

International Health Terminology Planning

Semantic interoperability
for better health information systems

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Having it right !

Health system information
or
Health Information System

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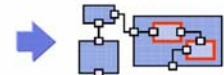
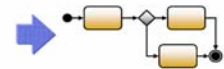
Focus: the information paradox



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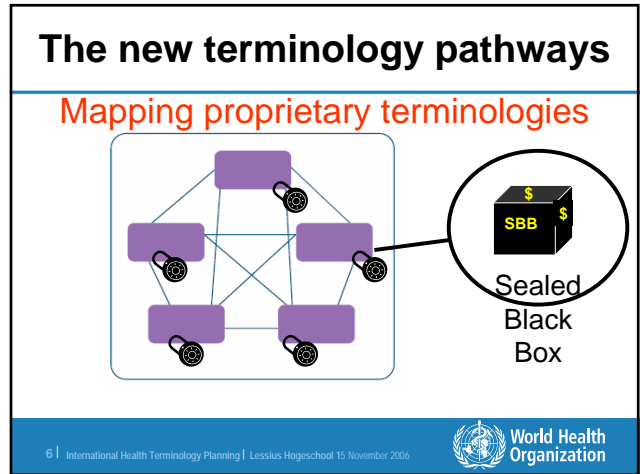
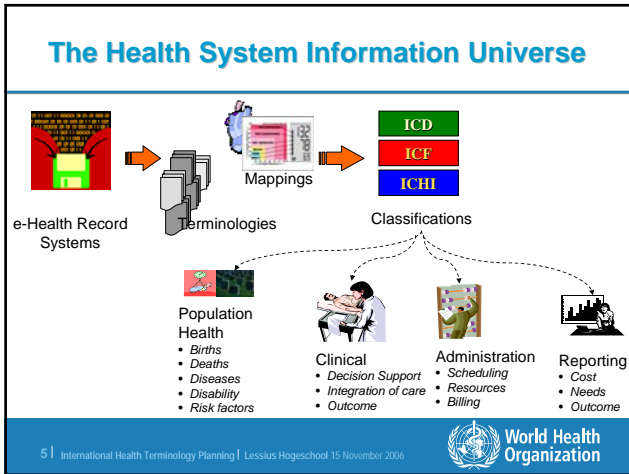


Approaches



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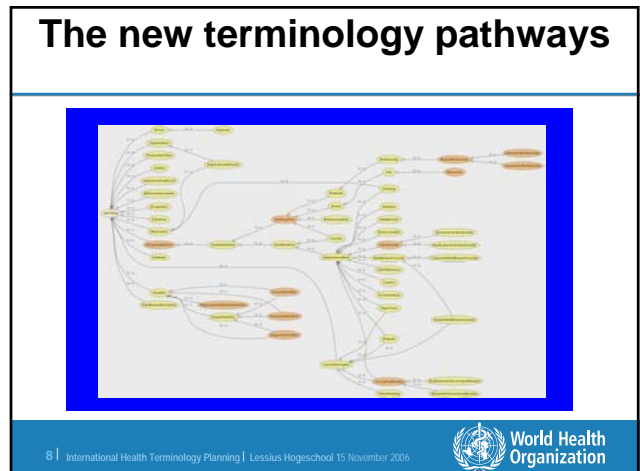


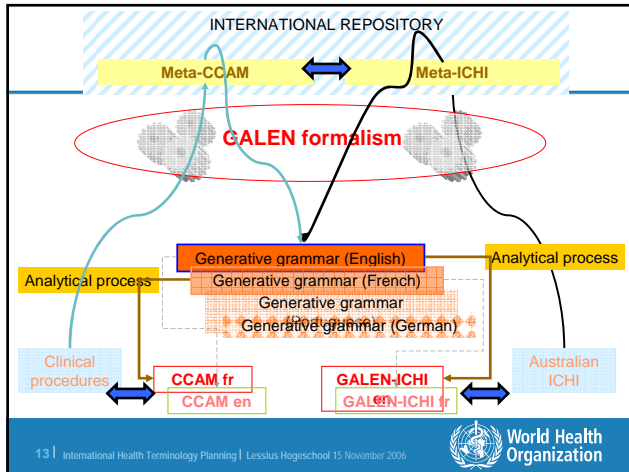


Bee-farming

- **Administrative structure**
 - Groups (Coordinating Group, Workgroups)
 - Post-docs as worker bees
- **Reviews**
 - Epidemiology & Scientific Stream
 - Clinical
 - Public Health
- **KM Platform**
 - Internet based platform
 - *Online classifications* journal
- **Field Trials**
 - Practice Networks
 - Special trials
- **Mapping Diagnosis**
 - Using formal terminologies and operational definitions
 - Chapter V to **Map of Medicine**

