Living Textbooks

Textbooks for all over the world

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2. How did the project come about?

- Richarda Böttcher, a hand surgery specialist, was invited to write a textbook
- She disagreed on the publishing conditions
- She asked us informally if we could imagine to publish the book online
- We could!
2a. The idea of living textbooks

- It is like an online textbook in which new articles can be published or updated any time: it’s living!
- The living textbook project combines systematic manuals and textbooks with non-textual materials.
- The idea is to publish, update and expand the material in a collaborative and dynamic way.
2b. The idea of Living Textbooks

- Science belongs to the scientists
- Copyright belongs to the authors
- Acceleration of knowledge transfer
- Improvement of perception
- Facilitation of traceability and access
- Continuous citeability and archiving
3. Is there a scientific basis for the project?

• The authors are all scientists and all the accepted articles have successfully passed through peer review.

Foreword

The novel concept behind this Hand Surgery Textbook, is to provide readily-available and up to date information electronically, which addresses all aspects of the Hand, and is freely available on the Internet. Furthermore, since the aim of the originators of this text book is to represent the collective knowledge and views of the international “Hand Management Family”, all knowledgeable experts are invited to participate and contribute. The aim is to have a data base of the latest facts, experience and expertise which is continually updated, and is readily accessible by everyone involved in the management of the Hand. The Charter of the International Federation of Societies for Surgery of the Hand (IFSSH) states that its main objective is to promote and disseminate knowledge about the Hand. It is for this reason that the IFSSH endorses this initiative, and would encourage all its members to be actively involved in this ongoing, “living” project. The title of this book therefore aptly reflects these elements: “Living Textbook of Hand Surgery”.

With sincere regards to all my colleagues.

Ulrich Mennen
4. Who is the target group of the project?

For the pilot-project “living textbook of handsurgery”:
- hand surgeons from all over the world,
- medical students
- and even patients, if they wish to be informed about the surgery they are about to undergo.
5. What is the current status of the project?

- We have programmed the publishing software
  - the first version is finished and now we are in the testing phase

- Lots of organizations have shown great interest in our project
6. Which partners are involved in the project?

- AWMF (Association of the Scientific Medical Societies in Germany) and its 168 Learned Societies (with about 200,000 members)
- The German society for Surgery of the hand
- IFSSH (International Federation of the Societies for Surgery of the Hand)
7. What's next?

- We will expand the project in a more didactic direction:
  - First we will publish the open access peer-reviewed articles,
  - then academics will also have the possibility to publish their didactic materials,
  - we will create a forum in which the community will be able to interact,
  - an e-learning-platform with the possibility to test the results of the students.
8. What are the main lessons learned from the project?

- People from all over the world are getting interested

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Central_Intelligence_Agency