



# NATURAL LANGUAGE PROCESSING... 21<sup>st</sup>-CENTURY SURVEILLANCE

PHILIP HARBER MD MPH

Gondy Leroy PhD

Univ of Arizona

Medical Research Building- Room 112  
University of Arizona- MEZCOPH  
1656 E. Mabel St.  
Tucson, AZ 85719  
Telephone: 520-626-1263  
pharber@email.Arizona.edu

Feasibility and Utility of Lexical Analysis for Occupational Health Text

*Philip Harber, MD, MPH and Gondy Leroy, PhD*

*Working Words: Real-Life Lexicon of American Workers*  
Philip Harber, MD, MPH  
Lori Crawford, BS  
Katie Liu, BS  
Levanto Schacter, MS

*Work Coding: Beyond and DOT* Philip Harber

*Computer Algorithm for Automated Work Group Classification From Free Text: The DREAM Technique*  
Philip Harber, MD, MPH  
Lori Crawford, BS  
Amarpreet Cheema, BS  
Levanto Schacter, MS

*BOC*  
and Justine Smitherman, MS

*Social media use for occupational lung disease*

*Assessing Work-Asthma Interaction With Amazon Mechanical Turk*  
Philip Harber, MD, MPH and Gondy Leroy, PhD

*Public sharing of medical advice using social media: an analysis of Twitter*

Gondy Leroy<sup>\*1</sup>, PhD, Philip Harber<sup>2</sup>, MD MPH, Debra Revere<sup>3</sup>, MLIS, MA



- Thank you for the opportunity to speak here.
- “Hello there, my name is Phil Harber. I am currently speaking, but sometimes I see patients as a doctor in occupational medicine or in pulmonary medicine. I also play with computers and try to make them understand language sometimes. I am employed by a university and in a public health college but also go to the hospital sometimes. I sometimes do some administrative work and even traveled on aircraft yesterday. Last week, I coughed a little after I open my mouth doing a racing turn in the swimming pool. “
- “I was welding on the stainless storage tank for the apple juice but my foot slipped and I had when in so I began to cough. The doctor said I might have asthma or maybe just a bad cold. “

We talk and think in words, not numbers

Using codes loses most information of prior slide:

- Good morning 19-1041

- 51-4120 111339 J45

- 786.2 541511 611310

- Language is rich, natural, flexible, and cheap.

- Codes are narrow, inter-relate poorly, and are not spoken by “real workers”.

# Today's Tools, Tomorrow's Needs

- Storage: ~ Unlimited
- Computing Power:
- Data Sources: Many, mainly unstructured
- Programs- Rapidly evolving



...But....

- Interoperability
- Motivation to use

➤ [//pixabay.com/en/cartoon-cat-face-feline-unhappy-1296508/](https://pixabay.com/en/cartoon-cat-face-feline-unhappy-1296508/)

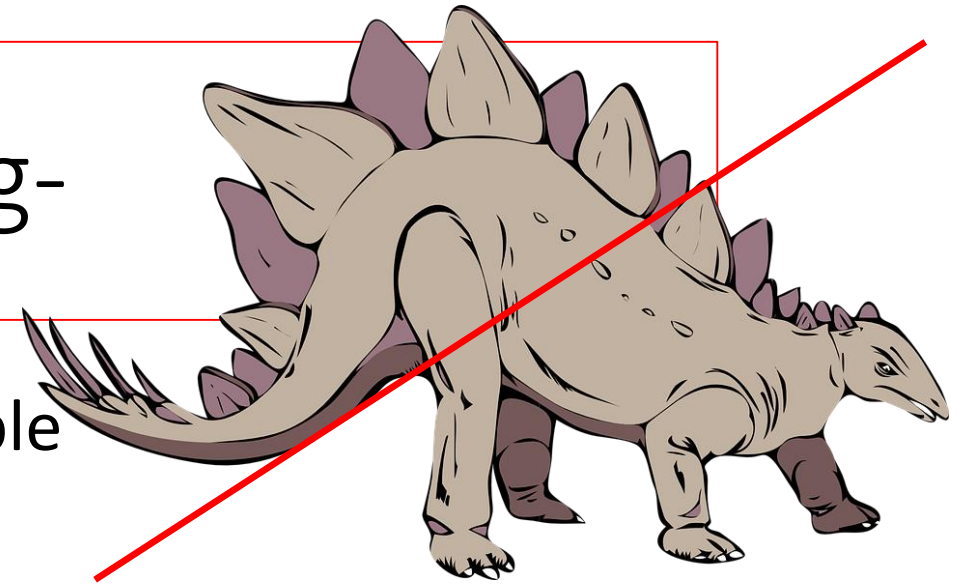


P Harbor Univ of Arizona

<https://pixabay.com/en/cloud-cumulus-cumulus-cumulus-80752/>  
<https://pixabay.com/en/abacus-count-mathematics-485704/>

