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Supporting Emerging Disciplines with e-Communities: Needs and Benefits

Multimedia Appendix 1: Survey instrument

How can a dental informatics online community help you?

The survey is anonymous. All responses will be treated as confidential data and reported only in summary form. Your participation is voluntary, and you may leave the survey website at any time.

This study is being conducted by Heiko Spallek, DMD, PhD, who can be reached at (412) 648-8886 or hspallek@pitt.edu. The ethics committee (Institutional Review Board) at the University of Pittsburgh has reviewed and approved this research protocol (IRB# 0604033).

Thanks for your time and effort! Your input will help us develop the Dental Informatics Online Community into a useful resource for your research efforts.

Sincerely,

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1. How often do you use the following information sources when trying to find professional information?

Source	Frequently Use	Sometimes Use	Never Use
online journals (e-print, full-text archives of print journals, etc.)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
hardcopy journals	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
newsletters	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
books from/in libraries	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
books from your personal collection	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
national or local media (newspapers, television, etc.)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
conferences, lectures, etc.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
researchers within my institution	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
researchers from other institutions	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Internet search engines (Google, Yahoo, Lycos, etc.)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Bibliographic databases such as... Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews or other Cochrane Library components	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

MEDLINE (via Ovid, PubMed, EMBASE, Web of Knowledge, or other database provider)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
IEEEExplore	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other information source: which?			

2. Do you have access to an institutional library? Yes / No
 If yes, do you use it (physically or via electronic means)? Yes / No

3. During the past 12 months, you have been collaborating with _____ number of collaborators (collaborator = co-author, co-investigator, consultant to a specific project)

Your collaborators ... (Check as many as apply.)

- come from my department
- come from my institution, outside my department
- come from other institutions with faculty specializing in my area of interest
- are people with whom I have collaborated in the past
- are people whom I met at conferences, conventions, etc.
- are people with whom I have conducted relevant research
- are people to whom I was introduced to by a colleague

other: _____

4. How do you usually find research assistants, such as student workers, graduate assistants, full-time research associates (Check as many as apply.)?

If you do not require research assistants, check here and skip to the next question.

Location-based recruiting within my

- department
- institution, but outside my department

Approaching individuals directly

- who have assisted me with my past research projects
- whom I have met at conferences, conventions, etc.

Formalized recruiting methods using

- a recruiting, employment, or matching service, within my institution
- a recruiting, employment, or matching service, independent of my institution

other: _____

5. How do you find out about funding opportunities (describe briefly)?

I do not participate in funded research (Skip to Question 7).

6. How often do you use the following sources to identify funding opportunities?

Source	Frequently Use	Occasionally Use	Never Use
colleagues	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
websites of prospective funding sources	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
websites specific to your field or area of interest	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
general research support websites	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
NIH website/newsletter	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
NSF website/newsletter	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
IEEEExplore	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
your own institution's research office website or its postings or mailings	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other: which?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

This does not apply to me; I do not participate in funded research.

7. How many conferences, conventions, or other professional meetings do you attend each year?
 _____ / year

8. To what degree do the following factors influence whether you attend a particular conference or not? (Rate the factors)

Factor	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Not Important
relevance of agenda to my general research interests	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
relevance of agenda to a particular research project	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
conference features an esteemed researcher	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
likelihood of attendees' research interests coinciding with my own	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
networking with fellow researchers	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
availability of funding to support attendance	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
ability to present my own work	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
other: which?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

9. Please list the most important professional associations or academic organizations that you are involved with.

IADR, International Association for Dental Research

- ADA, American Dental Association
- AMIA, American Medical Informatics Association
- IEEE, The Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers
- ADEA, American Dental Education Association
- MLA, Medical Library Association
- AACR, American Association for Cancer Research
- HIMSS, Healthcare Information Management Systems Society

other: _____
 other: _____
 other: _____

Begin Branching

Existing members

10. How did you hear about Dental Informatics Online Community (DIOC)?

- received a print announcement
- received an electronic announcement
- during a conference
- from colleague
- via an Internet Search
- other: _____

11. What are the three main benefits you expect from being involved with the Dental Informatics Online Community?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Non-members

10. How could an online community for dental informatics (=a Website that provides information resources and allows you to interact with others) help you in your research?

End Branching

12. Which best describes you?

My main professional activity:

Informatics-focused

- biomedical informatics
- dental informatics

Dentistry-focused

- clinical dentistry
- dental/craniofacial research
- computer/information science
- cognitive science

Technology-focused

- dental information technology industry
- engineering
- telecommunication

Education-focused

- dental education
- medical education

Other

library and information sciences

administration

13. Please specify your title or your position (for instance, assistant professor or postgraduate student):

How long have you held this title? _____ years

14. How long have you been at your current organization or institution?

_____ years

15. Country of residence: [Drop-down Menu]

16. Your Age: _____

17. Your gender: male female

Is there anything else you'd like to tell us?

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Center for Dental Informatics - Comments to author: cdi@pitt.edu