

## **Building Internet Digital Libraries for Patients and Professionals – Do They Have an Impact?**

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Abstract:

“The impact of the Internet has largely been unforeseen, and it may have a revolutionary role in retooling the trillion-dollar health care industry in the United States” (June Forkner-Dunn 03). The amount of medical information available online and the increasing availability of the Internet has changed the way information are used by health care professionals and by general public. However, despite the desire of better informed patients to take an active role in the treatment process, and the need of professionals to keep improving their practice according to new evidence available in Internet digital libraries, the reality of utilizing this vehicle for information delivery in healthcare does not fulfil the expectations.

This talk will address the issues surrounding the Internet delivery of medical knowledge to public and professionals and the impact evaluation of these resources taking into account the technical, medical, usability and social issues. Our research into the application of Semantic web and medical ontologies on a provision of customised content and user profiling will be discussed, demonstrating a Sealife semantic browser. This will draw from the experience with the development and evaluation of the National electronic library of Infection (NeLI) [www.neli.org.uk](http://www.neli.org.uk) and other real-world projects hosted by this UK infection portal.