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Local Medical System for Searching Medical Institutes and Communication

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Abstract

Developments in the Internet environment have led to the creation of the Web2.0. Nowadays updating information is as easy as blogging and information can be automatically dispatched to selected websites through the simple use of RSS technology. We developed an information retrieval system for local medical institutions which allows them to offer a push-type information system as well as a map information system. Together these create a dynamic flow of information communication between medical institutions as providers and local residents as users.

Keywords:

medical information search, RSS, intenet communication

Introduction

We recently developed a Contents Management System (CMS) which uses RSS and we added an automatic mail system and a website offering push-type information communication. Any medical institution can now easily update information is automatically forwarded to related websites using RSS technology.

Materials and methods

System outline

A medical institution information retrieval function and a map function were made using XOOPS with CMS as an open source of this basic system. XOOPS has a bulletin board, a notice function, and automatic connection function using RSS. Therefore, when it is necessary to add or update information, mail and websites can be automatically informed.

Not only is the location of a specific medical institution indicated on a map system related to Googlemap but information on other medical institutions in the area is also indicated.

Results

Because the information is offered by the medical institutes themselves and promptly disseminated automatically, it is possible to provide the public with timely information on season-related illnesses, etc. It is easier for the local residents to get accurate information on their local medical institutes from the top page.

Discussion

Information offered on the Internet is recognized as a public notice though there are legal regulations governing the advertisement of medical institutions in Japan

There were some issues in the update of the information on the homepage and the bulletin board. We could improve the convenience of the medical information system and the medical institutions' ability to offer greater information by developing it further in the Web2.0 and building it around a CMS.

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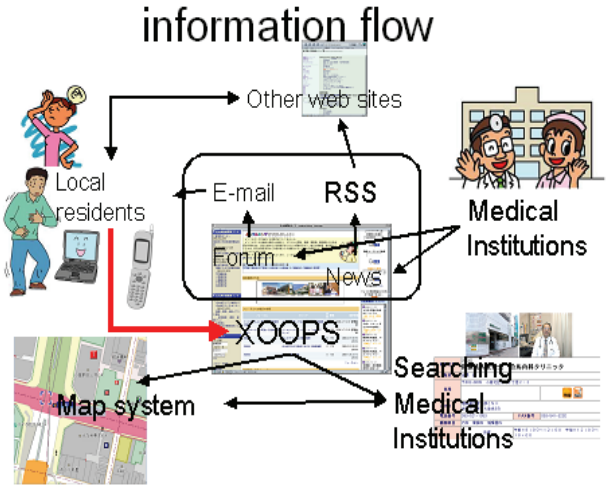
Figure 1 - Overview of medical information flow