Abstract

Thesis

Digital technologies in residential care homes for seniors

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This work explores the potential of utilising digital technologies in residential care homes for seniors as part of social care services. At the beginning the philosophy of deconstruction of the French poststructuralist Jacques Derrida is introduced as a method to assess the benefits and limitations of digital technologies in care for the elderly based on the results of research interviews with professionals from practice and research. Than the basic terms and environment are presented. Firstly, the history of technology and its development is examined, digital technologies are defined and the risks associated with their use are briefly analysed. Aging is then introduced as a period of life marked by dramatic changes and attention is drawn to the development and saturation of needs during human life to analyse whether old age is distinct in its own right. Then the environment of residential care home for seniors is introduced, along with a diverse group of caregivers to highlight the conflicts and challenges associated with the profession. Based on the established knowledge digital technologies are split into three categories according to the function they can fulfil in the context of care for the elderly, with practical examples provided for each one. The work is concluded by an analysis of practical examples based on results of research interviews with professionals along with reflection of the benefits and limitations of digital technologies in care for the elderly, in light of human duties, needs and Christian values.