Appendix A

References Relating to Database Skills


References Relating to Definition and Analysis Skills


References Relating to Database Design Techniques
AHIMA is the accrediting body for associate and baccalaureate degree programs in HIM. In 1996, AHIMA created a set of models that were designed to guide HIM programs in developing curricula to meet the demands that would be placed on HIM professionals in the 21st century. Each model consists of 11 knowledge clusters, with each cluster further subdivided by a set of knowledge units. Each unit is assigned a competency level indicating the level of knowledge and expertise a student should develop.

Competency levels range from one (awareness) to five (skilled use). Most relevant to the discussion is the knowledge cluster information technology. Within this cluster are the knowledge units data, information, file structures, data security, and data retrieval. Each unit has been assigned a competency level of 5 and is further subdivided into a set of smaller units. The knowledge cluster information technology and the aforementioned knowledge units are important because they represent AHIMA’s attempt to define a set of competencies that closely resemble the set of skills HIM professionals must achieve to be considered competent in database design and management. However, they can be considered only guideposts or markers because they make no attempt to capture or reflect the skills that are most needed by HIM professionals in the area of database design.

Therefore, the design team felt that it was imperative to develop a list of skills that would make the HIM professional competent in database design and management. Furthermore, because these knowledge clusters are merely guides to what knowledge a student must acquire, what is taught in the classroom will be dictated by the idiosyncratic whims of educators who feel that what they present in class satisfies the competencies set forth in the knowledge clusters. With an accurate definition of the skills students must acquire in a database design course, educators will have a definitive list of skills that students need to acquire by the end of the course.