

DEVELOPMENT OF A WEB-BASED QUESTIONNAIRE FOR OBTAINING THE OPINIONS OF OPTOMETRISTS ABOUT ONLINE CONTINUING OPTOMETRIC EDUCATION COURSES. N. Scott Gorman, OD, MS, FAAO, Jay M. Rumsey, OD, FAAO, Nova Southeastern University Health Professions Division.

PURPOSE: As part of a study to develop a plan for delivering online continuing optometric education courses at Nova Southeastern University College of Optometry, it was important to obtain the opinions of optometrists about online delivery of these courses. Therefore, a questionnaire was developed, validated, formatted, and published to the World Wide Web to obtain their opinions.

METHODS: Two committees consisting of three members each were formed: One to guide in the development of the questionnaire and a second to validate its form and content. A software application developed by the co-author was used to format the questionnaire items employing various question types. Microsoft FrontPage 2002, a hypertext markup language (HTML) editor, was used to develop a Web page to contain the questionnaire. The questionnaire was published to the World Wide Web at www.nova.edu/scottg/Questionnaire and was hosted on a server at Nova Southeastern University. An e-mail message was sent to a sample population of optometrists directing them to the Web-based questionnaire. A data file was created on the server and all data submitted by responding optometrists were directed to that file. The data was imported into Microsoft Excel for statistical analysis.

RESULTS: A questionnaire was developed, validated, formatted, and published to the World Wide Web. The administration of this questionnaire resulted in obtaining valuable data that was used to inform the study.

CONCLUSIONS: Development of a Web-based questionnaire allowed for easy access by the respondents to the instrument as well as automated retrieval of data by the author. Also, the use of committees to review the questionnaire during its development was crucial to validating it. Additionally, the software application used to format the Web-based questionnaire performed well and contributed to its face validity.