

There were huge changes in spreading and use of scientific medical information in last fifteen years due to development of new information and communication technologies and changes in medicine as well. The research described in this thesis addresses possible changes in information behaviour of physicians and other healthcare workers both abroad and in the Czech Republic.

Foreign studies were reviewed and summarized. A survey method was used for the Czech research, the survey was spread with the help of medical libraries and information centers both in print and online version. 228 valid answers were collected. Several factors were supposed to influence information behaviour (age, sex, affiliation, healthcare occupation, job description), but only the influence of affiliation and occupation was confirmed. There were significant differences between information behaviour of physicians and nurses and between research workers and hospital employees. It can be said that information behaviour of healthcare workers is influenced by the character of their occupation, that entails responsibility for life and that demands both a lot of information and lifelong education. On the other hand the high workload does not offer enough time to saturate information needs. Emphasis is placed on reliability of resources, but during the selection of the resources it is often an easy access that determines the decision. This fact is confirmed by high rating of internet among popular resources. Nevertheless books and journals are still popular. Many respondents encounter problems during searching for information, but most of them search for information on their own. Both research points out that despite the changes in access to information, information services and medicine, basic characteristics of healthcare workers information behaviour described in 1985 by Elayyan are still valid. It can be therefore said that information behaviour of healthcare workers is quite conservative.