

**Bibliometric Patterns in an Historical Medical Index: Using the Newly Digitized**

**Index Catalogue of the Library of the Surgeon General's Office,**

**United States Army**

A Thesis

Submitted to the Faculty

of

Drexel University

by

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in partial fulfillment of the

requirements for the degree

of

Doctor of Philosophy

August 2004

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**Dedications**

To Frederic George Lussky (1922-2003)

## Acknowledgments

I am grateful to the many people who have helped me with my Ph.D. studies. My dissertation committee, John Holmes, Kate McCain, Russell Maulitz, and Howard White, with their probing questions and thoughtful comments kept me striving to produce meaningful research. My dissertation advisor, Carl Drott, kept me smiling while pushing me to think harder and write more clearly. Numerous scholars within the profession have encouraged me either indirectly with their published writing, or directly, in response to my questions and comments. I especially want to acknowledge two: Kathleen Reed who has taught me so much about knowledge organization and teaching, and Fran Miksa who has inspired me with his professional writings and personal communications.

I am grateful to all my friends for their many kindnesses during my graduate studies. Some of my friends were so giving I must mention them by name. My Drexel friends, Jan W. Buzydlowski, Jeff Hand, Linda Marion, Ralph Miller, Ted Schmidt, Jodi Williams and Val Yonkers, made the journey a little bit easier with their thoughtfulness and humor. My good friends Lisa Chadwick, Hope Rothrock, and Linda Van der Post were always there to offer encouraging words. My life-long friend Janet Thompson never questioned my ability and helped me with some graphic design issues.

I am grateful for the immeasurable ways my family helped me while I worked on my Ph.D. My Uncle George Lussky, who received his Ph.D. in 1915, provided an

example of a simply wonderful man who in addition to a scholar and professor. My brother, Greg Lussky, patiently listened to me and respected my choices. My son, Charlie Siman, kept me smiling by reminding me of the importance of play. My husband, Bob Siman, never doubted I would succeed and ungrudgingly supported my endeavors. My mom, Flo Lussky, reminded me of the enduring value of formal education. My daddy, Fred Lussky, inspired me with his life-long zest for learning. I am sad that he is not here to see this, but I continue to feel his love.

Thank you.

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**Abstract**

Bibliometric Patterns in an Historical Medical Index: Using the newly Digitized  
Index Catalogue of the Library of the Surgeon General's Office,  
United States Army  
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The newly digitized Index Catalogue of the Library of the Surgeon-General's Office, United States Army (IndexCat) provides powerful opportunities for the application of bibliometric techniques to support research in the history of medicine. It far exceeds any other medical bibliographic tool in its total number of documents indexed, span of decades represented in the publication dates of the indexed documents, international inclusiveness, and breadth of subject indexing. The work presented here will explore the viability of the IndexCat as a dataset for bibliometric research and as an adjunct to contemporary, qualitative research on the history of medicine. A bibliometric analysis of the subject headings and title words within the IndexCat demonstrates that they can be combined to link developing theories of disease causation with developing understandings of specific diseases. Furthermore, these bibliometric patterns compliment and enrich contemporary, historical accounts of the research on specific diseases.