

Editorial

Information Design for Health and Wellbeing

In the health context, the accessibility and understandability of information are particularly important issues, especially if we take into account that users are in a situation of fragility or urgency, as well as considering particular population groups such as the elderly or children. Information is critical to good health and wellbeing on many levels, for example, for health promotion and disease prevention, patient-physician communication, prescribing, labelling and medication adherence, wayfinding, information flow and overall patient safety in hospital settings. Not to mention visualisations that simplify complex data into user-friendly graphics that support decision-making – from governments monitoring a planetary-threatening epidemic to personal health self-tracking in smartwatches. Design plays a great responsibility in guiding health providers, users and other stakeholders through the maze of information to ensure accessibility, inclusivity, reliability, efficiency, comprehension and engagement.

This special edition on Information Design for Health and Wellbeing presents research articles from different regions of Brazil that address these issues from various perspectives. The opening article, *'Development of an infographic as a warning for the prevention of penile cancer in Maranhão,'* authored by Lobo and colleagues, describes the development of an infographic to raise population awareness about the challenging topic of male intimate health care. With a user-centered design approach, the authors explored contextual barriers and enablers for improving health literacy.

Two articles address issues of information flow in hospital settings. The first, *'Information design considerations in graphic artifacts of the diet prescription process: on the information flow in a public university hospital,'* describes a case study by Sampaio and Spinillo to map information related to the complex nutrition care process of hospitalised patients. The authors investigated the hand-filled documents that support recording, storing, viewing and retrieving the information. The study's result is a flowchart focusing on graphic artifacts to visualise steps, activities and professionals involved in the process. The paper highlights the need to evaluate the design aspects of handwritten graphic documents to provide error-free prescriptions in hospitals.

The article *'Informational barriers and recommendations for patient inclusion in a Brazilian outpatient oncological service'* by König and colleagues is focused on the accessibility to health services. The authors observed problems regarding information and communication at the health facilities, including failures in signalling and a lack of alternative communication resources for people with disabilities.

The study points out recommendations to provide information inclusively so that patients can make decisions independently and safely.

The article '*Graphic resources for health information visualisation in the context of Covid-19*' recalls the pioneering work of the physician Ignaz Semmelweis and the nurse Florence Nightingale in using graphic representations to communicate health research. The Covid-19 pandemic has proven the prominent role of graphic resources in enabling a better understanding of complex data. The authors analysed the panorama of the use of graphic resources in the context of Covid-19, investigating the role of Information Design in convergence with Information Science. The literature review was systematized according to the use of graphic resources: to predict and understand the pandemic spread, to understand aspects related to diagnosis, drug administration, knowledge databases graphs, causes and effects of the prevention measures adopted and other subjects. The study indicates that the use of graphic resources to understand phenomena in the health area remains essential.

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Guest Editors