

KEY WORD : INFORMATION SEEKING BEHAVIOR/INFORMATION USE/PHYSICIANS/  
REGIONAL HOSPITALS

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USE OF PHYSICIANS IN REGIONAL HOSPITALS. THESIS ADVISOR:  
PIMRUMPAI PREMSMIT., DA. 146p. ISBN 974-581-165-3

The purposes of this research are to investigate information seeking behavior and information use of physicians in Regional Hospitals in terms of work-related information seeking purposes, information sources used, the use and nonuse of libraries / medical information center, type and subject area of information used and the problems of information seeking and use. It is hypothesized that the information seeking behavior and information use of physicians differed according to the individual characteristics and responsibilities.

Three hundred and one questionnaires were distributed to physicians of 17 Regional Hospitals. The total number of 262 usable responses is 87.04% of the population. The data were analyzed by the Statistical Package for Social Science (SPSS) to obtain the percentage, means and standard deviation.

The finding indicates that the most important purpose in information seeking is indentifying latest development in medical science. The purposes are veried according to the responsibilities of the physicians.

It is found that convenient location is one of the important reasons for library use. The hospital library, thus, is the most frequently used library. Individual characteristics and responsibilities affect the physicians' choice of information providers.

The most frequently used libraries are Faculty of Medicine libraries. The physicians directly use those libraries or through the assistance of librarians in hospital libraries. Library materials mostly used by the physicians are English and other fereign-language books and journals.

Problems in information seeking identified by the physicians are lack of time, receiving information not promptly and not up-to-date, and not knowing where to get information.

The research results can be used as a guideline for the development of medical information system as presented in the Chapter 5.