HOUSING - BUILDING - DAILY LIVING A digital diary for old people

L. COURBET, J. BAUCHET, V. RIALLE. Evaluation of a digital diary for old people living in a retirement home. Gerontechnology 2016;15(suppl):76s; doi:10.4017/gt.2016.15.s.735.00 Purpose Within the MyGuardian project (Ambient Assisted Living programme of EU) we tested the usability of the MyGuardian's digital diary devoted to elderly people with no cognitive impairments. This diary is a web application endowed with usual functionalities, along with some mechanisms to coordinate the assistance provided by the care network, a message service, and an edition tool for the safe zones. Testing usage issues of assistive technologies for cognition, with people with no impairments, was successfully done with an electronic organizer for people with Alzheimer disease. Method To test the web application user-friendliness, each participant is asked to complete a predefined list of tasks covering the functionalities provided by the application. A task can be passive or active. 'Passive' means that the person has to describe what they can observe when looking at the application. They also have to explain what it is used for from their point of view. Passive tasks give interesting feedback on the way the application is globally understood by the user. 'Active tasks' means that the experimenter asks the participant to complete a specific task (e.g. 'create a new appointment'). The objective is to identify the difficulties the person has when completing the task. As our participants may have no prior knowledge of this kind of tool and as no specific learning is done before, the active tasks are not completed in an independent way, meaning that the experimenter can help the participant^{1,2}. Results & Discussion The results were generally good. There were seven participants: one man and six women. The average age is 83 years old. No major problems to realise various tasks were identified but we noticed that the participants took a lot of time to complete the tasks; execution was slow. For example, to add a new appointment, the conclusion was that it took more time to do it with the web application than with the paper diary (3 to 4 more minutes). The conclusion was the same for updating an appointment. A training period, which may be guite long, really has to be planned to use the web application. The 'disconnect' button is never used. People prefer to close the web browser tab. The seven participants expected the message functionality to function in a different way; they thought they could reply to one message, i.e. to one and only one person.

References

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