



Cataloging with Osteopathic Medical Terminology



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Introduction

Osteopathic medicine developed in the United States over 100 years ago as a distinctive form of medical practice from the thoughts and energies of Virginian, Andrew Taylor Still, M.D., D.O. (1828-1917). The philosophy of osteopathic medicine is based on the beliefs that, given optimum conditions, the human body has the amazing ability to heal itself, that the structure of the human body is directly related to function and that the health of the individual is related to the body, mind and spirit. As in any profession, osteopathic medicine has developed a unique terminology integral to its professional identity. Oftentimes there is and has been confusion about osteopathic terms and their meaning within the profession. The difficulty for catalogers lies in not having access to an authoritative tool for bibliographic and descriptive cataloging.

Project Description

To make uniquely osteopathic terminology available to national and international clinical and research audiences and to aid in the cataloging of osteopathic materials, the American Osteopathic Association (AOA) and the American Association of Colleges Osteopathic Medicine (AACOM) supported the development of an Authorized Osteopathic Thesaurus (AOT). The AOT is a controlled vocabulary which was developed as a by-product of OSTMED®, a comprehensive index to citations and abstracts in the osteopathic medicine literature which became available on the Internet on October 1, 2002. In 2004 the AOT was submitted to SNOMED® International, a division of the College of American Pathologists (CAP). SNOMED®, in a collaborative effort with the AOA and AACOM, agreed to add osteopathic medical content from the AOT to SNOMED Clinical Terms® (SNOMED CT®) Core content.. Concepts and terms from the AOT approved by SNOMED® will become available through the National Library of Medicine's UMLS® (United Medical Language System®) Metathesaurus in the form of MeSH headings. The review process is a lengthy one and is as yet ongoing. In January 2007, it was announced that ownership of SNOMED CT® was being transferred to the newly-formed International Health Terminology Standards Development Organisation (IHTSDO®). It appears this organizational change may be affecting the conclusion of the review process.

Currently the NLM's UMLS Metathesaurus (or Medical Subject Headings (MeSH) does not incorporate enough osteopathic terms to correctly describe in a cataloging record the scope of an osteopathic item. However, the thesaurus is slowly evolving to include more terms and in the future may be a better tool for osteopathic catalogers. Often a cataloger must use terms from the *Authorized Osteopathic Thesaurus* to adequately assign subjects to an item.

The creation of an authoritative and standardized tool for the specialized language of osteopathic medicine should prove to be an invaluable aid for clinicians, researchers and others, especially catalogers, who must describe and communicate using terminology that has uniform meaning. Also, adding AOT terms to MeSH will increase the accessibility to osteopathic literature through MEDLINE searching.

Cataloging Tools

1. For an understanding of osteopathic concepts go to

AOA's *Glossary of Osteopathic Terminology*
http://www.osteopathic.org/index.cfm?PageID=ost_glossary

2. To catalog use

Authorized Osteopathic Thesaurus (AOT)
<http://www.aacom.org/om/thesaurus.html>

NLM UMLS® (MeSH®) with AOT terms added
<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/mesh/meshhome.html>

AOT

Using **AOT** terms to catalog a book:

