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PROGRAMME & ABSTRACT BOOK

IN COLLABORATION WITH DENTED III



THE USE OF THE INTERNET WITHIN A DENTAL SCHOOL IN CROATIA

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Aims: This research was conducted in order to gain insight into the undergraduate student's level of computer literacy at the University of Zagreb School of Dental Medicine (UZSDM), and discover the purpose for the use of computers and the internet.

Materials and Methods: The research was conducted on 297 students from all 5 years of the undergraduate program at the UZSMD; 29.3% male and 70.7% female subjects at the average age of 21 years. Each student filled in a questionnaire containing 15 questions, and the results were analysed with the Spearman correlation test and the chi square test.

Results: The co-relation between the variable: "recognizing the term "e-learning" and other determined variables was statistically analysed. The results showed that students mostly use computers for up to 2 hrs daily (77%), and the main reason cited for this, in 79.8% of the students was "surfing the net". The main purpose for using the internet was "searching for information" in 52.8% of the cases and "communication and e-mail reading" in 21%. Of the polled students at UZSDM, 5.2% do not use computers.

Conclusions: Dental Schools are not primarily responsible for creating new technology for use in course delivery, but they do have a responsibility to follow new technology and implement good educational practices where appropriate.