

Mobile and Internet Usage for Senior Citizens (Aged care video assignment description)

Our group made a video about an elderly woman, Mary Woods, who was lonely because she lacked communication with her family and had difficulty in banking and paying her bills. My role in the video is Mary's daughter, Sally, who lives away from her mother. She bought her mother a laptop and mobile phone after finding out about her current problems.

Although she was hesitant at first, Mary became interested to learn on how to access the Internet through her laptop and use her mobile phone. According to Iyer and Eastman's (2006) study, elderly people feel anxious in the idea of using modern-day equipment. These negative feelings, however, are reduced when provided with gradual instructions on how to use these equipment (Iyer & Eastman, 2006). A survey done on public libraries in Australia showed an increased use of public libraries by the older adults (Bundy, 2005). Australian libraries have therefore provided large printed and talking books for senior citizens use and some libraries have been adequately funded by city councils to provide a wide range and modern ways to meet the needs of older adults (Bundy, 2005). In Mary's case, one of the interventions she did is to read books about Internet usage for senior citizens from the local library.

Just like in the video, public libraries in Australia, have a range of books and other reading materials that can guide senior citizens on the basic steps on using the Internet and offer free Internet access for seniors. For example, the City of Tea Tree Gully Library in Modbury, a suburb in South Australia, provides some books that can be found in this category: Brilliant Internet for the Over 50s Windows 7 Edition by P. Macbride, Internet for Seniors in Easy Steps by Michael Price and Sue Price, and The Internet for the Older and Wiser: Get Up and Running Safely on the Web by Adrian Arnold (City of Tea Tree Gully Library, 2004). For elderly people, printed instructions are one of the most important means of access to electronic products (Bruder, Wandke, & Blessing, 2006). After having done all the interventions, including the one given in this essay, after a few weeks, Mary could now use her mobile phone and access the Internet. She could now communicate with Sally by the use of electronic mail and Facebook. She has also solved her banking and billing dilemmas because she had learned how to bank through the Internet.

The video would have not been completed if not for all the effort put by all the members of the group. As contribution to the work in making the video, I helped by fixing the sets where we shot the video, providing the props in the different scenes, was responsible for the make-up and wardrobe of the cast, provided snacks and refreshments for the group during breaks, helped in accessing the library for a scene and contributed ideas to the some of the scenes, and did some of the cameraman work as well.

References:

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