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Online ICD Updating system
Web portal based solution

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Abstract Updating ICD on a yearly basis is a task that requires a high level of collaboration between different parties: The originator of the proposal, experts, collaborating centres (CC), Update and Revision Committee (URC) and WHO headquarters. We have designed a web portal based solution which will not only facilitate the workflow of this process but also serve as a medium for collaboration.

Introduction

The core of the web portal is a web application that is based on the lifecycle of the update proposals (*See Figure 1*)

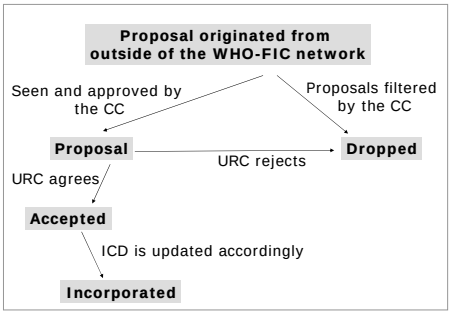


Figure 1

The web application allows users to enter new proposals in a predefined format. This form is based on the existing update submission guidelines of the URC. In addition to the predefined fields, the user can attach documents to the proposal or hyperlink to other web references or publications.

All of these information will be kept in a central database on a WHO server and other users will be able to access them using their web browser. They can add their comments, suggestions, arguments on the proposal which are also kept together with the proposal. *Figure-2* is a screenshot from the software. Here, the screen is divided into three main parts. On the left we see the list of proposals, When clicked on one of them, we see the details of the proposal on the main screen. The discussions or commentary from other users are displayed on the bottom part of the main screen.

Authorized users can modify the proposal and when there is a consensus they can reject or accept it.

If the update proposal is accepted and implemented in ICD, then the status of the proposal is changed to "incorporated" so that it can still be accessed from the portal but is not mixed with the open proposals.

The list of proposals and incorporated updates can be viewed, downloaded or searched. Filtering will also be possible so that the users can query the database asking the list of updates done in certain year or done on a specific section of the ICD, etc.

Methods & Materials

We have used Microsoft Windows SharePoint Services (WSS) to implement the web portal.

WSS is a Microsoft tool that offers basic web portal functionality. In addition to that, it includes a flexible user authorization mechanism that allows us develop a system in which different users with different levels of access can perform their roles without the risk of unauthorized access or updates.

One of the most important advantages of SharePoint against many other similar products is that it can be programmed to enhance its capabilities. This is extremely important because the system as explained above has some specific requirements which had to be added by programming. On the other hand, using a web portal framework is much faster than developing such a system from scratch as the infrastructure and most of the functionality is already available.

Results

A working version of the application is placed in WHO's SharePoint server but it still needs some improvements before it is ready to be used. The improvements that are required are as follows:
- Improved filtering and searching.
- Checking the validity of ICD codes.
- Adding a printer friendly version.
- Enhancing the user authentication mechanism.

Conclusions

The amount of updates in ICD per year is still in the range that can be handled by using conventional methods. However, as we approach the ICD revision, we need to be able set up mechanisms that enable more efficient and transparent ways to tackle the challenges that we are going to face.

The application introduced in this poster can be enhanced for the revision and could be very useful in that process which will require a larger number of updates in the classification as well as increased number of people and groups working on it.

