

# Clinical Lab Reference Documents from a Database



## Background

The client had some test definition information in their homegrown Laboratory Information System (LIS) and some test definition information in static documents and desktop databases. The client wanted some automated way to publish this data in at least these document types:

- an Ordering Menu & Result Interpretation Guide for Clinicians
- a Collection Manual for nurses and phlebotomists
- a Processing Manual for bench techs
- a Resident's Reference for medical residents

The client wanted these document types in the following formats:

- on-line as static, searchable HTML, PDF, a PDA app
- on paper as letter size for desks, half-letter size for lab coat pockets
- on-line as an integrated part of their in-lab work stations

## Business Challenge

The challenge was to use as much of the LIS configuration as possible, since the LIS configuration determines actual resulting, while producing documentation clear enough to support human users in life-and-death decisions.

## Solution

After surveying the existing data collection and review process, M+H designed a master database with various loaders. The static reference documents were parsed and loaded. The LIS-based test definition attributes were regularly refreshed from the source.

M+H created an MS-Access desktop application to support the review and maintenance of this database. M+H created a suite of export programs to support the various formats and a viewing app to work on the in-lab work station. M+H provided real-time linkage between the Lab Man database and other apps of ours in the same environment: our draw station software (Collection Manual) and our results viewing software (Results Interpretation).

## Results

- push-button solution to publishing reference documents
- consistency across formats and document types
- more document types
- visibility on the Web through Google and other search engines