# Limitations of Numerical Coding-

- Many jobs, industries, situations - poorly codable
- Only predesignated questions
- Highly structured input and highly structured output
- Very simple questions
- Modern Luddites
  
- Codes vs real life



# Use #1: Autocoding (Structured → Structured)

Code: Replace a structured field with a structured number:

eg, Death certificate- Industry field → NAICS Code

## Auto coding: Replace Nosologists with software

- Faster, cheaper, ? More accurate
- NIOSH NIOCCS, ...



<https://pixabay.com/en/clown-comedian-nose-circus-funny-362155/>

<https://pixabay.com/en/cat-relax-chill-out-camacho-98359/>

<https://pixabay.com/en/face-nose-eyes-plush-funny-2520636/>

# #2: Abstraction

## Abstraction

- Read the item
- Find the key term(s)
- Look up number
- Enter number in correct field
- ☹️ MSHA 7000 has 34 fields
- Needs domain knowledge

**Mine Accident, Injury and Illness Report** U.S. Department of Labor  
Mine Safety and Health Administration  
Approved For Use Through 09/30/2017 OMB Number 1219-0007

• Section A - Identification D  
MSHA ID Number Contractor ID Report Category  Metal/Nonmetal Mining  Coal Mining  Check here if report pertains to contractor

Mine Name Company Name

• Section B - Complete for Each Reportable Accident Immediately Reported to MSHA  
1. Accident Code (circle applicable code - see instructions)  01 - Death  02 - Serious Injury  03 - Entrapment  
 04 - Inundation  05 - Gas or Dust Ignition  06 - Mine Fire  07 - Explosives  08 - Roof Fall  
 09 - Outburst  10 - Impounding Dam  11 - Hoisting  12 - Offsite injury

2. Name of Company Investigator 3. Date Investigation Started 4. Steps Taken to Prevent Recurrence of Accident

• Section C - Complete for Each Reportable Accident, Injury or Illness  
5. Circle the Codes Which Best Describe Where Accident/Injury/Illness Occurred (see instructions)

(a) Surface Location:  02 Surface at Underground Mine  30 Mill, Preparation Plant, etc.  03 Strip/Open Pit Mine  04 Surface Auger Operation  
 05 Culm Bank/Refuse Pile  06 Dredge Mining  12 Other Surface Mining  17 Independent Shops (with own MSHA ID)  99 Office Facilities

(b) Underground Location:  01 Vertical Shaft  02 Slope/Inclined Shaft  03 Face  04 Intersection  05 Underground Shop/Office  06 Other  07 Unknown

(c) Underground Mining Method:  01 Longwall  02 Shortwall  03 Conventional Stopping  05 Continuous Mining  06 Hand  07 Caving  08 Other

6. Date of Accident 7. Time of Accident • am 8. Time Shift Started • am

9. Describe Fully the Conditions Contributing to the Accident/Injury/Illness, and Quantify the Damage or Impairment

10. Equipment Involved Type Manufacturer Model Number

11. Name of Witness to Accident/Injury/Illness 12. Number of Reportable Injuries or Illnesses Resulting from This Occurrence

13. Name of Injured/Ill Employee 14. Sex  Male  Female 15. Date of Birth

16. Last Four Digits of Social Security Number 17. Regular Job Title 18. Check if this Injury/Illness resulted in death.  19. Check if Injury/Illness resulted in permanent disability (include amputation, loss of use, & permanent total disability).

