Reviewer's report

Title: A MEDLINE Categorization Algorithm

Version: 1 Date: 13 July 2005

Reviewer: Christian Lovis

Reviewer's report:

General
This paper proposes a new categorization methodology based on MeSH and on a new list of "superconcepts" developed by the authors. This list has been done manually and is pretty generic, including mostly medical/clinical specialties. The authors created links between this list and MeSH entries. They also developed an heuristic to measure the "distance" between the MeSH entries of a paper and the "superconcepts".

The author did not provide any formal evaluation of their work.

The paper is well written and structured. A careful review of the style should be performed in order to have the text looking better.

The methodology is clear and understandable.

The objective and result are not original and do not provide significant improvements in the field of bibliometry. However, it is an efficient and pragmatic approach that will considerably ease the work of evaluating the major domains of publication within a set of paper indexed in MeSH, such as the bibliography of a paper, the production of a scientist or the papers in a journal. The production of the list of superconcepts, and their links to MeSH, as it has been done supposes a remarkable work.

Therefore, this paper is worth publishing with minor style revisions.

Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)

none

Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)

Title: Complete the symbols
First $ of abstract is the same than 1st $ of introduction, correct
The paper should be carefully corrected for style and layout, such as:
Replace dot with comma, page 4, line 5
Put major in italic, page 4, line 12
Formula page 4, line 14, add space before the symbol +
Formula page 4, line 15 seems to have an error

Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)
What next?: Accept after minor essential revisions

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

Statistical review: No

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests