

FactsFerret – Phase 1.0

User’s Manual

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# Introduction

This guide will introduce the user to the FactsFerret search tool and instruct them in searching HealthFacts data.

# About

The main function of FactsFerret is to retrieve information about patients with desired characteristics at both population and individual levels. It provides search capability for unstructured text in the form of TIU documents as well as structured data, such as demographics, diagnoses, procedures, lab tests, etc.

# Pre-Requisites

A Java SE Runtime Environment (JRE) version 8 or above must be installed and the directory containing the javaw executable must be in the list of directories automatically searched for executable files (the PATH).

# Installation

Extract the zip file named “factsferret-p1.0.zip” into a directory that you have permissions to write to. This will create a new directory named “factsferret -p1.0” in that directory.

# Starting FactsFerret

To run FactFerret, double-click the file “start-FactFerret” (or “start- FactFerret.bat”) in the “FactFerret -p1.0” directory. You will see a splash screen indicating that FactFerret is starting.

Once FactFerret has finished starting, you will see the main interface (Fig. 1).



Figure 2. Main FactsFerret interface.

# Searching

To perform a search, enter a search term in the “Search for:” text field, and then select the field to search from the “In field:” drop down list. If you wish to search multiple fields, or multiple terms in the same field, then add a new search term row by clicking the  button. If you wish to remove a search term then click the  button on the row you wish to remove. When you have entered all of your search terms, click the Search button to perform the search.

The fields available for searching, along with their descriptions, are shown in

Table 1.

Table 1. Searchable fields.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Field** | **Description** |
| Diagnosis |  |
| Encounter Year | The year that the patient was discharged from the medical facility |
| Medication | Drug names of patient prescriptions. |
| Surgical Procedure |  |
| Clinical Event |  |
| Age | Age of patient. |
| Gender | Gender of patient. (M or F) |
| ICD-9 | International Statistical Classification of Diseases version 9 codes for patient diagnoses. |
| CPT | Current Procedural Terminology codes for patient procedures. |

General search rules and information can be found by clicking the  button. The rules governing how the search is performed are:

* All search criteria are case insensitive.
* Search criteria for fields may use the \* wildcard.
* All search criteria between different fields are combined using a logical AND.
* Numeric ranges may be specified using two numbers separated by a hyphen (e.g. 5-10)
* Numeric ranges may also be specified by using > and < symbols (e.g. > 3)
* The Age< field matches age at the time of the visit.

# Results

Search results include:

* The number of matching patients.
* The number of matching documents (if criteria for Document Text and/or Document Type were specified).
* A map showing the geographic distribution of matching patients. The locations are shown at the county level. Larger markers indicate a larger number of matching patients in the marked county.
* A histogram showing the age distribution of matching patients.
* A pie chart showing the deceased status distribution of matching patients.
* A pie chart showing the gender distribution of matching patients.
* A list of the 25 most frequently prescribed drugs for the matching patients.
* A list of the 25 most frequent diagnoses for the matching patients.
* A list of the 25 most frequent procedures for the matching patients.
* A list of the 25 most frequent document types matching the search criteria for the matching patients (if criteria for Document Text and/or Document Type were specified).

# Saving

The results may be saved as a report document in portable document format (PDF). After the search has finished, click the Save button, select the directory where you wish to save the report, and enter a file name for the report, then click Save.

1. **More user’s guides**

The users can learn more about the tool and its features through watching some YouTube videos, which have been created and uploaded up online by the developer team.

Video 1: Getting familiar with FactsFerret through a simple example

<https://youtu.be/DahV_pshEko>

Video 2: Some points for having more efficient search

https://youtu.be/hEj8reTpgik