ABSTRACT

According to Pew Research Center’s Internet & American Life Project (2013), 77% of study participants start their health-related searches using search engines. Potential results can vary widely in both scope and accuracy. This statistic in combination with the nearly 90 million U.S. adults with low health literacy creates an environment where health outcomes are directly connected to the accessibility of resources to community members (Radick, 2015). The Community Health Information Station is a part of a grant-funded project from the National Network of Libraries of Medicine, a division of the National Institute of Health. The purpose of the health information station is to improve community members’ abilities to find, evaluate, and use quality health information by providing easy access to a collection of curated health resources via a tabletop kiosk. This technology tool is complemented with Community Health Workshops, which help participants develop the capacity to evaluate the quality of resources and expose them to the National Library of Medicine resource Medlineplus.gov. A total of ten health information stations will be distributed to various institution types including public libraries, health clinics, resource Medlineplus.gov. A total of ten health and expose them to the National Library of Medicine division of the National Institute of Health. The purpose of the health information station is to improve community members’ abilities to find, evaluate, and use quality health information by providing easy access to a collection of curated health resources via a tabletop kiosk. This technology tool is complemented with Community Health Workshops, which help participants develop the capacity to evaluate the quality of resources and expose them to the National Library of Medicine resource Medlineplus.gov. A total of ten health information stations will be distributed to various institution types including public libraries, health clinics, and health-oriented non-profits.

OBJECTIVES

The purpose of the distribution of Community Health Information Stations is to support the work of a grant-funded project called the Community Health Workshop. The overarching objectives of the project include:

- Increase access to quality information
- Develop eHealth literacy
- Foster participation

The total cost per station is approximately $700, without any extended warranties or Apple Care.

RESULTS

The results are ongoing with the Community Health Information Station project. Overall the following insights were gained:

- The design is attractive and marketable to partner institutions.
- JAMF does not provide adequate usage data.
- Open iPads are not appropriate for institution that do not filter inappropriate sites through internet providers.
- Surefox does not work well with sites that have large amounts of external links.

CONCLUSION

The results demonstrate that there is an interest in this type of tool in community settings. Librarians and community health workers are the most enthusiastic about the impact of quality resources in their institutions. Follow-up data related to improvements in health literacy and preparation for doctor’s visits is beyond the scope of this project. However, the Community Health Information Station project will continue to explore more efficient methods to collect usage analytics and improve usability to measure exposure to quality resources.

REFERENCES


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