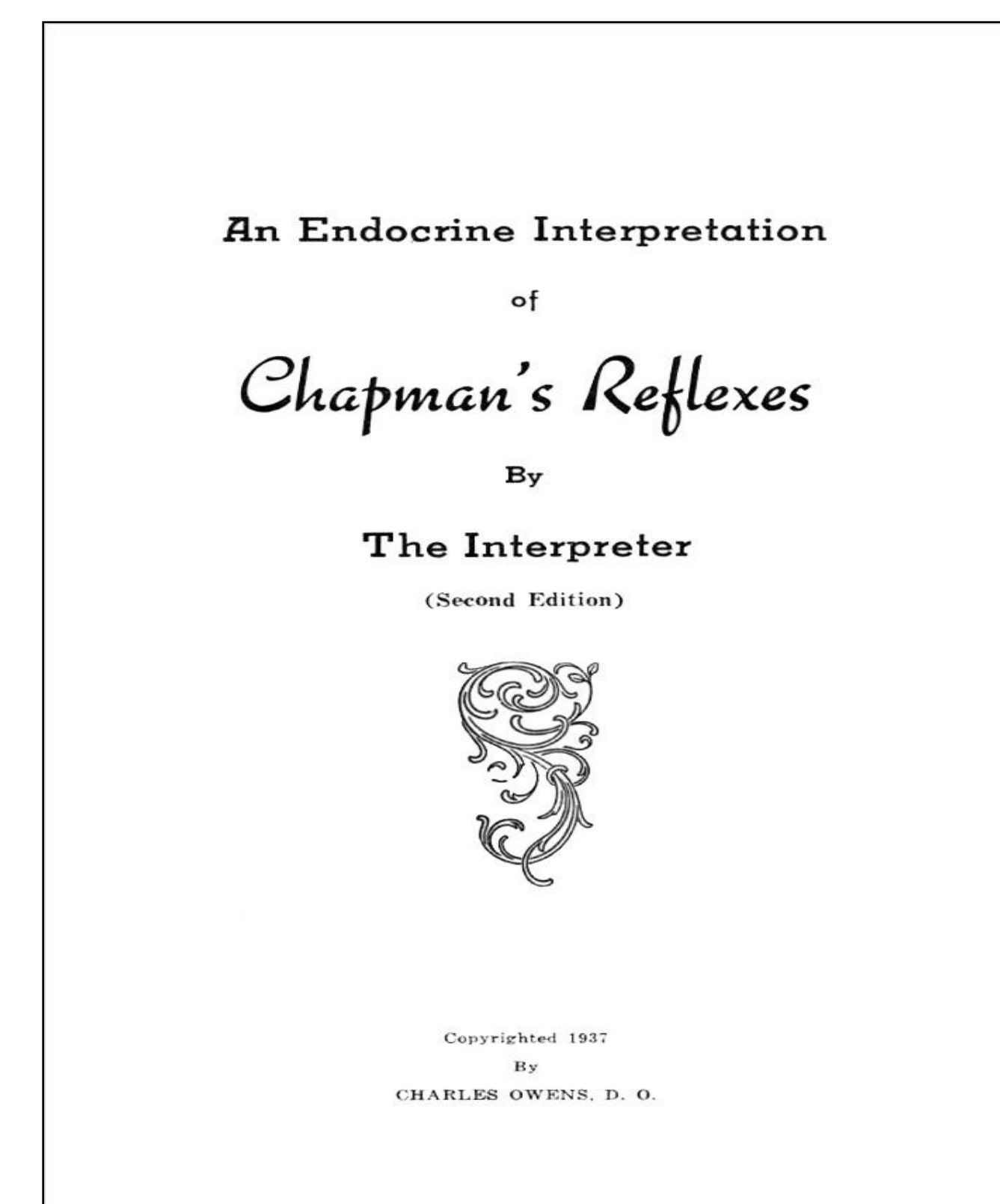
Authorized Osteopathic Thesaurus, December, 2003

Item number 53	
Term	Chapman Reflex
Broader Term(s)	Reflex [MeSH]; Somatic Dysfunction
Related Term(s)	Somato-Somatic Reflex; Somato-Visceral Reflex; Tissue Texture Abnormality; Viscero-Somatic Reflex; Viscero-Visceral Reflex
Used for Term(s)	Chapman's Reflex; Chapman's Reflexes
Scope Notes	1. A system of reflex points that present as predictable anterior and posterior fascial tissue texture abnormalities (plaque-like changes or stringiness of the involved tissues) assumed to be reflections of visceral dysfunction or pathology. 2. Originally used by Frank Chapman, DO, and described by Charles Owens, DO.

Item number 54	
Term	Chapman's Reflex
Use Term(s)	Chapman Reflex
Item number 55	
Term	Chapman's Reflexes
Use Term(s)	Chapman Reflex

Book:	An Endocrine interpretation of Chapman's reflexes by Charles Owens 1937
096	WB940 O97e2 1937
100	10 a Owens, Charles, 1864-
245	13 a An endocrine interpretation of Chapman's reflexes / #c by the interpreter
246	3 a Chapman's reflexes
250	a 2nd ed.
260	0 a Chattanooga, TN : #b Chattanooga Printing & Engraving, ; #c 1937
300	a 116 p. : #b ill. ; #c 23 cm.
500	a Includes index.
650	2 Endocrine Glands
650	2 Chapman Reflex

Example



NLM MeSH

Using **MeSH®** terms to catalog a book:

As cataloged by NLM in **Locator Plus**

Author(s): Owens, Charles, 1864-
Title(s): An endocrine interpretation of Chapman's reflexes by the interpreter...
Publisher: [Chattanooga] c1937.
Other Title(s): Chapman's reflexes
Description: 1 p. l., 116, [9] p. ill., ports.
Language: English
MeSH: **Endocrine Glands***
Osteopathic Medicine*
Other Subject(s): Reflexes
Notes: "Copyrighted ... by Charles Owen [sic]"
NLM ID: [34120490R](#) [Book]

Subject Heading Terms Key

AOT:	Chapman Reflex Immune System Reflex, Abnormal Lymphatic System
MeSH®:	Endocrine Glands* Osteopathic Medicine*

References

1. Johnson, Lynn F. and Ann Brooks. *Construction of an Osteopathic Thesaurus*. Poster presented at the 28th Annual South Central Chapter/Medical Library Association (SCC/MLA) Meeting, New Orleans, Louisiana (October 24-28, 2001).
2. Nash S. Integrating Osteopathic terminology into SNOMED CT. AMIA Annu Symp Proc. 2005:1061.
3. Northup GW. History of the development of osteopathic concepts, with notes on osteopathic terminology. J Am Osteopath Assoc. 1975 Dec;75(4):405-9.

Photo courtesy of the Southwest Virginia Museum, Big Stone Gap, VA

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