

Development of database system for research management information in Department of Medical Research

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Abstract

Background: Existing reporting system for research information is complicated due to multidimensional and frequent timeline. Thus, the study proposed to develop a database system for research management. The study was conducted to analyze existing in-house monitoring and evaluation system for research projects implementing in Department of Medical Research, to identify essential parameters required for multidimensional monitoring and evaluation of the research projects and to develop an essential reporting format and database for tracking research projects.

Methods: It was a cross-sectional study conducted during December 2016 and September 2017. As the first step, face-to-face interviews were conducted with (16) officers and staff from every research division including administrative division from DMR (POLB) to explore information included in different types of report and current reporting practice in the department. Based on the findings, the database system for research management information was developed by using Microsoft Office Access 2007.

Results: The findings showed that in DMR (POLB), there were five main reports with standardized formats used for monitoring and evaluation of research projects; they were monthly report, quarterly report, annual report, report for planned future research projects, and planned research projects in the National Health Plan. Many of research divisions did not have systematic record keeping system for research information. The reports were prepared by research assistants and research officers under the guidance of the heads of each division and submitted in soft and hard copy to administrative division on the date requested, creating a problem when the focal researchers were not available on the day of information requested. The study could identify four main themes that were necessary for the development of database system, such as information of researchers, research projects, training and academic support. The database system for research management information was developed by using Microsoft Office Access 2007.

Conclusion and Recommendations: This newly developed database system for research management information can help to make more efficient in keeping information related for research projects and in reporting with standardized formats if it is widely used in the department. As it is developed based on current reporting system of the department, there may be needed to train staff to be able to do the report in other/new formats apart from the available report format developed in the software.