

Social Networking and Online Recruiting for HIV Research: Ethical Challenges

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Citation:

Curtis, B. L. (2014). Social Networking and Online Recruiting for HIV Research. *Journal of Empirical Research on Human Research Ethics: An International Journal*, 9(1), 58–70.
<https://doi.org/10.1525/jer.2014.9.1.58>

Link: <http://journals.sagepub.com/doi/abs/10.1525/jer.2014.9.1.58>

Summary:

Social networking sites and online advertising organizations help provide researchers access to target populations, which often allows them access to difficult to reach populations. Although even though this is a benefit to researchers it raises multiple issues concerning the prospective participants.

→ Methods (DoubleClick as an example). Doesn't do it's own research, cites other people's info. Making a review of other literature. Gather info from all and making best practices.

The major findings of this paper are that online recruitment and information gathering for these is a great resource for researchers, but still yield some ethical dilemmas. Their contribution within this paper is coming up with 10 recommended "best" practices for social networking and online recruiting of participants of HIV research along with some educational implications. My opinion is that online data gathering especially of stigmatized groups is an excellent resource, but that the scientific community still needs to hammer out more specific protocols for online recruiting and data analysis.

"You Have to be Positive." Social Support Processes of an Online Support Group for Men living with HIV

Jennifer L. Peterson

Citation:

Jennifer L. Peterson (2009) "You Have to be Positive." Social Support Processes of an Online Support Group for Men Living with HIV, *Communication Studies*, 60:5, 526-541, DOI: 10.1080/10510970903260368

Link: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/10510970903260368>

Summary:

This article is looking at a specific online support community of gay males living with HIV and which allows them to talk about only positive aspects of their lives. Different methods that were used to investigate this group included that of looking at a specific support group called

AIDStired which has its own online moderator. The major methods used though included that of reading through the messages looking for specific themes/issues, re-read messages to look for more specific themes/issues, grouped themes under large categories, reviewed major categories for repetition to combine duplicates, and lastly presented the categories in AIDStired in a posted message for verification and feedback. Three major themes were found out of the information gathered, which include messages about utilizing group norms for positive interaction, second included messages about seeking support in the context of positive interaction, and third included messages about providing social support. As the epidemic of HIV/AIDS continues to grow the need for online support systems continues to grow as well. This specific group of AIDStired creates a strong sense of harmony and a positive environment not focused on death and by doing so creates an online community that helps support their group members to live a positive life. My opinion is that online communities if continue to emerge should be more focused on the idea of life and support rather than focusing on the bad and creating a stagnant and malicious circle of an already unhappy situation.

The Challenges of Seeking and Receiving Support for Women Living With HIV

Jennifer L. Peterson

Citation:

Jennifer L. Peterson (2010) The Challenges of Seeking and Receiving Support for Women Living With HIV, Health Communication, 25:5, 470-479, DOI: 10.1080/10410236.2010.484878

Link: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/10410236.2010.484878>

Summary:

This paper has a focus on exploring the social support challenges of women living with HIV. The methods used were after IRB approval participants were recruited and first audiotaped for in-depth interviews (approx. 45 min-1.5hrs) and before the interview these women were asked to complete a brief survey and sign an informed consent document. Key findings included that a key factor in coping with their HIV is social support but many of these women encountered many challenges in seeking and receiving social support. Such as, challenges with seeking support included stigma and lack of resources while challenges with receiving included a mismatch of goals, concern for the providers, a lack of independence, and the readiness to accept the support offered. This research serves as the initial step in the development of a normative model for social support of women living with HIV. My opinion is that this was an interesting research take, because most people associate HIV with males versus females so that they are often out of the equation. I think women needed a different type of support system than men do and that this research can potentially provide that.

Online support group use and psychological health for individuals living with HIV/AIDS

Phoenix K.H. Mo and Neil S. Coulson

→ Citation?

Link: <http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0738399113001353>

Summary:

This paper is addressing the psychological effects of online support group use for individuals living with HIV/AIDS. The methods used in this research included that of recruiting a total group of 340 HIV positive online support group users completed who completed an online survey. The major findings were that individuals with higher levels online support group participation had overall higher levels of empowering processes, which in turn helped create a higher level of optimism for their lives. The contributions of this study will be that of promoting online support groups to people with HIV/AIDS, such as with healthcare professionals and that health education should also be provided to patients to provide better skills for them within these online communities.

Coping in Cyberspace: The Impact of Internet Use on the Ability of HIV-Positive Individuals to Deal with Their Illness

Patricia M. Reeves

Citation:

Patricia M. Reeves (2000) Coping in Cyberspace: The Impact of Internet Use on the Ability of HIV-Positive Individuals to Deal with Their Illness, Journal of Health Communication, 5:sup1, 47-59, DOI: 10.1080/10810730050019555

Link: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/10810730050019555>

Summary: The main purpose of this article was to look at traditional research areas versus online ones and the differences between their support structure for people with HIV. The qualitative methods used for this research included that of questionnaires and semi structured face-to-face interviews. The findings found were that of three different categories, which included that of internet use promotes empowerment, augments social support, and facilitates helping others. The contribution behind this paper is to show healthcare providers and professionals that online resources are equally as valuable to patients suffering from HIV/AIDS as other forms of help. My opinion is that online resources are a valuable resource to many with illnesses, especially those with stigmatizing conditions such as HIV/AIDS.