20. What Directly Inflicted Injury or Illness? 21. Nature of Injury or Illness

22. Part of Body Injured or Affected 23. Occupational Illness (circle applicable code - see instructions)  21 Occupational Skin Diseases  
 22 Dust Diseases of the Lungs  23 Respiratory Conditions (toxic agents)  24 Poisoning (toxic Materials)  
 25 Disorders (physical agents)  26 Disorders (repeated trauma)  29 Other

24. Employee's Work Activity When Experience Years Weeks For Official Use Only



# #3: Classifier

- Sorts items into one of a few alternative boxes
  - NIOSH trip/fall workers comp (Bertke)
  - CASCOT (UK)
  - DREAM (Harber)
  - SOCEYE (NCI)
- Numerous algorithms-identification, rule-based, probabilistic
- Most require **training set** and are **very specific**



• <https://pixabay.com/en/boxes-drawers-mailboxes-1834406/>



## 4: Search



Find the needle in the haystack

- Look for a specific term
- **Store raw words, not post- coded numbers**
- **Does the public care about work-related asthma?**
- Are ATS, AOEC, NIOSH outreach working ????

### **TWITTER:**

- 40,000 tweets with “asthma”
- Very few involved a job, isocyanates,...
- Many, many, many included drugs, cam, children, air pollution, ozone,...

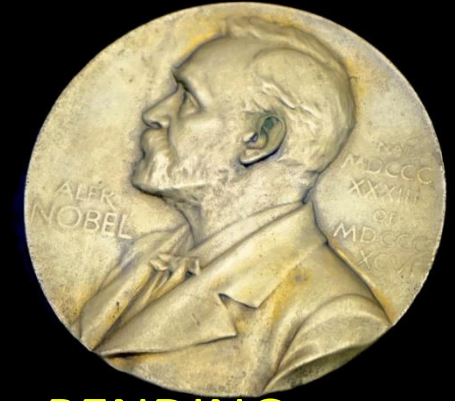


# What we did...

5. Classify ALL items
6. Knowledge Discovery

- 86,000 MSHA incident reports
- Tokenize, Count words
- Eliminate irrelevant words (stop terms, low relevance)
- Annotate : assign to a domain
  - (e.g., exposure, injury/illness, medical care, action, ...)
- Count by domain
- Seek associations

NOBEL PRIZE



PENDING

# What we did...

5. Classify **ALL** items

6. Knowledge **Discovery**

TOO POMPOUS

- 86,000 MSHA incident reports
- Tokenize, Count words
- Eliminate irrelevant words (stop terms, low relevance)
- Annotate : assign to a domain
  - (eg, exposure, injury/illness, medical care, action, ...)
- Count by domain
- Seek associations

Probabilistic

Bayesian classifiers

Syntactic analyzers

Pattern recognition

**Support Vector Machine**

Training set

Parser

Normalizer

**→ Lexical Analyzer**

Negation

Temporal relationships

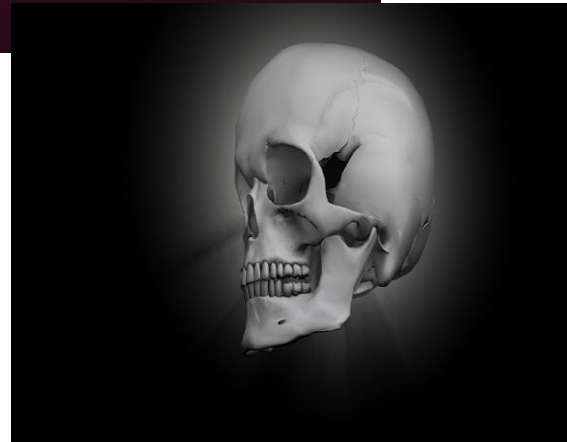
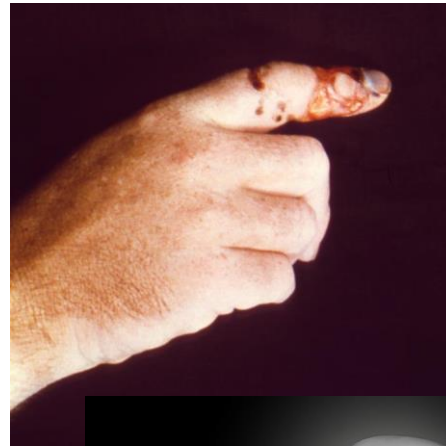
Sentiment

# Summary:

- Common Words (Injury/Illness      Exposure/Hazard      Treatment ...)
- Common causes
- Common effects
- Common cause-effect relationships

