

# Usage Patterns of Printed and Digital Information Sources among Dentists in Israel/

Sheier Vered

## Abstract

Israel is considered to be one of the leading countries in the field of science. Science research is a key in the evolution of information and knowledge. Information sources and their usage are essential researches of all scientific fields, since whichever the field maybe, a researcher and a scientist must be aware of all new professional publications in their field, to make sure they are updated.

Dentists, like other academic professional, use a variety of medical information sources and exposed in the last years to advanced technology.

The aim of this research is to discuss the usage of printed and digital professional publication, among Israeli dentists for their work.

This study evaluates various aspects of different sources. In addition, this study considers the effects of personal and professional characteristics on the choice of information sources and the way these sources are used.

As background for this study, a detailed overview is provided, on information research models, information needs and information channels. In addition, information behavior among scientists, health related personnel, physicians and dentists are described. To complete the background, related research performed in this field is also presented.

A questionnaire was designed especially for this study, in order to check the usage of the variety of information sources among Israeli dentists. This questionnaire, that was sent to 300 dentists in Israel, is also used to collect information on the demographic details of the dentists in the country. The final study is based on 177 dentists who responded to the questionnaire. The results of the study confirmed most of our assumptions. The study results are the following:  
- usage of printed information sources is higher than digital information sources among Israeli dentists.

- the more senior the doctors are, the more likely they are to prefer printed material over electronic one.
- experts use more printed and electronic information than other dentists.
- dentists that their work has academic aspects use more information sources than dentists that are related to academic work.
- no difference was found in information sources usage between dentists that work alone and doctors that work as part of a team in a clinic.
- information needs influence the selection of information sources.
- the more efficient information were found to also be the ones more frequently used.
- the most common reason for using information source is comfortableness.

In conclusion, the growth in information sources and the rapid technological changes that has occurred in the last few years, make it difficult for dentists to be up to date with current professional technology.

This research shows the low usage of digital sources among dentists in Israel in spite of the availability of these sources in the Internet. The use of these sources will not increase by itself. In order for information sources to be more frequently used, by more dentists, the use of these sources must be part of the formal education process in the dental schools. By acquiring skills in assessing digital sources, more dentists will use this media and patients will benefit, by having doctors who are up to date with most recent technologies in the field.

The importance of this research is in understanding the relevant aspects that affects the use of information sources among Israeli dentists, while assuming that evaluating the process is a key factor in planning dental information services. These services play a major role in the process of decision making and patients treatment.

System No.

**596943**