Background
English language has a preeminent role in health sciences publications. For example PubMed references more than 960,000 articles first published in 2013 and only 5% of them are written in another language. Furthermore interfaces and search engines of bibliographic databases are rarely translated. French speaking health professionals may use the CISMeF catalog (French acronym for Catalog and Index of French Language Health Resources on the Internet, http://doccismef.chu-rouen.fr/) but it is centered around free Internet resources and lacks bibliographic data.

Objective
The objective of MLPubMed(fr) (Multilingual PubMed (French version)) is to provide a bibliographic database that will be usable in a user-friendly environment in their native language (titles, MeSH keywords and interface). Moreover, the CISMeF search engine should improve the information retrieval compared to PubMed (semantic extensions, French querying strategies, etc.).

Methods
More than 600,000 entries in French language were extracted from PubMed in XML format using the NCBI Entrez Programming Utilities. The resulting data was parsed and included in the CISMeF information system. A specific interface was then designed based on the existing CISMeF website.

Results
An early version of MLPubMed(fr) is freely available on the Internet for health professionals. URL: http://doccismef.chu-rouen.fr/mlpubmed

Limits
More data has yet to be included in MLPubMed(fr) to make it comprehensive: abstracts in French language and bibliographic data coming from journals that are not indexed in PubMed. Both imply an active collaboration with publishers. MLPubMed(fr) usability and user-friendliness are yet to be perfected. Focus groups with physicians took place in December 2013. Their conclusions will help defining the most adapted interface.

Perspective
New versions of Multilingual PubMed in other languages could be, should the need arise, easily set up using the same process.

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