

Exploring the Body of Knowledge: an Association's Expedition

Save to myBoK

by Barbara Siegel, MS, RHIT

One of the monumental expeditions in history is that of Meriwether Lewis and William Clark, who left the shores of the Missouri River in 1804. To this day, the body of knowledge gained during this journey captures our imaginations. The lessons learned guide us as we explore new horizons and new opportunities.

In 1999, AHIMA embarked on its own expedition to position the Association for continued success by meeting member needs through the development of products and services.

An Association-wide Journey

With an expeditionary mind set, the AHIMA Board of Directors, volunteers, and staff learned to be proactive and entrepreneurial. Along the way, members were included in the creation, design, evaluation, and implementation of new services and products.

At times, we needed to find new methods to communicate and move quickly. We reached out and learned to identify member needs. From that knowledge and investment, we have asserted our leadership in the industry.

A Professional Body of Knowledge

The definition and recognition of a profession can be found in its body of knowledge. For HIM professionals, the strategy must be to define the HIM profession and its role in the healthcare industry. As the patient record makes the transition from paper to electronic media, HIM professionals are in a unique position for success and recognition.

Our body of knowledge has many forms: members-only access to the FORE Library: HIM Body of Knowledge in the Communities of Practice, which includes *Journal* articles and other resources, publications, position statements, practice briefs, testimonies, white papers, Web site resources for employers, AHIMA Advantage E-alerts, and the soon-to-be published work force research findings.

The benefit to members is invaluable. Remember poring through stacks of *Journals* looking for a particular article? Recently, I needed resources on data management. A colleague reminded me of the Data Quality Management Model in the online FORE Library: HIM Body of Knowledge. A few clicks later, it was on my desk.

Do you have a new practice solution? Is your organization implementing computerized physician order entry? Expand HIM's body of knowledge and share your knowledge. Submit articles to the *Journal*. Apply for a FORE Best Practice Award, scholarship, or dissertation assistance.

Embark on your own expedition and explore the AHIMA body of knowledge. This year, as AHIMA celebrates its 75th anniversary, join us at the National Convention in Minneapolis, MN, to celebrate the Association's very first expedition—its formation in 1928. And next year, as the nation celebrates the 200th anniversary of the Lewis and Clark expedition, meet us in Washington, DC, for AHIMA's 76th National Convention in conjunction with the IFHRO Health Records Congress, an excellent opportunity to expand your own body of knowledge with our international colleagues.

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