# Associations: Cause & Effect

- *Automatic* discovery of RELATIONS between HAZARDS and HEALTH EFFECTS



<https://pixabay.com/en/skull-bone-head-skeleton-3d-model-1557446/> CDC PHIL

| CAUSE-EFFECT   |                | n    |
|----------------|----------------|------|
| feet           | roof           | 2254 |
| back           | truck          | 1757 |
| back           | rock           | 1724 |
| hand           | rock           | 1529 |
| finger         | ring           | 1442 |
| drill          | hand           | 1292 |
| hand           | piece          | 1231 |
| belt           | hand           | 1166 |
| hand           | roof           | 1161 |
| back           | miner          | 1157 |
| finger         | rock           | 1056 |
| bolt           | hand           | 1052 |
| hand           | steel          | 1037 |
| back           | belt           | 1032 |
| head           | roof           | 993  |
| belt           | finger         | 942  |
| back-hand      | back-hand      | 939  |
| back-hand      | back-hand      | 939  |
| back-hand-hand | back-hand-hand | 939  |
| back-hand      | back-hand      | 939  |
| back-hand      | back-hand      | 939  |
| back-hand      | back-hand      | 939  |
| back-hand      | back-hand      | 939  |
| back-hand      | back-hand      | 939  |
| back-hand      | back-hand      | 939  |
| back-hand      | back-hand      | 939  |



# OUCH!!\*#

Targeted a priori example searches-

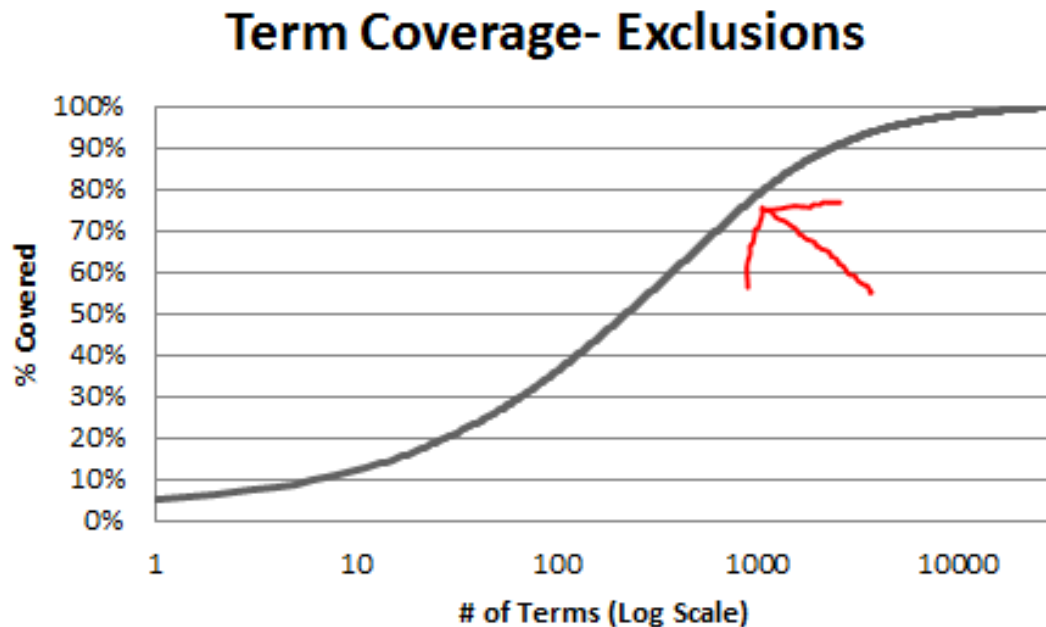
Start with either a hazard (Bolt) or an effect (Hand)

| <b>BOLT</b> |     | <b>HAND</b> |    |
|-------------|-----|-------------|----|
| back        | 21% | rock        | 3% |
| hand        | 9%  | piece       | 3% |
| arm         | 8%  | roof        | 2% |
| head        | 6%  | belt        | 2% |
| finger      | 5%  | drill       | 2% |
| rib         | 4%  | steel       | 2% |
| foot        | 4%  | bolt        | 2% |
| laceration  | 3%  | miner       | 2% |
| shoulder    | 3%  | finger      | 2% |
| pain        | 3%  | metal       | 2% |

# Annotation: Feasible & Specific

“How many words must I code to cover most info?”

