

Glossary Terms:

24 x 7 (twenty-four hours a day; seven days a week)

Jargon used to describe a service or entity that is usually constantly available.

AHSC (Academic health sciences center)

Used to denote a university-centered complex of health professional schools and teaching hospitals dedicated to research, education and health care.

Bandwidth

The amount of data that can be passed along a communications channel in a given period of time.

Best Practice

A best practice is a technique or methodology that, through experience and research, has proven to reliably lead to a desired result. A commitment to using the best practices in any field is a commitment to using all the knowledge and technology at one's disposal to ensure success.

chat group

An electronic conversation, typically held on a web site or a section of an online service, where people can communicate, usually typing messages to each other with their keyboards, online in real time. Chat groups are often organized around specific interests, such as health issues, small business owners, gardening, etc.

CHRs (Computer-based Health Records)

A gateway to all health-related information about a person. In this report, "Computer-based Health Record" (CHR) is used, rather than "Electronic Medical Record" (EMR) or "Computerized Patient Record" (CPR) to emphasize that this record has multiple uses. The CHR is not conceived as a single medical record that moves around, but pockets of information that contribute to a total medical record. The entire record might never be accessed anywhere all at once. But the parts would be accessible on demand from a distributed collection of data and users (patients, care givers, administrators, researchers, insurers and payers) would control access keys. In addition to use for medical care, a CHR may have personal health information and data that support quality and population studies.

CME (Continuing Medical Education)

Educational programs designed to inform physicians of recent advances in their field.

CPU (Central Processing Unit)

The part of a computer which controls all other parts.

e-mail

a means or system for transmitting messages electronically (as between terminals linked by telephone lines or microwave relays)

encryption

The conversion of plaintext into ciphertext in order to prevent any but the intended recipient from reading that data.

HIPAA (Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act)

The privacy provisions of the federal law, the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA), apply to health information created or maintained by health care providers who engage in certain electronic transactions, health plans, and health care clearinghouses.

IAIMS (Integrated Academic Information Management Systems)

Institution-wide computer networks that link and relate library systems with individual and institutional databases and information files, within and external to the institution, for patient care, research, education, and administration. The goal is to create an organizational mechanism within health institutions to manage

more effectively the knowledge of medicine, and to provide for a system of comprehensive and convenient information access. Since the early 1980s, the National Library of Medicine has provided grant assistance to medical centers and health science institutions and organizations for IAIMS projects.

Informatics

The study of the application of computer and statistical techniques to the management of information. In genome projects, informatics includes the development of methods to search databases quickly, to analyze DNA sequence information, and to predict protein sequence and structure from DNA sequence data.

Information Age

The period beginning around 1970 and noted for the abundant publication, consumption, and manipulation of information, especially by computers and computer networks.

Information Environment

In this report, the phrase 'information environment' describes the infrastructure (networks, hardware, software, staff) that supports a technical system used for communication.

Information Management

The phrase 'information management' refers to the stewardship of any part of the information environment - involving the search for, creation, storage, access to and dissemination of content.

Infrastructure

Refers to "the underlying structure of technical facilities and institutional arrangements that supports any technical system, especially one used for communication.

Internet

An electronic communications network that connects computer networks and organizational computer facilities around the world.

Interoperable

Disparate hardware and/or software systems which are able to communicate with each other in order to accomplish a particular task. This can be accomplished through adherence to certain standards or the provision of specialized technical accommodations.

Intranet

A network operating like the World Wide Web but having access restricted to a limited group of authorized users (as employees of a company)

IT (Information Technology)

Applied computer systems - both hardware and software, and often including networking and telecommunications, usually in the context of a business or other enterprise. Often the name of the part of an enterprise that deals with all things electronic. In this report, the term is used in a broad sense that includes software, information resources and people as well as hardware and networks.

IT agents

In the computing client-server model, an 'agent' is the part of the system that automatically performs information preparation and exchange on behalf of a client or server. In this report, the phrase 'IT agent' implies an automatic process which can communicate with other agents to perform some collective task on behalf of humans.

Matheson-Cooper Report

Seminal paper by Nina Matheson and John Cooper published in 1982 in the Journal of Medical Education which articulated a vision of using computers and networks to integrate information management activities across all components of an academic health sciences center. This publication provided a conceptual

framework for Integrated Academic (Advanced) Information Management Systems (IAIMS), an extramural funding initiative of the National Library of Medicine (NLM) that began in the same year.

MEDLINE

MEDLINE® (Medical Literature, Analysis, and Retrieval System Online) is the U.S. National Library of Medicine's (NLM) premier bibliographic database that contains over 11 million references to journal articles in life sciences with a concentration on biomedicine. MEDLINE contains citations from 4,300 worldwide journals dating back to 1966. MEDLINE is available on the Internet through the NLM home page at <http://www.nlm.nih.gov> and can be searched free of charge. A link on NLM's homepage takes you to two web-based services, PubMed® and Internet Grateful Med, either of which allows you to begin your MEDLINE search. MEDLINE services are also provided by organizations that lease the database from NLM.

MEDLINEplus

A web resource from the National Library of Medicine containing current, quality health care information. The service provides access to extensive information about specific diseases and conditions and also has links to consumer health information from the National Institutes of Health, dictionaries, lists of hospitals and physicians, health information in Spanish and other languages, and clinical trials.

Metadata

Metadata is data about data. The term refers to any data used to aid the identification, description and location of networked electronic resources.

Portal

A web site that aims to be a "doorway" to the World-Wide Web, typically offering a search engine and/or links to useful pages, and possibly news or other services.

PubMed

PubMed is a World Wide Web (WWW) retrieval service developed by the National Library of Medicine (NLM). PubMed provides access, free of charge, to MEDLINE. PubMed also contains links to the full-text versions of articles at participating publishers' Web sites. In addition, PubMed provides access and links to the integrated molecular biology databases maintained by the National Center for Biotechnology Information (NCBI). These databases contain DNA and protein sequences, genome mapping data, and 3-D protein structures.

PubMed Central

PubMed Central is a digital archive of life sciences journal literature, developed and managed by the National Center for Biotechnology Information (NCBI) at the U.S. National Library of Medicine (NLM).

ROI (Return on Investment)

Used to measure the success of an initiative or campaign.

Telemedicine

Delivery of health services via remote telecommunications. This includes interactive consultative and diagnostic services.

Telepresence

The ability to operate a device by remote control, including perceptual data and sensory feedback transmitted to the operator and motor commands transmitted from the operator, such that it appears to the operator as if the operator were present at the site of the remote device and operating it directly.

Virtual Library

A collection of information resources available electronically, rather than traditional formats such as print, film, etc.

Virtual reality

An artificial environment which is experienced through sensory stimuli (as sights and sounds) provided by a computer and in which one's actions partially determine what happens in the environment