

## Editorial

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The subject of health information and communication is relevant in the field of collective health, especially in connection with health technologies and information systems, and this topic has been debated in recent years in discussions of the National Policy for Health Information and Informatics in the National Health System (Sistema Único de Saúde, SUS). The use of health information and health technologies for management and teaching is increasing and is a central topic of debate and research.

This Special Issue of the Electronic Journal of Communication, Information & Innovation in Health (Revista Eletrônica de Comunicação, Informação & Inovação em Saúde, RECIIS) focuses on the use of information, as well as information and communication technologies, in the everyday operation of health systems, networks, and services while also seeking to identify and present the results of shifts in the field. This issue identifies the advances in and challenges facing research and practitioners in the current scientific environment. This issue is the result of a partnership between the Observatory for Information and Communication Technologies in Health Systems and Services (Observatório de Tecnologias de Informação e Comunicação em Sistemas e Serviços de Saúde, Otics) and the United Network.

Improving quality control for the information that is available on the Internet is the main focus of the article by Ilza Leite Lopes. New tools are being adopted by institutions and professionals worldwide in response to the need to classify content according to its relevance. "International initiatives for the quality control of health information on the Web" introduces several relevant perspectives, highlighting the development of accreditation programs in the United States and Europe.

In the article "Brazilian Governmental Information System and Safety Against Bioterrorist Attacks," Maria Eveline de Castro Pereira, Ana Clara Pecego Silva, Claudia Jurberg, and Cintia de Moraes Borba seek to establish whether Brazil has formal, centralized, and up-to-date communication channels for information and safety, similar to those provided by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, that could guide the public in cases of bioterrorism. In May 2011, these authors performed a search via the popular search engine Google using such descriptors as "bioterrorism," "terrorist attack," "biological weapon," "risk," "public health," and "emergency." The search produced several interesting conclusions, suggesting that a model that includes healthcare protocols should be used to address the consequences of biological weapons.

In "Dissemination of information on water, health and sanitation in Brazil: Institutional and technological features of the construction of the atlas of water," Christovam Barcellos, Renata Gracie, Heglaucio Barros, Mônica Magalhães, André Lucianencov Redivo, Patrícia Feitosa, and Vanderlei Matos Correio describe sanitation issues and water-related health problems based on 94 variables used to generate 73 indicators around three axes. Geoprocessing, which

was originally developed to help health and sanitation managers, can be a helpful resource for social movements in their fight for sanitation rights.

“Public access to health information on neglected diseases in Brazil,” by Érika Silva Nascimento, Marilza Maia-Herzog, and Paulo Chagastelles Sabroza, analyzes the data made available by the Information System for Reportable Diseases (Sistema de Informação de Agravos de Notificação, SINAN Net) and in other sources published by the Brazilian government. These sources focus on the diseases that the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO – Brazil) has designated as neglected, namely, schistosomiasis, acute Chagas’ disease, American tegumentary leishmaniasis (ATL), visceral leishmaniasis (VL), Hansen’s disease, filariasis, and onchocerciasis. In analyzing the vast database, these authors found notably different demographic and epidemiological patterns, and they underlined these discrepancies while also asserting that the SUS reflects the overall improvement in information technology in Brazil and that the Health Information System (Sistema de Informação em Saúde, SIS) enables all three governmental spheres to communicate.

The ongoing study “Informational flow of the National Transplant System: An Analysis of Social Networks,” by André Luiz Dias de França, Isaac Newton Cesarino da Nóbrega Alves, and Guilherme Ataíde Dias, addresses the information exchange between the General Coordination of the National Transplant System (Coordenação-Geral do Sistema Nacional de Transplantes, CGSNT), the National Transplant Center (Central Nacional de Transplantes, CNT) and the Centers for Notification, Training and Organ Distribution. These authors performed interviews and used electronic questionnaires to map the social network associated with the National Transplant System (Sistema Nacional de Transplantes, SNT). This study suggested that despite the soundness of the Brazilian transplant system, which is described as the largest in the world, information that could advance the technical and scientific knowledge in this field does not yet circulate throughout the associated social network.

