

ESTABLISHMENT AND EVALUATION OF THE JAPANESE EDITION OF THE WEEKLY EPIDEMIOLOGICAL RECORD (WER) WEBSITE BY THE FACULTY OF HEALTH SCIENCES OF KOBE UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

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Abstract. To report on the establishment of the Japanese version website of the Weekly Epidemiological Record (WER) by the faculty and to evaluate its accessibility and the educational outcome: all articles from the WER since 2000 have been translated into Japanese by graduate students with teachers' guidance, verified by the committee members, and delivered to the website. The server log files and retrieval keywords were analyzed using Analog 6.0. An on-line questionnaire survey of visitors to the website was performed. Opinion sheets reported by the students for translation were evaluated as the educational outcome. Over 6 years, there were 820,571 requests to the website and, the number of requests increased with disease outbreaks. According to domain analysis, most requests were during daytime on weekdays, and the website was utilized by users in educational institutions and the Japanese government and by overseas visitors. Among respondents to the questionnaire, 47% were laypersons and 69% found the website easy to understand. SARS and HIV/AIDS were the terms most frequently used for retrieval. The students recognized the importance of the World Health Organization (WHO) and had broadened their perspective on international health. The website is useful for Japanese. The translating process was effective for international health education.

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