could benefit from a more concise tutorial than what is provided. The 11-minute Introduction to Vosviewer video shows how to create visualizations with several examples including one that shows how to download data from the last 10 years from one journal indexed in Web of Science and then get an overview of topics extracted from the titles and abstracts in a term map. The Manual is the most comprehensive of the instructional tutorials on the Getting Started page. It provides