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Reorganization of Japanese Textbooks for Nursing Informatics

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Abstract

In order to reorganize Japanese textbooks for nursing informatics, we compared the contents in three recent Japanese textbooks for students of nursing, nurse managers and healthcare information technologists with those in the latest American textbook. The American textbook had twenty or seventy times as many items as corresponding contents to the Japanese textbooks. The results indicated the necessity of a considerable improvement in Japanese textbooks of nursing informatics for nursing managers.

Keywords:

nursing informatics, textbook, education

Introduction

The Japanese government expects that national healthcare costs will rise dramatically in the future. New strategy in 2006 recommended that maximizing IT structural reform capabilities will be essential in resolving these issues. The Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare actively promoted comprehensive and effective computerization throughout the medical, healthcare, nursing and social welfare fields. There was no certification program for informatics nurses in Japan. However reorganization of Japanese textbooks for nursing informatics is necessary to train Japanese nurse informatists as soon as possible.

Methods

We used three Japanese textbooks published in 2004 for this comparison.

The first one was the fourth edition of an introduction to nursing informatics for students (TBI).

The second one dealt with health information management for nurse managers (TBM).

The third one showed the way to implement and update clinical information systems for healthcare ITs (TBH).

Some nurses applied to take the certification examination for healthcare information technologists, and our previous

study proved that the certification requirements for healthcare ITs were similar to those for informatics nurses.

We regarded the American textbook, Saba's fourth edition[1)] (TBS), as the latest standard work, because it was revised in 2006. We compared the index of each textbook with that of the American textbook.

Results

All Japanese textbooks had an English index. TBS had over 2000 items in the index. However, the Japanese textbook had few English items. In the Japanese index, a total of 492 items were found in TBI, and 347 in TBM. There were 662 items in TBH (Figure 1). All Japanese textbooks were found to have fewer contents.

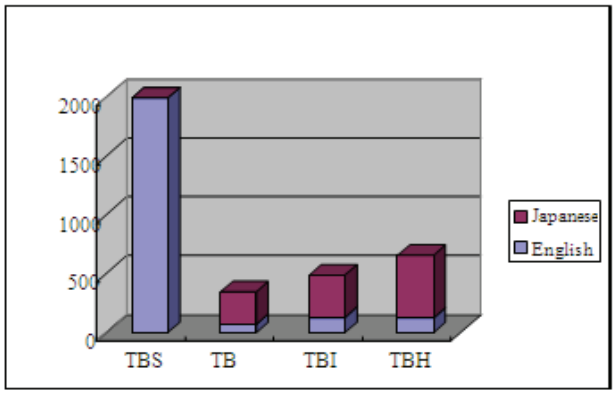

Figure 1- Total items in index

113 items in TBM were the same as those in TBS, while TBI had thirty four corresponding items and TBH had twenty nine items (Figure 2). TBM had more corresponding items than the other Japanese textbook surveyed

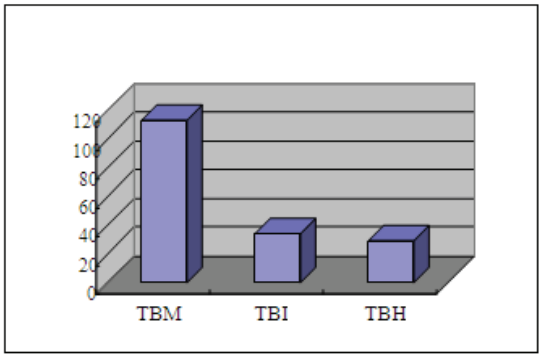

Figure 2- Items corresponding with TBS

Fifty two items in TBI and in TBH were the same as those in TBM (Figure 3). TBM had more corresponding items with other Japanese textbooks than TBS.

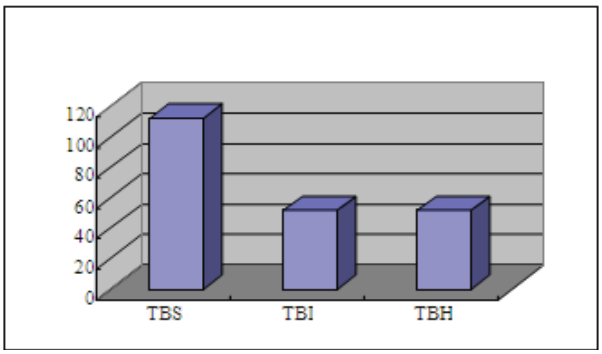

Figure 3- Items corresponding with TBM

Items found in only one textbook were prominent. Sixty seven items were found in only two textbooks, and thirty items were found in only three textbooks.

Only 16 items were common to all Japanese textbooks, and could be classified into two groups: 9 items were related to data sharing and standardization, and 7 items were related to electronic health records (Table 1).

Table 1- Items found in all Japanese textbooks

Group 1	
	Data sharing, ICNP, ICN, HL7, ISO, NIC, SNOMED, EBM, Standard Privacy Policies
Group 2	
	EHR, Nursing record, Specifications, Informed consent, Information, Security, Data warehouse

Discussion

Japanese textbooks were not standardized. Each textbook had many independent items.

Using Saba's textbook as a reference, all Japanese textbooks were found to have fewer corresponding contents. Most of the contents in Japanese textbook did not correspond with those in the American certification examination for informatics nurses.

The Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare is promoting the implementation of electronic health recode in every hospital. However no educational program for nursing informatics specialists existed in Japan. Many nursing managers are confronted with issues related to the effective use of electronic health records. The finding that TBM had more corresponding items with TBS than with the other Japanese textbooks surveyed illustrated the need for increased information and knowledge in nursing informatics among Japanese nursing managers.

Conclusion

Japanese textbooks should be standardized and the content for nursing managers should be improved.

References

[1] Saba V, K, McCormick K, A. Essentials of Nursing Informatics (4th ed.). McGraw Hill, 2006.

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