

News from EAHL

News from the MeSH Special Interest Group

MeSH terms – emerging specific concepts in the Subject Index of the ISS Library

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The Library of the Istituto Superiore di Sanità (ISS) – the Italian National Institute of Health – is specialized in scientific documentation in the field of biomedicine. The semantic indexing of scientific documents is in Italian and is based on the Italian MeSH Translation. In 2001, when Subject Indexing underwent a systematic thorough revision, it was decided to use almost solely the translated MeSH terminology. New MeSH concepts have been added to the subject indexing in those cases where suitable specific terms did not exist in our archives to describe the topics to be indexed.

Laboratory researchers and university students are the main users of the ISS Library and they consider the Italian MeSH translation invaluable. The pie chart below (Fig. 1) shows the percentages of the sources of the terms of the ISS Library Subject Headings: 80% derive from the MeSH Thesaurus and of the remaining 20%, 15% were taken from the Library of Congress (LC) and 5% from other Italian directories which comprehend specific terms from other disciplines not included in the MeSH.

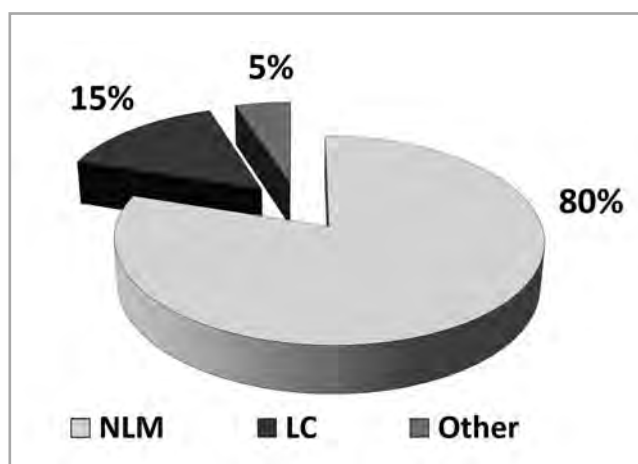


Fig. 1. ISS Library Subject Headings sources.

The checklist below (Table 1) shows some of the Italian and English MeSH terms which have been added to the Subject Index over the last 3 years: 2011-2013. All the terms in the MeSH Tree Structure belong to the Chemical and Drugs [D] category, which presents the highest number of new subjects in our archives.

We would also like to point out that although periodicals are not indexed, it seems clear that our researchers' interest is in line with the ISS research policy that comprises experiments, testing, consulting and research on drugs and on chemical substances.

<i>Italian</i>	<i>English</i>
Adenosina deaminasi	Adenosine Deaminase
Agenti inattivatori del complemento	Complement Inactivating Agents
Beta-lattamasi	beta-Lactamases
Biomarcatori farmacologici	Biomarkers, Pharmacological
Caveoline	Caveolins
Complessi metallici	Coordination Complexes
Eparina	Heparin
Fattori della ribosilazione ADP	ADP-Ribosylation Factors
Fuliggine	Soot
Glucuronidasi	Glucuronidase
Inattivatori del complemento	Complement Inactivator Proteins
Istone deacetilasi	Histone Deacetylases
Librerie di piccole molecole	Small Molecule Libraries
Materia medica	Materia Medica
Misure complesse	Complex Mixtures
Precursori delle proteine	Protein Precursors
Proteasi della cisteina	Cysteine Proteases
Recettori degli acidi cainici	Receptors, Kainic Acid
Recettori muscarinici	Receptors, Muscarinic
Ricina	Ricin
Sfingosina	Sphingosine

Table 1. Checklist of new MeSH terms in the Chemicals and Drugs [D] CATEGORY in the ISS Library Subject Index from 2011- 2013.

The subject indexers consider the use of MeSH terminology fundamental to describe new scientific topics.