International Medical Informatics Association

REPORT OF THE VICE PRESIDENT SERVICES

Reinhold Haux

1. IMIA YEARBOOK OF MEDICAL INFORMATICS

The IMIA Yearbook 2001 on digital libraries in medicine has been published and distributed. A report on this book can be found in Methods of Information in Medicine 40 (2). 163-7 (www.methods-online.com)

The IMIA Yearbook 2002 will have the special topic 'medical imaging Informatics. Casimir Kulikowski and the IMIA VP for Services will again edit it.

2. IMIA SERVICES STRATEGIC PLAN

A strategic plan for IMIA services has been updated and is attached for presentation and review to the IMIA General Assembly.

The report has taken into account the results of at the Hannover meeting; salient points include:
- Maintaining and extending the IMIA www site
- Publishing the IMIA Yearbook of Medical Informatics
- Publishing MEDINFO Proceedings
- Publishing IMIA events in scientific journals
- Establishing a method to address health informatics practitioners through health informatics periodicals.

International Medical Informatics Association (IMIA)

IMIA Services Strategic Plan

Submitted to the IMIA General Assembly 2001
in London, September 1st, 2001
Preliminary versions had been discussed
at the IMIA Board Meeting and the IMIA General Assembly
at August 25 and 26, 2000 in Hannover
and at the IMIA Board Meeting at March 31st, 2001 in Madrid

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IMIA Vice-President for Services

1   Introduction

The following information and publication services are identified as being of significant importance to IMIA in order to provide valuable services for the members of IMIA's national and regional societies and for its Institutional and Corresponding Members. There are different responsibilities for these services.

2   IMIA Information and Publication Services

2.1   IMIA Web Site

Responsibility: IMIA Executive Director.

IMIA's web site is regarded as important and should continue to be enhanced. An open list server, in particular for members of member societies, Working Groups, etc. (similar to the one of IMIA Working Group 1) should regularly inform and actively point to IMIA's Web site.

National and regional IMIA organisations, Working Groups/Special Interest Groups as well as major health organisations such as WHO, NLM should be encouraged to set links to this Web site.

Redundant processes such as those of the IMIA website and the IMIA Yearbook production (e.g. independently requesting reports from national societies, working groups, etc.) have to be avoided.

Suggested strategy: continue to extend the information contained on the IMIA web server.

2.2   IMIA Yearbook of Medical Informatics

Responsibility: Casimir Kulikowski and Reinhold Haux as Yearbook Editors.

Under the leadership of Jan van Bemmel and Alexa McCray the IMIA Yearbook of Medical Informatics was established. It became an important document annually summarising high quality research in health and medical informatics and IMIA activities.

IMIA 'white papers' such as the recommendations on education should be included in the Yearbooks. Details of the Yearbooks (table of contents, abstracts of original papers) should be available on the Internet.

Suggested strategy: continue to publish IMIA's Yearbook of Medical Informatics. Extend on-line (Web) accessibility. Modify sales strategy, in particular with respect to permitting ordering of the Yearbook by individuals.

2.3   MEDINFO Proceedings

Responsibility: IMIA Vice-President for MEDINFO and the editors of the MEDINFO Proceedings.

These proceedings summarise the progress of health and medical informatics research and are regarded as important outcome of MEDINFO congresses.

In order to get high-quality papers it is important that all proceedings are referenced in Medline. The current discussions of having MEDINFO proceedings available on CD-ROM (like the proceedings of the AMIA Fall Conferences) and to organise the submission (and, finally, publishing) of papers on-line are of great importance.

Suggested strategy: That MEDINFO Proceedings continue. IMIA should welcome initiatives by publishing companies to establish an electronic library for the MEDINFO Proceedings.

2.4   IMIA Journal Publications

a)   Scientific Journals

Responsibility: IMIA Vice-President for Working Groups/Special Interest Groups and IMIA Vice-President for Services

Journal publications become of increasing importance, for scientists especially publications in high-level scientific journals. Selected high-quality papers of (inter-) national conferences and of working conferences by IMIA members, special interest groups, and working groups are already now occasionally published in recognised international journals. This tradition should be enhanced in cooperation with the editors of high-level health/medical informatics journals.

IMIA news in such journals would be helpful to disseminate IMIA information and to enhance IMIA's public image.

Suggested strategy: Promote and enhance the publication of IMIA events and IMIA news in scientific journals.

b)   Other Health/Medical Informatics Magazines

Responsibility: To be determined

The practice of health informatics and medical informatics is becoming increasingly important. IMIA needs to extend its 'audience' to include health informatics practitioners (health care professionals using ICT-tools, CIOs and other ICT professionals in health care institutions). IMIA senior members, chairpersons of working groups, and others should be encouraged to publish reports and other contributions (e.g. on results of IMIA conferences and meetings) in journals and magazines carrying non-scientific content. This would develop a link between research/education and practice in the field.

Suggested strategy: Support magazines on the practice of health and medical informatics by contributing to their contents, and encourage the participation of these publications as IMIA Corporate Members.

3   Other IMIA Services

Other services provided by IMIA could include the endorsement of educational programs (as initiated by Working Group 1), the offering of courseware, and the organisation of international programs such as the virtual health informatics university', as is proposed by the chairperson of Working Group 1.

The IMIA Board, the chairpersons of working groups and the General Assembly should continuously discuss such services, taking into consideration resources to assume responsibilities and costs of implementing such programs.

International Medical Informatics Association

Proposal for an Innsbruck Medical Informatics Award of Excellence

The Innsbruck Medical Informatics Award is given every three years jointly by the International Medical Informatics Association (IMIA) and by the Private Universitaet fuer Medizinische Informatik und Technik Tirol (Private University of Health Informatics and Technology Tyrol), MIT-HIT) to an individual whose personal commitment and dedication to Medical Informatics has made a lasting contribution to medicine and health care through her or his achievements in research, education, development or application in the field of medical informatics.

The coat of arms of Innsbruck, capital of Tyrol and located in the center of Europe, symbolizes a bridge, bringing together different regions, people and cultures. Building bridges is also an important goal of medical informatics, an interdisciplinary field aiming to contribute to a high-quality healthcare through appropriate and responsible development and application of information and communication technologies.

The Innsbruck Medical Informatics Award consists of a diploma and a prize amount of 10,000 EUR. The diploma contains the mission statements of IMIA and MIT-HIT.

It is recommended that the award be given in a year when the MEDINFO congress is held; accordingly, the first award shall be given in 2004.

A committee selection process determines the winner of the award. The committee consists of four well-known individuals; two members are to be nominated by IMIA (suggested by the nomination committee and approved by the General Assembly) and two by MIT-HIT (nominated by the Rector and approved by the Senate of the University). The Secretary of this committee shall be the Rector of MIT-HIT.

The award is presented at the celebration at end of the respective academic year of the University of Health Informatics and Technology Tyrol. The winner of the award will also give an Innsbruck Medical Informatics Award Lecture at a plenary session at the next World Congress of Medical Informatics (MEDINFO).

The prize amount will be donated by MIT-HIT, as will the diploma. Traveling expenses for the prizewinner to the academic year's celebration will be paid by MIT-HIT, the expenses for attending MEDINFO will be paid by IMIA. Traveling and other expenses of Selection Committee are to be paid by their respective institutions.

The prize amount may be equally divided between no more than three persons.

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