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**2. Statement of Topic:** Internet discussion fora, a source of knowledge about health information needs and behaviour. Linguistic analysis of discussion fora for people with depression.

**3. Significance and relevance of the Topic:** Internet discussions lists where users are anonymous are fora where people express their needs and behaviour spontaneously without fear of being judged. Linguistic analysis of the content of such pronouncements allows to identify needs and behaviour usually difficult to identify via traditionally used methods like surveys or interviews. Knowledge about health information needs and behaviour is crucial in development of effective health interventions.

**4. Content:** The poster will present results of a study conducted in 2016, which goal was to check whether linguistic analysis of internet discussion fora allows to identify health information needs and health information behaviour of its users. Results of a comparison of the fora with and without moderator will also be presented as well as problems with reliability of acquired data. 1075 posts placed on fora between 2012-2015 were analyzed.

## 5. Abstract

**Goal of the study:** The goal of the study was to test whether linguistic analysis of the content of internet discussion fora allows to identify health information needs and health information behaviour.

**Method:** Qualitative analysis was done in 2016, and encompassed posts written between 2012-2015 on two open discussion fora for people with depression, one w with and one without moderator. Data was extracted using BootCAT and analysed using NVivo and Frewencer Wordstat, subject analysis was done using QDA Miner tool, assuming emic perspective.

**Results:** 1075 posts were analysed. Both health information needs and information behaviour were identified. There was no significant difference between the list with and without moderator.

**Conclusions:** Discussion fora are definitely a valuable source of information about health information needs of their participants, giving insight into needs that are difficult to find using different methods. Nevertheless caution has to be applied especially when analysing information behaviour, this data has to be confirmed using other methods of investigation.

## 6.References:

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