



The DIfference

A newsletter for users of DI's Collector Registry Systems



COLLECTOR USERS CONFERENCE
Register NOW! Early registration discounts end SOON!



Excitement is building as DI gears up for the 8th annual Collector Users Conference (UC2002). The 2002 event is booked for October 10 & 11 in downtown San Diego, CA. Each year, we challenge ourselves to create an educational, innovative, and of course, fun conference for Collector users of all experience levels. We are especially excited about changes for the 2002 Conference agenda that will provide more options for both new and returning Conference attendees.

As in previous years, the UC2002 agenda includes a variety of hands-on workshops for new and experienced Collector users. This year a **new training track** has been added, geared toward Collector users at a more intermediate skill level. Throughout the 2-day event, attendees may attend any of the three workshops offered. Training workshops include a wide range of topics and provide practical examples, exercises and instructions for how to reap the maximum benefit of your Collector system. A full list of titles is available on DI's website. Among the

numerous topics to be included are: *Collector Basics- Features and Functions, Queries and Reports (basic and intermediate), Graphing Reports, Automation Using CBR, RDL and CQO: Interface and HTML Applications, Network Fundamentals, Applications for Central Site Systems, and many more!*

*8th Annual
Collector Users Conference
October 10 - 11, 2002
Embassy Suites Hotel
San Diego, CA*

The Embassy Suites Hotel - Downtown San Diego, has been selected as our conference facility. Located on the San Diego Bay within walking distance to restaurants, local attractions and shopping, the hotel offers world-class amenities as well as ample space for meeting and social activities. We have

already requested several days of warm, sunny weather! Also, for the first time, DI and the American Association of Automotive Medicine (AAAM) have coordinated our efforts to provide maximum training offerings with minimum travel. Just prior to UC2002, AAAM is offering their new, improved

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New Collector Software Modules Focus on Quality Care, Convenience, Collaborative Data Collection

The increasing need for additional research and quality improvement initiatives places a high demand upon trauma professionals. The Collector community of users is now the largest by a wide margin, and DI can provide our users with the software tools capable of meeting the ever increasing demands for new data collection and research methods. Several exciting new products are now, or will soon be, available for use with the Collector Trauma Registry.

Collector Trauma Data Pool

The "Pool" opens AFTER Labor Day? That's right. DI is preparing for a Fall 2002 introduction of the new *Collector Trauma Data Pool* (CTDP). CTDP is a Collector community data collection tool that supports cutting edge research, outcomes analysis, and comparative assessments for participating trauma centers. The CTDP will enable a next-generation of online and Internet Collector services, while maintaining an emphasis on data quality and operational definitions to ensure the creation of an accurate and scientifically valid pool of data.

Members of the Collector community can use aggregate non-identifiable comparative reports provided by CTDP to benchmark themselves against a diverse group of trauma facilities.

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INSIDE COLLECTOR

The Versatile Coded Variable

Coded variables are data elements with groups, or ranges of values defined by the user within a single data element. Defined groups can then be used in reports and queries as any other data element. Examples of commonly created coded variables include age groups, severity groups, and probability of survival.



Although coded variables are most often used in gather specs or to generate gather files, they can also be used in queries and reports. In fact, coded variables can also be used in RDL reports, DBF exports, and any other report functions in Collector. The following example uses a coded variable to group patients by ranges of probability of survival. Here, TRISS_GROUP is a variable from 1 to 4 based on user-defined groups.

To create the coded variable:

Defining the groups of your coded variable is similar to creating queries, as each requires a data element value to check, an operator and a comparison value. Existing queries can also be used in the definition.

- From the title bar menu select:
Report | Coded Variable | New
- In Column 1, select the data element for which the groups will be defined.
- The Operator column determines how the value of the element will be compared against the range limits defined in Column 2. Each possible value of the data element should be captured in only one group. Collector selects the first line that applies for a patient.
- The Text column can be filled with the text description of the each group or range of values. When the coded variable is used in reports and queries, this description provides the text when the AS_TEXT feature is used.
- To save the coded variable, click **Save As**, and choose a name with up to 12 letters. Numbers and underscores can also be used within the name.