“Electronic government and social networks: information, participation, and interaction,” by Antonio Cordeiro, Cláudia S. F. Martins, Nilton Bahlis dos Santos, Rodrigo Vieira Ribeiro, and Thiago Petra, discusses such subjects as electronic government, access to information, open data, and open source software. The article asserts that society is currently undergoing repositioning as a function of the wider social control of public policies, particularly in the field of health, that has been made possible by the social networks created by new information technologies. The authors describe some features of the ongoing transformation, which has already given rise to legal changes that are reshaping the landscape of citizenship. The authors also indicate the many challenges that must still be overcome.

Denise Tolfo Silveira, Agnes Ludwig Neutzling, Luísa Helena Machado Martinato, Vanessa Menezes Catalan, Tamyres Oliveira Santos, and Stephani C.P. Brondani are the authors of “Digital educational objects for women’s health.” The article describes the methods that were used to develop seven digital educational objects that serve as learning resources in classroom teaching for nurses who are studying women’s health using the Virtual Learning Laboratory – Nursing (Laboratório de Ensino Virtual – Enfermagem, LEVi-Enf) at the Nursing School of the Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul (Universidade Federal do Rio Grande do Sul, UFRGS). The objects were created as part of the Digital Learning Objects for Nursing Program Version III (Projeto Objetos de Aprendizagem Digitais em Enfermagem Versão III, PROADE III). The intent was to create educational objects for nursing that fit the Brazilian setting and that

promote problem-based learning, presenting the types of knowledge that students encounter in their daily experiences.

In "An approach to health education based on scientific and technological information," Maria Cristina Soares Guimarães, Cícera Henrique da Silva, and Rosane Abdala Lins de Santana describe the approach that was used to create the first Brazilian Lato Sensu Graduate Program in Scientific and Technological Health Information. According to the authors, the guiding philosophy of this course is that a focus on knowledge production within practice allows for learning-by-doing or doing-while-learning. Designed to fill the growing gap between the challenge of improving health and the ability of health caregivers to meet the challenge, the program, (from which 272 healthcare professionals with different profiles and backgrounds have already graduated in Rio de Janeiro and Porto Alegre) emphasizes the ability of professionals to learn in an information society.

Scientific Editor Maria Cristina Guimarães comments on Edgar Morin's *Seven complex lessons in education for the future* in her review "An approach to health education based on scientific and technological information." Having visited Rio more than 20 times, Morin presents a fresh perspective, suggesting that sustainability is an unceasing and challenging phenomenon in an increasingly complex, changing, diverse, crossbred, and unpredictable world. The aim of education is to enable us to weave a tapestry of possibilities according to a local-global "anthropo-ethics" that emphasizes individual autonomy, community participation, and planetary consciousness.

In the section "New Writings and Mediations in Health," Rosinalva Alves de Souza addresses the Public Health Special Service Foundation (Fundação Serviço Especial de Saúde Pública, FSESP) film collection that is available in the Fiocruz (Oswaldo Cruz Foundation) repository ([www.arca.fiocruz.br](http://www.arca.fiocruz.br)). "Health on 16 mm: perspectives of sanitary education in Brazil in the 40s" examines a sometimes surprising facet of the history of public health in Brazil: the Brazil-United States collaboration, which resulted in the establishment of the Public Health Special Service (Serviço Especial de Saúde Pública, SESP) in 1942. In Brazil, the Rockefeller Foundation used its successful experience producing motion pictures and cartoons as a health promotion tool. However, despite their importance, many of those movies were lost or forgotten as tools of a bygone bureaucracy. Funded by the Research and Technological Development Induction Program (Programa de Indução à Pesquisa e Desenvolvimento Tecnológico, PIPDT) of the Fiocruz Institute for Health Scientific and Technological Communication and Information (Instituto de Comunicação e Informação Científica e Tecnológica em Saúde, ICICT), the research project "The image of health in the official discourse of the New State - Recovery of the National Health Foundation film collection" has brought that precious past to light.

Enjoy the read.