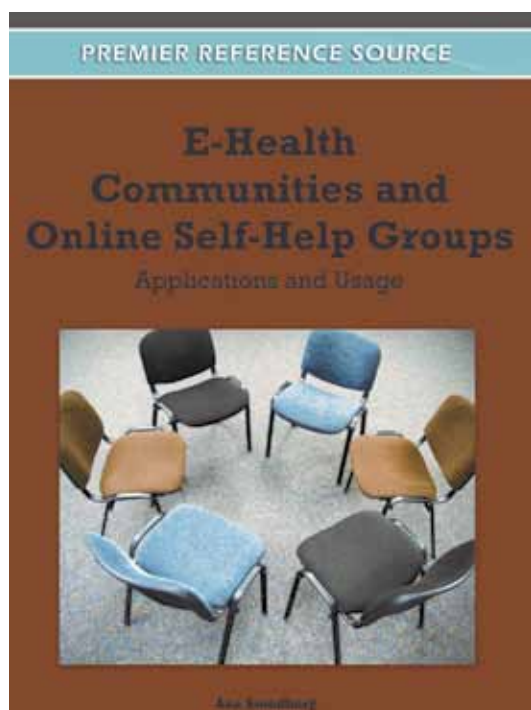


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## E-Health Communities and Online Self-Help Groups: Applications and Usage



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E-health communities, also called Web-based health communities, have become popular arenas for support and sharing of experience, knowledge and advice among patients and citizens. E-health communities are used on a day-to-day basis by people who help each other cope with different health conditions and learn together about health-related issues and behaviors.

**E-Health Communities and Online Self-Help Groups: Applications and Usage** will aim to provide relevant theoretical frameworks and the latest empirical research findings in the area. It aims to increase knowledge and understanding of applications and usage of e-health communities for self-help groups who struggle with health disorders, disabilities, lifestyle issues and other health concerns. Different e-health community settings will be presented, observations of community usage and effects discussed, and complementing ways to measure effectiveness will be introduced and analyzed.

### Topics Covered:

- Conversation Analysis Methods
- E-Health Communities and Trust
- E-Health Communities and Coping
- E-Health Communities on Health Disorders
- E-Health Communities on Lifestyle Issues
- E-Health Communities, Knowledge and Learning
- E-Health Community Usage
- Evaluation Methods and Measurements
- Flexible and User-Oriented E-Health Communities
- Impact of E-Health Communities

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Åsa Smedberg is a Senior Lecturer, Researcher and Director of PhD studies at the Department of Computer and Systems Sciences (DSV), Stockholm University, Sweden. She holds a PhD degree in Computer and Systems Sciences. Her research interests include Web-based communities and the use of ICT for continuous learning, with a focus on practical applications in the health area. She runs research in the field of web-based health communities for self-help groups. Over the years, in-depth studies have been carried out of online conversations in e-health communities. She is the author of a series of international publications, member of editorial review board of international journals and committee member of e-health conferences.

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