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| INFM 600 – Information EnvironmentS |
| Instructor: David LOSHIN |
| Information Seeking |
| Assignment # 1 |
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**Question 1**

What are the drugs that are approved with therapeutic equivalence evaluation (generic drugs) by FDA under Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act?

1. U.S. Food and Drug Administration (2017). Orange Book Data Files (37th Edition) [Data Files and Orange Book Appendices]. Retrieved from <https://www.fda.gov/Drugs/InformationOnDrugs/ucm129689.htm>
2. This information is available under the Freedom of Information Act. <https://www.fda.gov/RegulatoryInformation/FOI/default.htm>
3. The Orange Book contains information on the generic drugs that have met safety and efficacy standards and were approved as substitute for patented drugs. The generic drugs were determined to be of therapeutic equivalence. The Orange Book aids States Health Agencies, Prescribers, and Pharmacies in the selection of generic drugs, which helps to contain prescription costs. The Approved Drug Products with Therapeutic Equivalence Evaluations, commonly referred to as the Orange Book, comprises of 3 data sets, namely Product, Patent, and Exclusivity. The Product table contains information about the ingredient of the drug and the Applicant. The Patent table contains patent information of the drug, and the Exclusivity table contain information about the restriction
4. Data users and decision-makers are State Health, Agencies, Prescribers, Pharmacies and Pharmaceutical Manufacturers (proprietary and generic).
5. Three questions this data might help to answer:
   1. What approved generic drug can a Pharmacist recommend to a patient as a substitute for a propriety drug prescribed by his/her Physician?
   2. What is the patent expiration date and exclusivity expiration date for a propriety drug that a generic drug company is interested in manufacturing?
   3. What are the approved generic drugs that a State Health Agency representative would recommend for coverage under the State’s Medicare program?

**Question 2**

Which companies are genetically modifying foods and what genetically modified foods are being eaten in US?

1. United States Department of Agriculture/Animal Plant Health Inspection Service/Biotechnology Regulatory Services (USDA/APHIS/BRS) (2017). Genetically Modified Foods [Petitions for Determination of Nonregulated Status]. Retrieved from <https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/biotechnology/permits-notifications-petitions/petitions/petition-status>
2. This information is available under the USDA’s Digital Rights and Copyright Policy and the Freedom of Information Act <https://www.usda.gov/policies-and-links>
3. This data set contains information about the companies that have genetically modified crops and have received permission to produce them commercially. Crops with a deregulated status have been approved for commercial production. Corn has about 33 genetically modified varieties, Soybean has 20 varieties, Cotton has 10 varieties, Potato has 6 varieties, Papaya has 2 varieties, Squash has 2 varieties, Canola has 2 varieties, Apple has 1 variety, and Sugar Beet has 1 variety. Monsanto is the leading producer of genetically modified seeds.
4. The users of this data are GMO Companies, Environmental Groups, Farmers, Universities, and the General Public
5. Three questions this data might answer
   1. What are the crops that have been genetically modified by Monsanto?
   2. When did the US start producing crops from genetically modified seeds and which crop?
   3. There are 33 genetically modified varieties of Corn. Who are the companies that have produced these varieties?

**Question 3**

Is the Airline industry profitable?

1. U.S. Department of Transportation/Bureau of Transportation Statistics (2017). 2016 Annual and 4th Quarter Airline Financial Data [Net Income of all U.S. Carrier in all regions]. Retrieved from <https://www.transtats.bts.gov/Data_Elements_Financial.aspx?Data=6>
2. This information is available from the U.S. Department of Transportation under the FOIA <https://www.transportation.gov/foia>
3. Over the years, American airlines, Delta Airlines and Southwest Airlines have gone through a number of mergers and some of these mergers occurred during the recession. The number of passengers travelling have increased and the airfares are also increase. It would be interesting to see how the U.S. Carriers have fared and whether they are still operating at a loss or have become profitable.
4. Potential data users are CEOs of the Airlines, Investors, Federal Aviation administration, and International Air Transportation Association (IATA)
5. Three questions this data might answer:
   1. Which US Airline was most profitable in 2016?
   2. Of the international market, which region was most profitable?
   3. How has the domestic market changed between 2000 and 2016?