

Big Data Analytics for Risk Factor Surveillance

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Conflictos de interés: Los autores declaran no tener conflictos de interés alguno.

Abstract

Background: Risk factor surveillance is a continuous data collection, analysis, and dissemination activity. Information technology plays an important role in building the surveillance system and a big data approach has become a hot topic. Big data analytics are the advanced methods to derive insight and knowledge from the big data of high volume, speed and variety, such as text mining, natural language processing, and artificial intelligence. They can handle a large amount of untraditional and unstructured data and thus provide innovative ways for conducting the risk factor surveillance. **Purpose:** The purpose of this study is to explore the possible application of current big data analytics in the risk factor surveillance.

Study/Intervention/Design: Literature review

Methods: This study examined the definition, feature, and present use of current big data analytics and then linked them with the risk factor surveillance. **Results:** Current big data analytics were analysed including text analytics (sentiment analytics and social data analytics are part of it), web analytics, sensor analytics, geospatial analytics, video analytics, and audio analytics. The text analytics analyses free text data, so it allows efficiently collecting and analysing information from internet. Web analytics provides a way to look at web surfing behaviours. Geospatial analytics facilitates location analysis. Sensor analytics makes it possible to use self-tracking devices and environment monitors in surveys. Video analytics and audio analytics may allow us to use new methods to conduct surveys.

Conclusion: Big data analytics can be applied to the risk factor surveillance. They provide new data sources and innovative ways to conduct surveys.

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