

Topics in social and health informatics research

In 2016, the 19th Research Days of Social and Health Informatics Association and this number of the Finnish Journal of eHealth and eWelfare include a representative and timely sample of research results.

The focus of interest in the studies are the key concepts: actors, data, actions and technology and the relations between those main concepts in health informatics context. The main actors in the studies regarding the development of data structures and models as well as technology are health-care professionals. In these studies especially information needs of professionals and the role of the narrative text in electronic health records have been investigated. In the studies concerning actions and technology the suitability of a secure e-mail communication between health professionals and clients has been evaluated. Further, several descriptive studies focused on these concepts: health care professional's and the client's needs in the development of e-services, user experience in the development of information systems as well as theoretical models supporting implementation of health care information systems. In one study related to technology and actors the research aim was to investigate informatics competencies among health professionals.

In key note presentation of Research Days can be heard on current news of the main ongoing development and research projects: relating to the UNA, Apotti and Isaacus, as well as the presentation of the service robotics and the challenges of robotics utilization in health care.

The aim of the UNA project is to provide organization and supplier independent requirement specification of customer-oriented interoperable social and health care information system which is required in delivery of welfare services.

The Apotti is a wide-ranging social and health care change project. The main objective of the project is regionally unified social and health care information system, which enables the improvement of processes and hence better quality. Isaacus service engine combines wellbeing information resources and their users, and enables the use of various information resources with agility and reliability for the benefit of an individual's inclusion, health and welfare.

The evaluation process for the Research Days and the Journal was conducted using the double-blind method. Each submission received feedback in the reviewers' own words and ratings in 11 categories from at least two reviewers. Based on the ratings, three papers were reviewed by one more reviewer. The best paper was thus selected based on ratings from three reviewers.

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Editor-in-Charge