

DISCUSSION

Comment on “Evidence-based administrative decision making and the Ontario hospital CEO: information needs, seeking behaviour, and access to sources”¹

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I enjoyed reading the article by Mary McDiarmid, Sandra Kendall, and Malcolm Binns titled “Evidence-based administrative decision making and the Ontario hospital CEO: information needs, seeking behaviour, and access to sources” (*Journal of the Canadian Health Libraries Association*, 2007;28(2):63–72).

I respectfully suggest that it would have been helpful if a copy of the survey questions had been included with the article. Please note a possible discrepancy in the data that readers may have been able to figure out if the questionnaire had been included. In the paper, Table 2 (p. 66) shows that the “Internet” and “Journals or books” were ranked 1 and 2 among favourite information sources. I read this table to mean that (1) “Internet” was selected as “first” favourite source by nine people, and (2) “Journals or books” was selected as “first” favourite source by nine people.

In the section “Evidence-based resources” (p. 69), however, it states that “only two of the CEOs ranked the use of journals and books as their favourite source for finding needed information for decision making”. Was there a question that was specific to “information for decision making” where only two CEOs ranked journals and books as their favourite source? I hope the authors can reconcile these two statements. I assume that the authors are using evidence from two different parts of the questionnaire, but it is not possible to tell because the text of the questions are not included in the article.

Will the authors publish the text of the questionnaire in a future issue? Could the editors of JCHLA consider ensuring that the full text of questionnaires is included as part of the publication of such studies?

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