Letters to the Editor

Make the Dictionary of Epidemiology open access

From Manolis Kogevinas

Centre for Research in Environmental Epidemiology (CREAL), 88 Dr Aiguader Rd, Barcelona 08003, Spain.
E-mail: kogevinas@creal.cat http://www.isee2011.org/

Lorenzo Richiardi\(^1\) reviewed the *Dictionary of Epidemiology* (sixth edition)\(^2\) and also did a little *ad hoc* research on which sources are used by some of his colleagues when teaching. Only a minority mentioned the web (wiki). The *Dictionary* is great and Miquel Porta has done exceptionally good work in updating the last two editions. However it is not open access. I would assume that the use of the *Dictionary* is not only, not even mainly, when teaching, in which case you try to find and quote the most authoritative sources even if they are not easily available. In everyday use I would assume (if other people do what I do) that one simply gets the easiest valid access source available. This may be a textbook or most probably the web. Not having the *Dictionary* as open access makes little sense nowadays and certainly limits considerably its use. There is a lot of effort in the preparation of the *Dictionary* on the part of us epidemiologists, and it is simply a pity not to use this excellent text as much as possible. It would be advisable if the International Epidemiological Association (IEA) took this action to make the *Dictionary* freely available and searchable in the web.

References


Author’s Response: Cognitive devices and dictionaries: substance, format and funding

From Miquel Porta

Hospital del Mar Institute of Medical Research – IMIM, Barcelona, Catalonia, Spain; School of Medicine, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, Spain; and Gillings School of Global Public Health, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, NC, USA

Correspondence: IMIM–UAB–PRBB, Carrer del Dr. Aiguader 88, E–08003 Barcelona, Spain. E-mail: mporta@imim.es

I thank my friend and colleague, Professor Manolis Kogevinas, for his praise\(^1\) of the new, sixth edition of *A Dictionary of Epidemiology*,\(^2\) which I had the honour and pleasure to edit again for the International Epidemiological Association (IEA) with the invaluable collaboration of Sander Greenland, Miguel Hernán, Isabel dos Santos