Research Study Proposal

Se Seung Oh

INST352 Information User Needs & Assessment

Professor Amanda Lazar

15 May 2022

Running Head: RESEARCH STUDY PROPOSAL

1.OVERVIEW

As a DACA ([Deferred Action of Early Childhood Arrivals](#)) recipient along with parents who immigrated to the United States, there are common struggles my family and I are faced with when it comes to healthcare-related services. Growing up, my sister and I grew accustomed to translating health information for my parents as a way for them to have access to the healthcare system. However, the internet has become such a prominent solution when seeking out information, including health information. What drew my curiosity in proposing this research study was due to the nature of the [COVID-19](#) pandemic along with the emergence of technological-based applications, how do working-class non-English immigrants, specifically South Koreans seek out health information? When approaching this question, I drew from my own experiences with translating and seeking health information for my parents. Although it seems like an easy process, having to educate myself on all the medical terms, then having to translate what I learned and relay it back to my parents is oftentimes a stressful and difficult process. This made me begin to wonder what strategies are immigrants residing in the U.S. use when seeking out health information?

I took into account that for some, the information we process can is oftentimes based on **subjective information** which Professor Lazar defines as "opinion modified by individual bias; brings in personal viewpoints" (Lazar, 2022, *More Definitions*, [6:19](#)). Moreover, Professor Amanda Lazar, **information behavior** is defined as an "umbrella term encompassing anything humans do/and or don't do in relation to information" (Lazar, *Defining Information Behavior*, [0:14](#)). Under the umbrella of information behavior, **information needs** "often, but not always, drive us to look for information;" and **information-seeking** can be explained as "what one does when one has an information need" (Lazar, 2022, *Information Seeking*, [0:25](#)). With all the concepts and terms used in INST352 Information User Needs & Assessment, my parents use subjective information because as a family who has no sort of U.S. citizenship, we brought our own opinions such as looking for health care services that also take immigrants who have no health insurance.

2.PROBLEM STATEMENT

Since the COVID-19 pandemic along with the substantial increase in internet-based technologies, I've noticed obstacles such as language and accessibility barriers for non-English working-class Korean immigrants. This now leads to the overall problem. My research study proposal raises concerns about how working-class immigrants seek out health information through the Internet. The purpose of this interview study is to understand the information-seeking behavior of health information among non-English immigrants residing in the United States. Because my proposal is focused on information-seeking behavior and information needs, I am keen on focusing on how non-English immigrants disseminate and seek out health information.

3.RELATED WORK

I chose to examine the health-seeking strategies for people who are immigrants because, as prior research shows, the Internet is a great way to seek health information including, lifestyle, health advice, treatment, and diseases for groups 18+ residing in Hong Kong (Chu et al., 2017). Given the amount of health information seeking opportunities in which individuals can receive and obtain information about their health, it is important to understand how and whether immigrants engage with online health information.

4.PROPOSED METHODOLOGY

The proposed methodological framework for this proposal will be utilizing quantitative methods through an online questionnaire/survey. By providing participants who classify themselves as immigrants/non-English immigrants aged between 20-60 years old, I will use data collection and data analysis to observe the strategies used to seek out health information and whether or not the health information provided is engaging or not.

Running Head: RESEARCH STUDY PROPOSAL

References

Chu, J. T., Wang, M. P., Shen, C., Viswanath, K., Lam, T. H., & Chan, S. (2017). How, When
and Why People Seek Health Information Online: Qualitative Study in Hong Kong. An
interactive journal of medical research, 6(2), e24. https://doi.org/10.2196/ijmr.7000

Lazar, A. (2022, January 21). *Defining Information Behavior* [Video]. Youtube.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8RCf6AgrFig

Lazar, A (2022, January 21). *More Definitions* [Video]. Youtube.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_H81L-P2Vnw

Lazar, A (2022, January 27). *Information Needs* [Video]. Youtube.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_H81L-P2Vnw

Lazar, A (2022, January 28). *Information Seeking* [Video]. Youtube.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_H81L-P2Vnw

Perez, S. L., Kravitz, R. L., Bell, R. A., Chan, M. S., & Paterniti, D. A. (2016). Characterizing
Internet health information seeking strategies by socioeconomic status: a mixed-methods
approach. BMC medical informatics and decision making, 16, 107.
https://doi.org/10.1186/s12911-016-0344-x