- 1000 terms gets you > 80% coverage



- Topic-Specific Annotation
  - Exposure, technical term, health effect, medical care, activity, ...
- Even easier if stems/ morphemes
- “KOMATSU”

[Japanese](#) construction equipment manufacturer. Komatsu is the [name](#) of the city in Japan where the company founded. Ko=Small,Matsu=Pine tree in Japanese. Komatsu has more than 250 patented inventions about sophisticated hydraulics





# DISCOVERY vs HYPOTHESIS DRIVEN

## HYPOTHESIS DRIVEN

| <b>BOLT</b> |     | <b>HAND</b> |    |
|-------------|-----|-------------|----|
| back        | 21% | rock        | 3% |
| hand        | 9%  | piece       | 3% |
| arm         | 8%  | roof        | 2% |
| head        | 6%  | belt        | 2% |
| finger      | 5%  | drill       | 2% |
| rib         | 4%  | steel       | 2% |
| foot        | 4%  | bolt        | 2% |
| laceration  | 3%  | miner       | 2% |
| shoulder    | 3%  | finger      | 2% |
| pain        | 3%  | metal       | 2% |

## AUTOMATED KNOWLEDGE DISCOVERY

| <b>CAUSE-EFFECT</b> | <b>n</b> |
|---------------------|----------|
| feet roof           | 2254     |
| back truck          | 1757     |
| back rock           | 1724     |
| hand rock           | 1529     |
| finger ring         | 1442     |
| drill hand          | 1292     |
| hand piece          | 1231     |
| belt hand           | 1166     |
| hand roof           | 1161     |
| back miner          | 1157     |
| finger rock         | 1056     |
| bolt hand           | 1052     |
| hand steel          | 1037     |
| back belt           | 1030     |
| head roof           | 993      |
| belt finger         | 942      |



<https://www.ebay.com/en/dice-red-cubes-die-shapes-two>

575658/

<https://www.ebay.com/en/ancient-blind-boy-brain>

# HYPOTHESIS DRIVEN vs DISCOVERY

## HYPOTHESIS DRIVEN

Serendipity

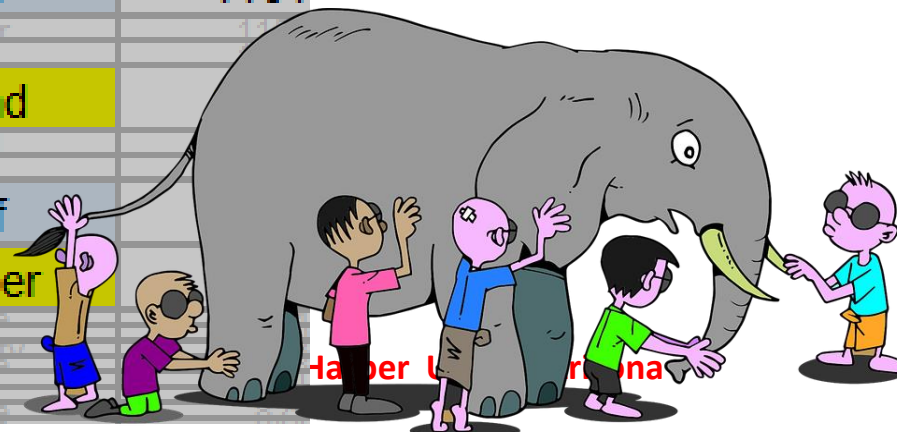


| <b>BOLT</b> |     | <b>HAND</b> |    |
|-------------|-----|-------------|----|
| back        | 21% | rock        | 3% |
| hand        | 9%  | piece       | 3% |
| arm         | 8%  | roof        | 2% |
| head        | 6%  | belt        | 2% |
| finger      | 5%  | drill       | 2% |
| rib         | 4%  | steel       | 2% |
| foot        | 4%  | bolt        | 2% |
| laceration  | 3%  | miner       | 2% |
| shoulder    | 3%  | finger      | 2% |
| pain        | 3%  | metal       | 2% |

## AUTOMATED KNOWLEDGE DISCOVERY

Less biased

| <b>CAUSE-EFFECT</b> |        | <b>n</b> |
|---------------------|--------|----------|
| feet                | roof   | 2254     |
| back                | truck  | 1757     |
| back                | rock   | 1724     |
| hand                | rock   | 1529     |
| finger              | ring   | 1442     |
| drill               | hand   | 1292     |
| hand                | piece  | 1231     |
| belt                | hand   | 1166     |
| hand                | roof   | 1161     |
| back                | miner  | 1157     |
| finger              | rock   | 1157     |
| bolt                | hand   | 1157     |
| hand                | steel  | 1157     |
| back                | belt   | 1157     |
| head                | roof   | 1157     |
| belt                | finger | 1157     |



# “Real language of work, workers...”

*Gandy dancers, Santa Claus, Occupational physicians*

DOT not SOC



Google search for "gandy dancer". Results: About 1,120,000 results (1.12 seconds).

