Call for Papers

Special Issue on Standards in Practice – Translating Standards into Practice: Experiences and Lessons Learned in Biomedicine and Health Care

Letter of Intent Due (Optional):
April 15th, 2011

Submission Deadline:
August 1st, 2011

The increased interest and need for systematic approaches to organize, manage, and share data in biomedicine and health care has underscored the importance of standards [1–7]. There is accordingly a need for detailed, experience-based discussions pertaining to the adoption and implementation of various types of standards, whether for knowledge representation and management, data integration and exchange, semantic interoperability, or other uses.

The goal of this special issue of the *Journal of Biomedical Informatics* is to provide a forum for describing advanced research and development in translating standards into practice. Papers submitted to the special issue should provide comprehensive descriptions of the methodologies employed and challenges encountered during the process of implementing a specific standard or set of standards in an operational setting. These experiences and lessons learned should aim to provide readers with a framework that can be generalized for adoption of standards in their settings. In addition to original research papers, one or more methodological review papers will be considered and submissions in this category are encouraged.

This special issue will *not* accept submissions that describe the development of new standards. Given the breadth of existing standards and related activities across domains from vocabularies (e.g., ICD, CPT, SNOMED CT, LOINC, RxNorm, and GO) to information models (e.g., HL7 RIM and CDA, and MIAME) to standards development organizations (e.g., ASTM, HL7, CEN, ISO, DICOM, NCPDP, IHE, IHTSDO, HITSP, CDISC, and GSC), papers may focus on a particular existing standard or cover a set of related standards.

Possible topics for research papers include, but are not limited to:

- Describing methods that have enabled existing standards to be implemented and/or evaluated for applications such as Electronic Health Records, Data Warehouses, Health Information Exchange, Decision Support, Quality Reporting, or Clinical Research (using vendor based or homegrown solutions);
- Discussing methods that have enabled existing standards to be used for improving data capture, integration, and/or sharing in various contexts (e.g., Biology, Imaging, Medicine, Nursing, Public Health, Translational Science, and Education); or,
- Providing methodological details (including empirical assessments) for specific customizations of standards to meet local, regional, national, or international needs (e.g., clinical and regulatory).

Potential methodological review topics may include:

- Comprehensive surveys of relevant standards to meet a particular biomedical or health care need;
- Comparing and contrasting specific related standards; or,
- Providing an overview of reference resources for standards in biomedicine and health care.

Peer-Review Process

All submitted papers will go through a rigorous peer-review process (with at least two reviewers) that will include both programmatic relevance as well as scientific quality. The acceptance process will focus on those papers that address innovative methods for adopting and implementing standards in biomedicine and health care. All submissions should follow the guidelines for authors available at the *Journal of Biomedical Informatics* Web site (http://www.elsevier.com/locate/jbi). JBI’s editorial policy is also outlined on that page and will be strictly followed by special issue reviewers.

Submission Process

Optional letters of intent should be sent to liz.chen@uvm.edu by April 15, 2011. This will assist in assessing the number of likely submissions and in planning for the review process when papers are submitted.

Authors must submit their papers via the online Elsevier Editorial System (EES) at http://ees.elsevier.com/jbi, no later than August 1, 2011. Authors should register and upload their text, tables, and figures as well as subsequent revisions through this Web site, using the “Standards in Practice” paper category. Potential authors may contact the Publishing Services Coordinator in the journal’s editorial office (jbi@elsevier.com) if questions arise during the submission process.

References


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