

International Research Outputs of Health Data Linkage Studies

Emma L Fuller

The author would like to propose that the international data linkage centres could retrospectively collate research outputs from health data linkage studies in the form of journal articles, reports, presentations, theses and media items. The items could be collated and studies that have influence health policy or clinical practice could be identified.

A joint paper could be constructed on the international research outputs of linked data to show the public good of data linkage.

This work could then continue and outputs could be forwarded to the WHO on an annual basis.

Research output collection is ongoing in Western Australia. See

Brook EL, Rosman DL & Holman CDJ. 2008. Public good through data linkage: measuring research outputs from the Western Australian Data Linkage System. *Australian and New Zealand Journal of Public Health* 32:19-23.

Collection

Centres are encouraged to contact all users of provided linked data and collate research findings and outputs (if not already done so). This information can then be filed by authors, project name and type of data used. Reporting of research findings and outputs could be suggested as a mandatory requirement to all users of linked data.

Website

Ideally, all publications and reports from studies using linked data will be routinely sourced electronically and entered into an electronic library (i.e. Endnote). This information would then be posted on the IHDL website www.ihdlc.org. The outputs of the linked data studies should be annotated (a brief paragraph) and key word searches of the outputs by study type, data used, authors etc should be possible. In doing so researchers and policy makers would be able to see what work has already been done and it could inspire research groups to expand on previous work, perhaps do comparable work and to ask further questions.