How Do Non-physicians Search for Health Information Online?

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A search engine is the starting point for finding health information online. KHRESMOI aims at developing a multilingual, multimodal search and access system for biomedical information and documents. Its target audience will be the general public, physicians and radiologists.

This survey studies search behaviour of a user group of non-physicians.

1. How often do you use the following types of online sources to find online health information?

2. What are the most important characteristics of a search engine for you?

3. What types of difficulties do you face when searching for health information?

4. How often do you face situations where you cannot find the answer to a medical question in the Internet?

5. Why do you think you could not find the answer?

Conclusions

Despite the popularity of general search engines, there is still room for improvement as current solutions do not fulfil users’ requirements.

There is a need to work towards better customized solutions which provide users with trustworthy information specific to his/her case, in a user-friendly environment which would eventually lead to making appropriate health decisions.

More information about the survey results:

http://khresmoi.eu