Reviewer's report

**Title:** Repository on maternal child health: Health portal to improve access to information on maternal child health in India

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**Reviewer:** Hao Tian

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This manuscript describes a Web-based health portal, Repository on Maternal Child Health, which aimed at providing one-stop access to efficiently search, organize and share maternal child health information relevant from public health perspective in India. It evaluated the web utilization of the portal over the initial 18 months after the release, and assessed the quality of information accessibility and management on the web site.

Overall, the research question and motivation are well defined. The manuscript is well written and the methodology is clearly described. While this manuscript reports an interesting and potentially important health portal in India, there are several modifications required before it is good for publication.

**Major Compulsory Revisions:**

**Background and Methodology**

1) The authors reported that the information on the health portal was collected from various resources including Internet searching, and raised the concerns about the quality and accuracy of information publicly available on the Internet in the 4th paragraph of (page 5) BACKGROUND section. However, this question is not addressed in this manuscript. The authors need to describe how this health portal validates the information from external data sources, and how to keep its web content updated or synchronized with the original data sources. The quality assessment in this manuscript focuses on the web information accessibility and management, and provides no details on the content quality control. The scope of quality assessment should be clarified in either BACKGROUND or METHODOLOGY section.

**Results**

2) As reported in Figure 2, the bounce rate decreased dramatically during the last 4 months. A dramatic change in Web traffic or navigation patterns is usually triggered by some relevant events. Were there any promotion activities or events related to this health portal happened during the last 4 months? Was the increase trend also observed in the number of visits to the web pages in “Topics / Themes” section? The authors may want to discuss these points in the manuscript.

3) Although the increase of the number of visits over 18 months is a strong indicator of success of the reported health portal, the total number of monthly
visits is only about a few thousands, which is relatively low comparing to the web traffic volume to other health websites, such as Wood, et. al., J Med Internet Res. 2005 Jul-Aug; 7(3): e31, D’Alessandro, et. al., Pediatrics. 1999 Nov; 104(5):e55, and Tian, et. al., J Med Internet Res. 2009 Dec 21; 11(4):e52. The potential reasons of low web traffic volume need to be explained.

Discussion

4) Authors stated that “The success of the portal has also motivated stakeholders who were initially reluctant to share information, to send in their resource materials and facilitate sharing of information at the national level” (last sentence of 2nd paragraph on page 17). The authors need to include some data to support this statement.

5) It will be useful if the authors can share the lessons learned from developing and evaluating this health portal, and discuss the potential factors that affected (both positively and negatively) the web traffic volume to the website.

Minor Essential Revisions:

1) The abbreviation “MDG” should be spelled out in its first use.
2) If the data are available, the authors may want to report the number of visits or page views to each Topic category.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.