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Door enkele projectmedewerkers is deelgenomen aan het Slice Of Life congres in Portland, Oregon. Dit congres richt zich volledig op computer ondersteund onderwijs voor het medisch vakgebied.

Specifiek voor het SCALE project waren de workshop over metadata en het plenaire discussiepanel "Metadata, Taxonomies, And Cataloging Of Curricula And Their Content", waarin door één van de projectmedewerkers een presentatie werd verzorgd.

Tijdens de discussie lag sterk de focus op onderwerpsclassificaties. De daarbij gebruikte taxonomieën worden niet alleen als navigatiestructuur ingezet, maar ook als ondersteuning van free text retrieval. Voor bepaalde taal-taxonomie-combinaties zijn free text indexing en retrieval tools ontwikkeld (bijvoorbeeld de Franstalige SNOMED)

Classificaties van moeilijkheid/leerniveau, leerdoel en dergelijke werden in de discussie aangestipt zonder voorbeelden van oplossingen die breed gedragen worden. Er kwamen weinig reacties op het aspect van automatische Coaching. Op dit moment wordt metadata vooral gebruikt voor ondersteuning van object retrieval (zoekmachines) en voor een "harde" koppeling tussen leerobjecten, en nauwelijks voor een het genereren van "zachte" koppelingen. Harde koppelingen worden in de metadata opgenomen, bijvoorbeeld via het IMS "relation" veld, terwijl zachte koppelingen automatisch worden gemaakt op grond van (andere) metadata.

Daarnaast is in een postersessie de huidige versie van LRS.Net gedemonstreerd. Het congres heeft veel positieve reacties opgeleverd en een flink aantal nieuwe, internationale accounts in het LRS.Net.

CLASSIFICATION OF COMPUTER BASED TRAINING PROGRAMS

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Focus

Terminological principles are used to develop an extensive classification for computer based training programs that can be used by all who want to organize CBT material.

Problem

In a cooperation of several medical faculties we intend to use a common set of Computer Based Training (CBT) programs through the Internet. To enable students as well as teachers to find relevant programs from this collection a set of useful criteria is needed.

Method

An inventory has been made on relevant types of requests for CBT material from several user groups: students, teachers, curriculum designers and CBT managers. The set of requests was analyzed to model a set of necessary descriptors of CBT material. Furthermore the goal descriptions of CBT material used in our institutions were analyzed to search for possible values for each of the descriptors. As far as values couldn't be derived from the goal descriptions other documents describing the CBT-programs were used.

Results

The set of descriptors with their relevant values is the content of the classification of CBT programs. The set contains MeSH for describing medical content and several additional descriptors for skills, competencies, and administrative and technical aspects. This will now be used in a CBT request module as part of an Internet based Lesson Registration Program. This classification also will be used by other medical schools in the Netherlands and can be of use for other institutes internationally.

DISTRIBUTING COMPUTER BASED TRAINING THE EASY WAY WITH THE LESSON REGISTRATION SYSTEM (LRS.Net)

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Problem

In the last 5 years the distribution of Computer Based Training (CBT) material has shifted to the Internet. This shift necessitated a change in the presentation and monitoring system for CBT material.

Method

To distribute and monitor the use of CBT a Lesson Registration System was build with Microsoft.Net technology (LRS.Net). This system consists of a central web-server and a database. The database holds three major tables: Lessons, Accounts and Sessions. The lesson table holds information on the lessons and the reference (URL) to the lesson on the Internet. This enables referring to lessons somewhere on the Internet as well as our own lessons. To assure the presence of CBT material of others, each night the LRS.Net system checks all the URLs. Students of our own institution are automatically imported in the Account table periodically. Other (internet) users can create their own account. The use of lessons by users is registered in the Session table.

Results

LRS.Net has been online since 2004 and has logged all lesson- and student data centrally. It was used by our own students as well as students all over the world. The number of accounts and lessons are still growing prosperously. In 1 year the number of lessons has grown to more than 350, used by more than 5000 users in over 30000 interactive sessions. Because it is an open system, anybody with a valid email address can create his own account. LRS.Net is therefore a source of Medical CBT, interesting for all medical educators in the world.