MeSH

Agenda
- Lecture
- Break (reconvene Lab 225)
- Class Exercise

Objectives

1. Articulate the characteristics of MeSH and other vocabularies

2. Demonstrate how to turn a natural language search into a MEDLINE search

What are these?
They are...

- Carnivora
  - Canidae
    - Canis familiaris
      - (Dog)

- Dachshund
  - badger dog, Teckel

- German Shepherd
  - Alsatian, German Shepherd Dog (Alsatian)

  [http://www.dfc.ca/dfc-update.png](http://www.dfc.ca/dfc-update.png)

Variations within a breed

- Poodle (Standard) - name from the German word puddeln which means "to splash in water."
  - Standard
    - over fifteen inches
    - early 19th century
  - Miniature
    - under fifteen inches
    - was granted separate breed status by The Kennel Club (England) in 1910
  - Toy
    - under eleven inches
    - separate breed classification by The Kennel Club (England) in 1910

Putting it all together...

- Carnivora Canidae
  - Dogs (Canis familiaris)
    - The domestic dog, Canis familiaris, is a member of the family Canidae, comprising about 400 breeds, of the carnivore family Canidae. They are worldwide in distribution and live in association with people.

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  - badger dog, Teckel

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- Foxes (Vulpes)
- Wolves (Canis lupus)
Aspects of Dogs

- What would you like to know about dogs
  - Breeding
  - Feeding
  - Grooming
  - Care
  - Training
  - History

How does this relate to MeSH?

What is MeSH?

- Medical Subject Headings
- Thesaurus of terms
- Used by NLM to index articles from ~5,000 of the world's leading biomedical journals
Definitions

- Controlled vocabulary
  - Subject specific terms i.e. neoplasms
  - Set format for spelling, endings i.e. color
  - fetus, dog, neoplasms

- Natural Language
  - Everyday words i.e. cancer
  - Can vary in format i.e. colour/color
  - fetal, foetal, dog, dogs

Dogs and MeSH

- Controlled vocabulary
- Hierarchical (tree) arrangement of topics – broader and narrower terms allows you to be as specific as you want when searching
- Has definition of term
- Is continuously updated to reflect changes in terminology

Carnivora
  - Canidae
    - Dogs (Canis familiaris):
      - Dachshund
      - German Shepherd
      - Poodle
      - Standard
      - Miniature
      - Toy
    - Foxes (Vulpes)
    - Wolves (Canis lupus)

'Exploding' MeSH

- What do you do if are looking for references on all poodles?
  - Dogs (Canis familiaris):
    - Dachshund
    - German Shepherd
    - Poodle
    - Standard
    - Miniature
    - Toy

- Broader and narrower headings
  - Hand
    - Fingers
    - Thumb

- 'Explode' the broader heading 'hand' to include the indented headings
Exercise – Assigning MeSH

- Four (4) abstracts will be passed out
- Working in 3’s
  - Read abstract
  - ‘Index’ article based on abstract – identify approximately 5 concepts using 1 or 2 words per concept
  - Look up your concepts in the MeSH browser – record terms you find

Together

Med Ref Serv Q. 2003 Fall; 22(3): 63-74.
Integration of information literacy into a revised medical...

The Keck School of Medicine of the University of Southern California's newly revised Year I-II curriculum integrates information literacy components based on the AAMC's medical informatics objectives throughout the two-year continuum. Students are required to participate in various components taught by librarians from the Norris Medical Library including (1) an information skills workshop, (2) a yearlong literature search project, and (3) an evidence-based medicine resources workshop. Critical appraisal of literature also is included in the curriculum to ensure that the students are familiar with the various research study designs. Librarians also provide resources to assist students in researching learning issues related to cases presented in the curriculum. To encourage the faculty mentors to serve as good models of information users, librarians offer brief training sessions on information resources to faculty.

MeSH Terms:
- California
- Computer literacy
- Computer user training*
- Curriculum*
- Education, Medical, Undergraduate/organization & administration*
- Evidence-Based Medicine/education
- Human
- Librarians
- Libraries, Medical/organization & administration*
- Medical Informatics/education*
- Mentors
- Schools, Medical
- United States
More about MeSH

- **Subheadings** - added to MeSH term to further reflect article's content
  (e.g. dogs/history for history of dog breeds)
  (e.g. aspirin/ct contraindication for aspirin)

- **focus** - MeSH term is one of main points of article (e.g. *aspirin*)

- **check tags** (e.g. publication type, animal, human, male, infant, adult)

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MeSH Browser

- Try looking up the following terms in the browser – look at the hierarchy, definition of term
  - Neoplasms
  - Infants
  - Medical specialties
    - Neonatology