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Human Study - Prosthetics and Orthotics

**Title**

Dictionary of Prosthetic and Orthotic Terms

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None

**Summary**

This is the first published P&O dictionary; it is a compilation of P&O and other related terms. This dictionary is available in hard and soft copy, and online. It contains over 5,000 terms. It is an English-English definition-Arabic dictionary, and it is being translated into many other languages.

**Introduction**

It is evident that there is a need for a specialized P&O dictionary that gives the meaning of technical words in a P&O context. Currently, there is one online dictionary which contains about 1650 words only; there are some other brief lexicons that are restrictively used by educational organizations. Henceforth, readers of P&O publications may face difficulty in finding the meaning of a term in a P&O context because the meanings in medical or technical dictionaries may differ. Hence, we compiled this dictionary to fill this gap.

**Methods**

The compilation process started with reviewing all available lexicons, inclusive the ISPO Canada online dictionary, to determine the most common P&O terms used thus far. Gradually, we added more words by reading several English P&O books, articles, publications, technical notes, etc. to detect words that carry a specific meaning in a P&O context not defined as such in other dictionaries. The English definition of some terms included a brief description of a process to bring the meaning in a P&O context closer to the reader. We also included terms found in new technologies recently used or introduced in P&O such as CAD CAM and 3D printing. In addition, we included a list of abbreviations used in P&O articles to make it easier for the reader to understand the abbreviation without wasting time to look into the article itself; also to help writers of new articles in knowing which abbreviations already exist.

## Results

This compiled dictionary contains most of the words encountered by P&O readers; it combines medical, paramedical, and technical words that are not found altogether in one publication thus far, and certainly not found in a P&O context. It is prepared in an Excel format to allow further additions. In addition to Arabic translation the English definition is added to make it easier to translate this dictionary into other languages. It is made available in hard copies for P&O technicians in remote areas who have no access to internet or to personal computers. We included some non-technical terms that are commonly faced by P&O administrators and researchers, thus making it a sufficient resource for all professionals working in the P&O field as well as P&O students. We also included the prefixes and suffixes used in P&O terms to make it easier for P&O students to understand the origin of words, and to help them in quickly memorizing and remembering these words. The Human Study Plan is to translate this complete dictionary into several other languages and to make it available online for all interested readers.

## Conclusion

This is the emergence of a well-needed publication that promotes P&O general education and prepares this profession to go to a higher level. It is a unified compiled source of P&O terminology translation/definition that replaces the need for several dictionaries that may be necessary for P&O readers. It is derived from numerous P&O publications, and it includes the meanings of words from several areas such as medical, engineering, technical, etc. We avoided in this dictionary the mistakes that are found in lexicons and online translators. As such, it incorporates the meanings of some pure P&O technical terms that are not found elsewhere. In addition, it contains abbreviations used in P&O publications for a faster reference for its users and to help avoid duplication by other writers. This dictionary is compiled in a simple universal form that facilitates its translation into many other languages.

## References

There are numerous references used in the compilation of this dictionary, few are listed below.

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