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The Constitutional Mandate

- In line with WHO's constitutional mandate and core functions to develop of common norms and standards on health information, we propose to bring several parties together in the field of **health terminology** in a **network** designed to **share knowledge and collaborate towards creation of international norms and standards.***

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Assets for the international community

In the current Health Information Systems numerous terminologies (and other ordering systems, such as nomenclatures, classifications) have been used. They include, among many others:

- WHO international classifications such as ICD, ICF and other derived or related classifications,
- a number of WHO terminologies like the WHO Drug Dictionary, the traditional medicine terminology, the International Nonproprietary Names (INN) for pharmaceutical substances, etc.
- Health terminologies produced nationally or internationally on particular subjects by public or private institutions in WHO Member States.

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Most of these terminologies have emerged **independently** and **without a vision** of common overall information system that is **interoperable** across various domains, users and languages.

Several elements or **fragments** of terminologies need now to be **integrated** with appropriate and relevant standardization and **quality assurance** procedures to respond to the needs in digitalizing health information systems.

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An international reference system

- A terminology infrastructure serving as a international health terminology reference system:
 - Proper underlying ontology and knowledge representation
 - Tools and procedures for standardization
 - Multilingual applications that enable the same constructs be consistently applied in a comparable manner in different cultures.
 - Linkages between relevant terminology entities and aggregation logic (e.g. coding into ICD, ICF... DRGs etc)
 - Quality Assurance procedures

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Concrete measures

- WHO guidance to Member States on relevant norms and standards, and support to capacity building in countries to facilitate the uptake of international standards for the development of national by-products and applications (incl. possible services based on terminology data, as well as similar kinds of structured content)

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Basic Principles

- Multilingualism
- Web-based data distribution
- Continuous Development and Quality Improvement
- Shared technological standards
- International Public Good
- Relations with established products
- Measures for equity and balanced dissemination

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International Health Terminology Network

Based on the requirements cited above, a terminology infrastructure is proposed to be spearheaded by WHO involving academic centres of excellence and other interested parties with expertise and resources.

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Invitation

Expressions of interest
from academic and other institutions,
whether public or private,
and from interested individuals
are welcome!

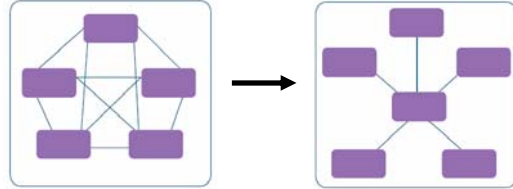
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The new terminology pathways

From mapping...
...to semantic interoperability



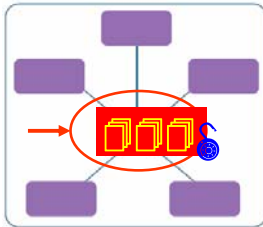
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The new terminology pathways

**International Standards for
Health Information...**

**Open Source
Reference
Registries...**



Proprietary
application

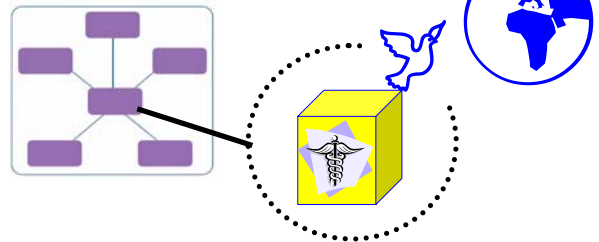
Proprietary

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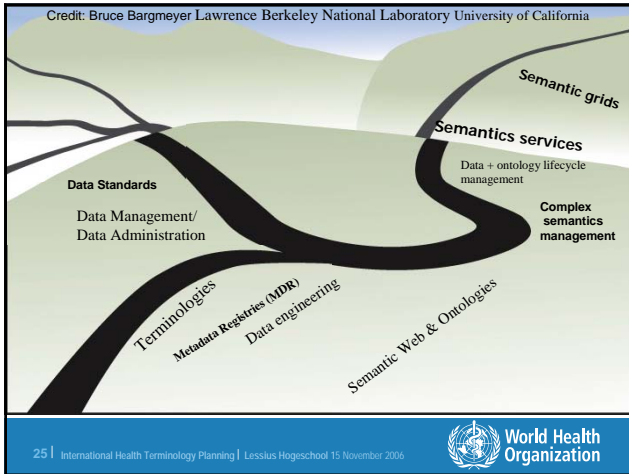
The new terminology pathways

...as international public good



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THANK YOU!

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