Column 1	Operator	Column 2	Text
1 TRISS	<	0.25	Likely Mortality
2 TRISS	BETWEEN	0.25, 0.50	Potential Mortality
3 TRISS	BETWEEN	0.50, 0.75	Potential Survival
4 TRISS	>	0.75	Likely Survival

Once defined, coded variables can be used in the same manner as other predefined or user defined data elements.

Each group can be referenced individually, using the name of the coded variable name and the row number of the desired group. For example, the simple query `TRISS_GROUP = 1` would query for patients with a probability of survival < 0.25.



YOUR FEEDBACK IS WELCOME!

DI Contact Information:

Collector Technical Support:

800-344-3668, option 4
410-838-4034, option 4

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support@dicorp.com

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New Collector Users and DI Staff are Welcome Additions

It has been an exciting year for DI. Collector continues to be the trauma registry of choice for trauma centers throughout the world. This increasing user base provides the foundation for the continuing research and development that brings advanced system technologies and product enhancements to the Collector product line.

DI welcomes the addition of Collector users throughout **Kansas, Missouri and Iowa**, who came on board under statewide contracts, as well as many new institutions in **South Carolina, Virginia, Texas, and Wisconsin**.

Also, as a part of DI's continuing commitment to providing quality service to our expanding user base, DI welcomes several new employees who have come on board during the past few months. We are happy to introduce them to you.

In March, **Tim Favazza** accepted the position of Director of Marketing and Sales. Tim has extensive executive level management experience, a programming background, and is a dynamic leader for DI's

sales and marketing staff.

Another addition to the sales and marketing staff is **Jim Roberts**, a graduate of Towson University. Jim specializes in the area of technology sales, including hardware and software products. In his role at DI, Jim will provide product information and guide sales processes.

Collector users calling technical support may hear a new voice on line. That voice belongs to **Jim Bowling**, who, although not new to DI, recently stepped into the role of Collector Technical Support Analyst. Jim is a Microsoft Certified Systems Engineer, and his experience working with network systems will certainly be an asset to the team.

The technical support team is also pleased to have **Tony DeCastro** join the staff. His background in database development, web design and computer analysis provides a solid knowledge base for assisting software users. Tony will assist those using Project Impact and the American Heart Association software system.

Users Conference (Continued from page 1) course, *AAAM Injury Scaling: Uses and Techniques*, on October 8-9, also at the Embassy Suites! Information for the AAAM coding course is available at www.carcrash.org, or by calling 847-844-3880 or by email at AAAM1@aol.com.

Don't miss out on these invigorating and enlightening opportunities. Veteran attendees have informed us that the Collector Users Conference is one of their favorite ways to:

- Learn valuable Collector tips and new techniques for implementing Collector's powerful capabilities
- Increase skills for streamlining and writing efficient and reusable queries and reports
- Meet and network with Collector users from various types of institutions
- Hear innovative and inspiring presentations by industry experts from around the world



Registration forms are available:

- on the DI website at www.dicorp.com
- by contacting Donna Youngberg by email or phone (dyoungberg@dicorp.com or 410-838-4034 ext. 27)

Register and send full payment prior to August 1 to receive your early registration discount!

ICD-10 UPDATE

When the World Health Organization (WHO) announced the development of an updated International Classification of Diseases code list, DI began preparing for its implementation into the Collector Trauma Registry. System implications and requirements documents were prepared to their fullest extent possible, and a plan of action was prepared for updating the more than 60 customized Collector versions currently in use throughout the U.S., Canada and several other countries.

The initiation of the original plan has begun. ICD-10 codes have already been incorporated into Collector updates in Canada, where clinical modifications have already been finalized and many provinces are using the new codes. In the U.S., the National Center for Health Statistics is in the process of developing the clinical modifications for ICD-10. The update and implementation process is dependent upon the final version of the ICD-10-CM, and will move forward once the ICD-10 Clinical Modifications revisions are approved.



