WFHSS
World Forum for Hospital Sterile Supply

Meeting the Informative Needs of a Multinational Forum

A Survey of Questions and Answers
Posted on WFHSS Website

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Sociology of Knowledge

Karl Mannheim (1883-1947)
Computer-Mediated Communication

- A technology
- A medium
- Engine of social relations
- A space within which the relations occur
- A tool that individuals use to enter that space
**Discussion Forum**

**Benefits**
- Wide geographic coverage
- Less social posturing
- Different perspectives
- Respondent in own environment
- Promote dialogue
- Asynchronous flexibility

**Challenges**
- A lot of data
- Repetitions
Professional Discussion Forum

- Seeking practice guidelines
- Information based on research
- Information based on experience
- Expert engagement
Past Research

- Education
- Web marketing
Aims

- Assess the WFHSS Q&A pages contribution
- Assess the quality of contents
- Explore further educational needs
Methods

Quantitative & Qualitative Analysis

Search through questions, according to key words

Encoding each question according to parameters
Qualitative Analysis

Narrative oriented

Uses Content analysis methods
Content Analysis

Words
Phrases
Characters
Themes
Topics
Quality Indicators

- Participation levels
- Relevance of postings
- Repetition rate
- Level of knowledge construction
WFHSS Website
Average Visits Per Month

Average Visits Per Month:
- 2003: 0
- 2004: 5000
- 2005: 10000
- 2006: 15000

Years:
- 2003
- 2004
- 2005
- 2006
WFHSS Website

Aimed to promote knowledge and support healthcare professionals interested in reprocessing of medical devices
Data Base

2000- June 2006

1221 threads (questions)

3011 postings (Q & A)
Worldwide Participation

Questions were posted by healthcare professionals from 76 countries
Identifies vs. Anonymous Questioners

Anonymous 19%
Identified 81%
Worldwide Internet Use (2005)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Population % of the world</th>
<th>Internet use % of the world</th>
<th>Questions % of WFHSS Q&amp;A</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Asia</td>
<td>56.4%</td>
<td>35.6%</td>
<td>25.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Africa</td>
<td>14.1%</td>
<td>2.3%</td>
<td>1.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Europe</td>
<td>12.4%</td>
<td>28.5%</td>
<td>28.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Middle East</td>
<td>2.9%</td>
<td>1.8%</td>
<td>19.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North America</td>
<td>5.1%</td>
<td>22.2%</td>
<td>4.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Latin America</td>
<td>8.5%</td>
<td>7.8%</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Australia</td>
<td>0.5%</td>
<td>1.7%</td>
<td>9.5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Developed vs. Developing Countries

Developed: 61%
Developing: 39%
Healthcare vs. Industrial Related

Pharmaceutical, food, medical devices

Healthcare 87%

Industry 13%
CSSD vs. Others

IC: 9%
Others: 4%
OT: 24%
CSSD: 63%
Relevancy

- >10% of the threads are non healthcare related (industry)

- <10% of healthcare related threads are not related to decontamination of medical devices (surface/skin disinfections, OT aseptic technique, etc.)

Moderate – high relevancy
Main Categories

- Know how: 46%
- What: 21%
- Problem solving: 9%
- Other: 24%
FAQ According to Analysis

- Packaging
- Steam sterilization
- BIs
- ETO
- Shelf life
Developed vs. Developing Countries

- Developed
- Developing

Bars represent different factors such as BD, BIs, Chem, Cleaning, Comparison, Design, ETO, Fumigation, Disinfection, Sterilization, LTSF, Packaging, Plasma, Problems, Reuse SUD, Shelflife, Time/Temp, Validation, and What.
Difference in Categories

- Developed
- Developing

- BD
- Cleaning
- Design
- ETO
- Fumigation
- Disinfection
- How to sterilize
- LTSF
- Packaging
- Time/Temp
Main Issues
Developed vs. Developing Countries

Developed
- Packaging
- How to disinfect
- How to clean
- How to sterilize

Developing
- B-D test
- Design considerations
- ETO
- Fumigation
- LTSF
- Time/Temperature relationships
Repetitions

21% of the questions are repetitions
Answers per Question

- No answer: 100
- 1 answer: 600
- 2 answers: 200
- 3 answers: 60
- 4 answers: 1
- $\geq 5$ answers: 0
Level of Knowledge Construction

Medium

- Application: 0 (0%)
- Testing hypotheses: 42 (1%)
- New ideas: 423 (14%)
- Dissonance: 534 (18%)
- Clarification: 2012 (67%)
Conclusions

- There is a constant growth in WFHSS website visits and Q&A forum use
- The geographical spread shows worldwide interest
Conclusions (cont.)

- Moderate-high relevancy
- Knowledge gap between developing and developed countries
Conclusions (cont.)

- 21% of questions are repetitive

- Level of knowledge construction is medium
Summary

- WFHSS questions and answers section is a relevant useful resource for healthcare professionals who are engaged in sterile supply related topics.

- The worldwide use of the website is a proof to an ongoing need to facilitate education programs.
Thank You