“SMART Travel Health” Application

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Introduction

Travellers are using smartphones and mobile devices every day. A lot of mobile applications exist which inform travellers for health relative matters. The aim of this research is the development and the evaluation of a pilot mobile application which informs travellers for health care issues, automatically, depending on their location.

1. Methods

A pilot mobile application was developed using an online tool. The application offers up-to-date information to travellers using RSS news feeds from the World Health Organization (WHO) and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). In addition, a Google Maps module was added in the application, which presents (in a map “pin” form) the current travel health notices that are currently in effect (according to CDC) on users’ location and on locations nearby. Another function of this mobile application is the “Push-Notifications” feature, which informs all of the users for health issues, by sending short text messages. Also, a “GPS-Notifications” feature was added to inform travellers instantly with text messages according to their current location. A survey was conducted among 20 randomly selected travellers, to record their opinion about this application.

2. Results

The application was published on Apple’s “App Store” and “Google Play” under the name “SMART Travel Health”. After the evaluation, 85% of the population found the current application as a useful innovation and expressed the intention to use it.

3. Discussion

“SMART Travel Health” application seems to be a useful information tool to travellers for health care issues. Future work will include an application enhancement with more functional features and further evaluation using additional criteria and a larger sample.

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