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Websites of healthcare facilities as sources of health information

Doctoral Dissertation Summary

The Internet is a source of health information for many of its' users. Websites of healthcare facilities could therefore be a reliable source for health information. However, as previous researches indicate, these websites are not a source of information that is commonly used.

The aim of this dissertation is to characterize the websites of healthcare facilities in Poland as sources of health information for these websites' current and potential users. This dissertation is based on results of research on the content and level of accessibility of websites of healthcare facilities in Poland and the expectations of current and potential users of these websites.

The content of 300 websites of healthcare facilities in Poland was analyzed. An automatic validation of the level of accessibility of the examined websites was also carried out. Expectations of current and potential users of healthcare facilities websites, in the field of these websites content, were identified by using an online survey.

It was proposed to divide the content of healthcare facilities websites into information content and interactive services. The information content was categorised into 3 main groups of information: the information about the healthcare facility, the information for the patient and the educational resources. Analysed websites definitely do not offer the scope of information relevant to the users expectations, and at the same time these websites are not fully accessible to all users.

Keywords

HEALTH INFORMATION, HEALTHCARE FACILITIES, WEBSITES

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