Dictionary definition for "gandy dancer":  
 gan·dy danc·er  
 /ˈgandē ˌdɑnsər/  
 noun NORTH AMERICAN informal  
 a track maintenance worker on a railroad.

Gandy dancer - Wikipedia  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gandy\\_dancer](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gandy_dancer)  
 Gandy dancer is a slang term used for early railroad workers, more formally referred to as "section hands", who laid and maintained railroad tracks in the years before the work was done by machines.

Gandy Dancer - 201 Photos & 290 Reviews - Seafood - 401 Depot St ...  
 Rating: 3.5 - 290 reviews - Price range: \$31-60  
 290 reviews of Gandy Dancer "I'm giving the Gandy Dancer five stars for a combination of food, service, and ambience. The dinner menu is very seafood heavy, ..."

Gandy Dancers - YouTube  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=025QQwTwzDU>

CODE: 299.647-010 Buy the DOT: [Download](#)  
 TITLE(s): IMPERSONATOR, CHARACTER (any industry)  
 Impersonates traditional holiday or storybook characters, such as Santa Claus, Snow White, and the Three Little Pigs, to promote sales activity in retail stores, at conventions or exhibits, and to amuse children at hospitals, amusement parks and private parties. Wears character costumes and impersonates characters portrayed to amuse children and adults. May hand out samples or presents, demonstrate toys, pose for pictures, and converse with

- 29-1071 [Physician Assistants, Family Practice](#)
- 29-1060 [Physicians and Surgeons](#)
- 29-1069 [Physicians and Surgeons, All Other](#)
- 29-1069 [Physicians, All Other](#)
- 29-1011 [Physicians, Chiropractic](#)
- 29-1062 [Physicians, Family Practice](#)
- 29-1063 [Physicians, Internal Medicine](#)
- 29-1199 [Physicians, Naturopathic](#)
- 19-1042 [Physicians, Research](#)
- 19-2012 [Physicists](#)
- 19-2012 [Physicists, Molecular](#)

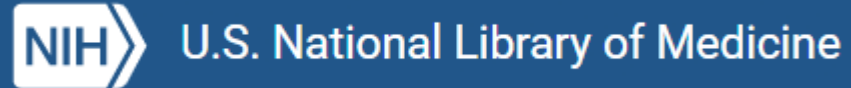
CODE: 070.101-078 Buy the DOT: [Download](#)  
 TITLE(s): PHYSICIAN, OCCUPATIONAL (medical ser.) alternate titles: doctor; physician, industrial  
 Diagnoses and treats work-related illnesses and injuries of employees, and c...  
 for-duty physical examinations: Attends patients in plant or hospital, and reexamines...  
 disability cases periodically to verify progress. Oversees maintenance of case histories,  
 health examination reports, and other medical records. Formulates and administers health  
 programs. Inspects plant and makes recommendations regarding sanitation and elimination  
 of health hazards.

iv of Arizona

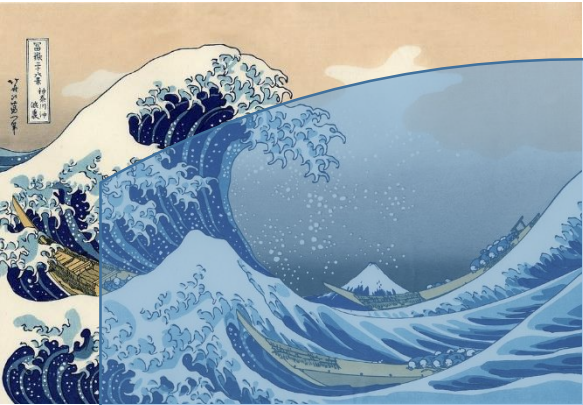


# Occupational health has its own language

("Ontology"-Vocabulary, relations)



- Unified Medical Language System (UMLS) does not meet occupational health needs
- Medical terms → frequently in UMLS concepts, generally accurate
- Workplace terms → rarely present, usually wrong



WORDS- NOT NUMBER CODES  
FULL MEANING AND FLEXIBLE  
PEOPLE NOT PUNCH CARDS

HAIKU 5-7-5  
THANK YOU!!

- ✓ Worker/patient talks to Automated Sir Val Ence (knighted epidemiologist)
- ✓ Who discovers new knowledge
- ✓ Provided by Marion (the automated librarian) to other workers