# Static to Dynamic:

## Developing the OMA Acronym Database

ONTARIO MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

### The Initial Acronym List

- The initial list began as a flat word file and was a resource for commonly used acronyms and terms in the association
- The research staff began tracking acronym usage in 2005 with the creation of an excel file
- In 2007 a selected acronym PDF list was made available over the intranet as a resource for staff
- Following requests from association staff, the research group began producing customized acronym lists for the OMA's Council meeting binder twice per year

### Original Database

- Eventually, the excel file was no longer fulfilling the research staff's needs
- In order to improve search-ability, DBText was chosen to create a more dynamic database, implementing multiple search fields and usage reports
- Migrating to a database allowed the Research Group to quickly generate acronym lists for the Council Binder twice a year when the appropriate acronyms were tagged
- Additional fields were added to record more data for each acronym (eg. URL, Preceding and Succeeding acronyms, See Also etc.)
- Many new details were recorded for each acronym entry (eg. Status of Acronyms: active, inactive etc.; Type of Acronym: program, organization, occupation, location, item etc.)
- This database was maintained and accessed only by the research staff

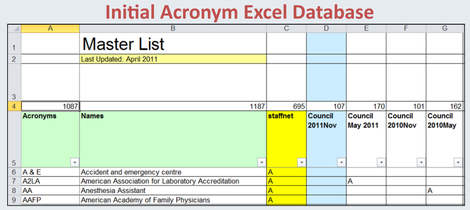
### Migration to Presto

- In fall 2013, the database was merged into the Research Group's relatively-new Presto ILS
- The older database's functionality and data was kept, and the acronyms became hosted in a new space with a different appearance
- The acronym database became available to all association staff to search and browse
- The new location of the database, allowed the Research Group to reach new clients, including new staff and other departments
- The link on the intranet to the acronym PDF file was removed and replaced with a 'quick link' to the search screen of the Presto Acronym Database

### Big Database Redesign

- The research staff decided to re-evaluate the current database; eliminating redundant and underused fields
- Different full display screens were created for research staff and for association staff
- The group established a standard display template for each acronym
- The contents of the description field was altered to include neutral descriptions which also originated from the source organization
- All the acronyms were checked to ensure the accuracy of URL links and to check for any organization name changes
- Not all additional data was removed; some of the data was hidden from the association staff and left available only to research staff

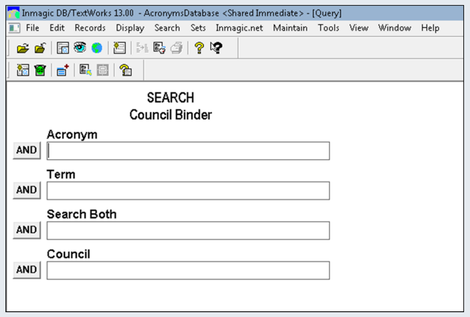
#### Initial Acronym Excel Database



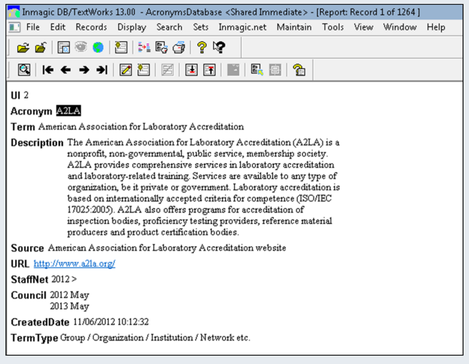
| | A | B | C | D | E | F | G |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | | Master List | | | | | |
| 2 | | Last Updated: April 2011 | | | | | |
| 3 | | | | | | | |
| 4 | 1087 | 1187 | 695 | 107 | 170 | 101 | 162 |
| 5 | Acronyms | Names | staffnet | Council 2011Nov | Council May 2011 | Council 2010Nov | Council 2010May |
| 6 | A & E | Accident and emergency centre | A | | | | |
| 7 | A2LA | American Association for Laboratory Accreditation | A | | A | | |
| 8 | AA | Anesthesia Assistant | A | | | | A |
| 9 | AAFP | American Academy of Family Physicians | A | | | | |

This acronym excel database was started in 2005 and grew to 1087 acronyms by 2012, though by then the DBTextWorks database was in use. This excel database tracked the use of acronyms displayed for staff on the intranet and those used in the Council Binder.

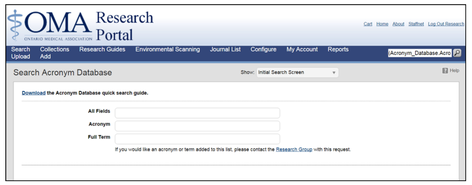
#### DBTextWorks Search Screen



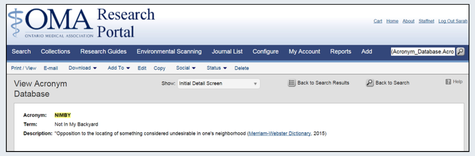

#### DBTextWorks Results Screen




#### Association Staff Search Screen

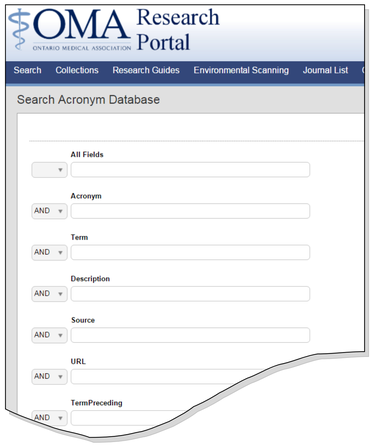



#### Why is NIMBY in your database?



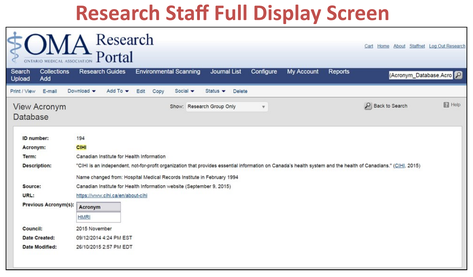

Acronyms like NIMBY (Not-In-My-Backyard) are added to the database so they will be generated in the Acronym List Report created for the Council Binder Appendix.

#### Research Staff Advanced Search Screen




#### Association Staff Full Display Screen

#### Research Staff Full Display Screen




### The Present Database and Beyond

- There is an increase in user statistics since the Presto database was open to the association staff in May 2014
- Since the launch date, the database has been predominantly searched by Acronym (91%), followed by searches for terms (8%)
- The Acronym Database is updated twice per year with acronyms used at Council. This helps to keep the content current and fresh
- This tool helps support and enrich association staffs' work
- The URLs and definitions will need to be checked periodically; a large task with 1300+ acronyms
- The Research Group is still working out a few kinks with Presto usability, and hopefully these get addressed in future updates to the system
  - -For example, when linking to a Preceding or Succeeding acronym, if there are multiple identical acronyms with different meaning, then both are linked to automatically. eg. CHA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