TRAINING NEWS

Web Training Modules: Focus on Selected Topics

DI is pleased to announce the addition of a new Collector training method: *Collector Internet Training Modules*. Sessions address specific features and functionality of the Collector Trauma Registry software and are designed for our clients who have some Collector experience. These 90-minute sessions are a great way to **refresh your knowledge or learn new Collector skills without leaving the office and without travel costs!** Request forms for web training sessions are accessible on DI's web site (www.dicorp.com), or by phone, fax or email.

New Training Facility Provides Economical Option

In support of DI's commitment to offer affordable training options for our software users, the company recently opened a new computer training center at the company's Forest Hill, MD headquarters. The availability of this spacious facility enables DI to offer regularly scheduled group training sessions at extremely affordable rates. We believe this will provide a great benefit, especially for facilities that logistically have not been able to participate in on-site group trainings. Please call for dates and cost information.

On-Site Regional and Individual Sessions Available

For many years DI has provided on-site regional group training sessions, as well as on-site individual facility sessions. These options are still available. Normally scheduled when a need is identified, two-day regional sessions provide an economical and convenient opportunity for individuals from several facilities to complete Collector Basic training. A group training usually accommodates 10-15 people. Please contact DI for information about hosting an on-site regional training session.

For more Collector training information contact: Donna Youngberg
phone: 410-838-4034 ext. 27
email: dyoungberg@dicorp.com

New DI Software (Continued from page 1)

Participants will receive periodic releases of standard reports, presented in PDF format. The CTDP, DI, and Collector support complement all national trauma database initiatives, including the NTDB. DI will also provide secure offline housing of all trauma data submitted including the necessary quality control checks to protect the integrity of the data and of the CTDP.

Collector Trauma Case Management and Outcomes

Tracking System ("Collector Outcomes") Collector Outcomes is designed to support your performance improvement initiatives. The software allows you to select records from the Collector Trauma Registry for tracking and analyzing patient care through the continuum of care.

Using Outcomes, you can easily generate summary documents for internal and external use, trend issues that affect patient care, generate reports, record peer review notes, and much more.

Collector Palm - The introduction of "handy" palm-held devices into the technology mix provides another opportunity for Collector users to take advantage of a convenient new data entry tool. The Collector Trauma Registry Palm version is currently in the final testing stages, and will make its debut at the 2002 Users Conference.

For sales information, contact Tim: tfavazza@dicorp.com, or 410-838-4034, ext. 22.



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To:

DI is on the Web...
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Product Support: ***THE BACK PAGE***



Using List Elements in Reports

Q. What is a list element?

A. A data point which can accept more than one choice from the same menu is called a list element. Examples include procedures, complications, ICD9 Codes, pre-existing conditions, and interventions.

Internal to the system, each of the placeholders in a list element has its own field name (i.e. ICD9 Procedures include ICD9_01, ICD9_02, etc.). Data from any or all of the placeholder fields can be retrieved using queries and reports.

Q. While writing a query for a list element, I found that it was listed several times in the Data Element selection screen. Which one do I use?

A. Each of the listings on the Data Element selection screen is designed for use with a particular Collector function. Note the letter shown in parentheses after the list element description. The letters indicates which function corresponds to that selection, and are used as follows:

- (Q) - used when writing queries.
- (D) - used in data table reports. Sometimes there are two (D) choices. One is the numeric list, the other is the text list. The text list will have the word "text" somewhere in the name.
- (L) - used ONLY in a DBF Export.

Q. How can I query individual fields within the list element? (i.e. Only the first ICD9 Procedure field)

A. As with all queries, you use the name of the field you wish to include. Each individual field of a list element has its own name within Collector. However, because these are a "field within a field" the individual listing is not on the main Data Elements screen of the query form. To access the names of the individual fields within the list element, go to File | View. Select the Help folder, and open Scr-r.txt. This file includes every field name in the order they appear (by screen) in Collector. Scroll down the document until you find the field desired. You can copy and paste the field name into the query or report format.

For more information regarding list elements or other Collector features, contact the DI Technical Support staff:
800-344-3668, option 4 OR support@dicorp.com

Questions or suggestions for future articles can be sent to:

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