

The Adoption of a Controlled Nursing Vocabulary in Finnish Scientific Journals

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Abstract. "Hoidokki" is a Finnish controlled nursing vocabulary for indexing and information retrieval purposes. Its second edition includes nearly 1000 terms. In this study, the congruence between the key words of three Finnish scientific nursing journals and the vocabulary was explored. Also, the content of the vocabulary was validated. The data included key words (N = 208) used in 49 articles of three scientific journals in 2006. Two experts used content analysis to judge each key word and inter-rater reliability was calculated. Delphi-method was used to evaluate the potential new terms.

Keywords: content analysis, evidence-based practice, nursing terminology, research utilization

Introduction

The lack of a Finnish nursing vocabulary has emerged among nursing professionals searching for nursing knowledge, and librarians when indexing nursing literature to databases. The project to develop a controlled nursing vocabulary was launched in 1999 by The Finnish Nursing Education Society. The main goals of the project were: 1) to enhance nurses' access to literature, thus to support research and the integration of best practices in health care organisations, and 2) to support indexing purposes; especially indexing Finnish nursing knowledge to promote evidence-based practice. Today, the second edition of the vocabulary ("Hoidokki") includes nearly 1000 terms. The validity of the vocabulary has twice been tested for indexing nursing research.

Aims and objectives

The purpose of this study was to analyse the congruence between the key words of three scientific nursing journals and Hoidokki-vocabulary. At the same time, the purpose was to validate the content and the structure of Hoidokki-vocabulary. The objectives were 1) to explore, what keywords have been used in three scientific nursing journals, 2) to analyse the portion of the keywords that base on Hoidokki-vocabulary, and 3) to evaluate the relevance of potential new terms for Hoidokki-vocabulary.

Methods

The data included the key words (N = 208) used in articles (N = 49) of three Finnish scientific journals in 2006. Content analysis was used to explore the congruence between the key words and the terms of Hoidokki-vocabulary. The congruence was defined as "exact", "partial congruence" and "no congruence". Partial congruence was defined as differences e.g. in phrases or in singular or plural forms of the terms. Two experts analysed each keyword and inter-rater-reliability was calculated. In relation to

the potential new terms for Hoidokki-vocabulary, Delphi-method was used. The panel included five nursing experts with academic credentials for terminology work.

Results

After excluding repetitive terms, 198 keywords were analysed. The congruence between the keywords and terms of Hoidokki-vocabulary was exact for 38 % (n = 75), partial for 23 % (n = 46) and non-existent for 39 % (n = 77) of the keywords. The inter-rater reliability of the analysis varied from 78 to 91 percent. The analysis revealed inconsistency in the amount of the Finnish and corresponding English keywords. In addition, the translation was not always appropriate. The keywords often were too broad, e.g. nursing, management, education, or they included terms from the title of the article.

In consequence of the analysis, the relevance of 97 potential new terms was evaluated by Delphi-method. The required unanimity was 80 %. In all, 46 percent (n = 45) of the terms on trial were included in Hoidokki-vocabulary.

Discussion

It needs to be noticed that in spite of regular marketing of the vocabulary in educational and university contexts and national congresses, only one of the three journals guide authors to use keywords from Hoidokki-vocabulary. The marketing needs to be emphasised further. The appropriate and widespread use of Hoidokki-keywords will enhance the retrieval and utilization of nursing research. The adoption of the vocabulary will be followed annually by similar analysis described in this poster. Maintenance and development of the Hoidokki-vocabulary will follow the international and national trends and user-feedback. Twice a year, potential new terms will be evaluated and existing terms may be modified, re-named or deleted.

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