WHO-FAMILY OF INTERNATIONAL CLASSIFICATIONS NETWORK MEETING 2005
16-22 October
Tokyo Japan

Development of ICF Illustration library

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Abstract "ICF illustration library" is an illustrated web-site version of the World Health Organization's International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (ICF). These illustrations facilitate people to understand the essence of each item of the ICF, and those who wish to obtain the illustrations can download them freely for non-commercial use. The software program for constructing the ICF Illustration library is designed for multi-language use.

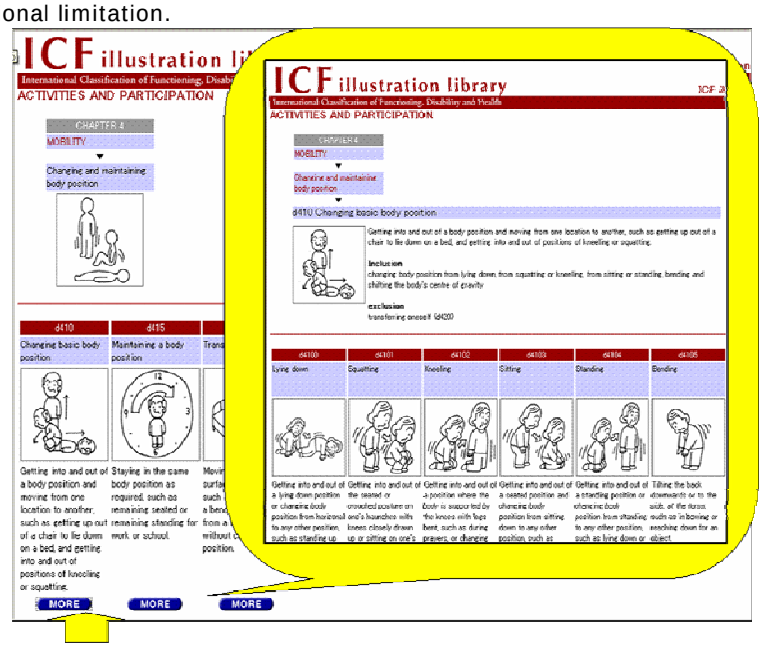
Introduction

ICF provides a unified and standard language and framework for the description of health and health-related states. However, its complexity prevents us from using ICF as basic language as we use ICD. If content of the ICF is shown in simpler way, the comprehension of the ICF will be enhanced.

The use of illustrations has progressively evolved in medical education and practice(1). Illustrations are known to be useful in the assessment and they increase the reliability of the instrument(2). The illustrations also enhance communication between people with functional limitation(3). Visual supports such as illustrations or photographs are widely utilized especially on web sites for helping people to understand the content more easily and swiftly.
Therefore, we developed illustrated library of the ICF on the website named "ICF illustration library".
Our intension to build this library was to facilitate the understanding of the ICF and to enhance the communication of health care professionals and people with functional limitation.

Development

On developing the system, authors scrupulously discussed the essential points of each ICF item, which should be emphasized by each illustration.
The idea to convert the literal content of each ICF item to illustration is based on our previous experience on developing the elderly functional assessment instrument with illustrations, which is named "Typology of the Aged with illustrations(TAI)"(3), for long-term care of elderly persons.
A professional illustrator Kunitoshi Okuda drew every illustration under supervisions of the authors.
This ICF Illustration library has the same structure as that of WHO's website. In addition, it has two unique characteristics.
First, we added illustrations to most items of the ICF and they are provided for free from our website for non-commercial use. Every user can obtain all illustrations by downloading them at "ICF illustration library" site. The second characteristic is that it can be easily translated into other languages. The program is designed to generate multiple language versions of the illustration library.
The illustrated library of the ICF can be found at
http://www.icfillustration.com



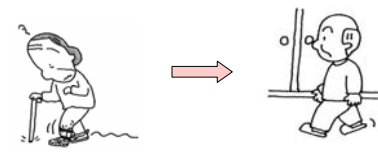
By pressing these buttons, you will obtain detailed information.

Results

Utility
This illustration library has wide utility. For example, we can use these for a standardization of the ICF concept on measuring functional status.
It can be applied to education, too.
Although we tried to make every illustration adaptable to worldwide use, some people may find the illustrations have a Japanese taste. Therefore, we are planning to evaluate these illustrations for universal applicability for further improvement.

Future development
New language versions
We want to provide the illustration library in as many languages as possible. Those who want to construct the ICF Illustration library in their languages for non-commercial purpose, please contact Jiro Okochi via e-mail (PXU14045@nifty.ne.jp).

Illustrations with disabilities
As our illustration library is limited to normal elderly functioning, we would also like to develop the illustration library that shows several degree of disability for children and adults.
Then health professionals and people with disabilities can share the aim and goal of the rehabilitation more easily.


Present Goal

Conclusions

We sincerely hope that this illustration library will help understanding of people's function, disability and health status.

References:

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