Reviewer’s report

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

**Version:** 1  **Date:** 1 October 2012

**Reviewer:** Duncan Edwards

**Reviewer’s report:**

The article is an interesting description and analysis of the Repository on Maternal Child Health which, in my view, is an excellent platform for the communication of knowledge on Maternal Child Health within the Indian context.

**Minor Essential Revisions**

"Open Source" and "Open Access" used interchangeably - they are different; Open Access refers to the unrestricted access to peer reviewed journals via the internet. Open Source is most usually used within the context of software where both the software and the source code for the software is freely available via an Open Source License for revision and reuse. It might be better to find a more appropriate term to describe the content that the repository is making available.

**Major Compulsory Revisions**

Overall feedback is that it would be helpful to articulate how this links to a theory of change on how the provision of maternal and child health information contributes to positive change in the world. For example, illustrating a theory of change diagrammatically might help in highlighting at what points the portal contributes to this change and helps guide decisions made and priorities within the portals ongoing development. Reference is made to “to avoid duplication of efforts, no attempt was made to start a discussion forum as a vibrant discussion platform already exists in India” – this implies that discussion is seen as part of how knowledge brings about change but that quite rightly there was no need for the Repository on Maternal Health to provide this functionality as this facility already exists elsewhere. But being clear about this might help the portal team think about how the portal links into these existing spaces for discussion. A theory of change would also help to identify which might be the most useful web analytics to use as indicators of success.

**Discretionary Revisions**

The statistical information in the report illustrates that the portal is being used, this usage is increasing over time, and would suggest that the visitors to the site are finding value in the content. It would be interesting to include some qualitative data in the analysis to investigate who these visitors are? What value they are getting from the site? What are they most interested in? What do they do with the information they glean from the portal?
The sentence - “Google Analytics is a free service offered by Google that generates detailed statistics about how visitors liked a particular website, how was it explored, and what changes can be made to improve the visitor’s experience.” – I would disagree with this, Google Analytics can only report on usage of a site, it can’t make any value judgement about the site e.g. whether a user “liked” the site. It can help to indicate where there might be areas to improve a site but these are usually points for exploration with additional methods such as usability testing, user surveys, etc.

Really interesting outcome from the success of the portal is a behaviour change where people are more willing to share their materials and resources.

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