

THE CASE FOR A NOMENCLATURE OF MEDICAL EDUCATION AND AN INTEGRATED DIGITAL ASSET MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (DAMS)

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The focus of this presentation will be for librarians, content developers and content authors. It will highlight the value of an authoring system and processes to utilize a comprehensive and concept based nomenclature of medical education that is used for educational asset indexing and retrieval. Integration of this digital asset management system into the authoring process will reduce overall cost and development time.

As libraries of electronic educational content grow, the need for an efficient, cost-effective means of organizing and retrieving digital assets for re-use and sharing becomes critical. However, currently available controlled terminologies that are applicable to the healthcare domains were developed specifically to meet the needs of clinical medicine. No existing controlled vocabulary is available to meet the needs of medical education as a specific healthcare domain. Currently available controlled vocabularies such as MeSH and SNOMED are either too coarse in their granularity or too focused on clinical medicine or one particular medical discipline. For example, detailed concept-based terminologies are required to meet the demands of the basic sciences such as embryology, biochemistry, and physiology.

Distance learning technology companies Medantic Technology and MD Informatics have partnered to develop software that allows the incorporation and modification of existing vocabularies or the de novo development of controlled vocabularies to meet the needs of medical education. An example of a nomenclature of medical education that is integrated into a vocabulary-driven, digital asset management systems (DAMS) technology for remotely indexing, storing, searching, and retrieving multimedia digital content will be demonstrated. When the vocabulary-driven DAMS is integrated with authoring systems, content development time and costs are greatly reduced and content redundancy is eliminated. Widespread adoption of this methodology will allow widespread sharing of material between institutions.