

Transforming the library into a knowledge management and learning tool

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Introduction

The Health Sciences Library of Catalonia (BCS) was created in 2014 within the structure of the Ministry of Health of the Regional Government of Catalonia. It emerges as a new and transformative project aimed at establishing an homogeneous system of access to bibliographic information and provision of bibliographical services for the public health sector under the Ministry of Health.

In this context, the aim of this study is to describe the evolution of the BCS up to its transformation into a support tool for the management and location of scientific knowledge and at the same time to a learning tool for professionals in the Catalan public healthcare system through intelligent and intensive use of information and communication technologies (ICT) promoting organizational change and improvement in service delivery.

Methods

A Programme for the development of the Library of Health Sciences to conduct a medium-term Strategic Plan (4-5 years) and implement a system of integrated management of health resources and scientific services for the public health sector of Catalonia. This Strategic Plan hinged around three pillars: promote the creation of a cross-cutting library integrating health sciences resources and services, create a digital platform designed for end users giving uninterrupted access to resources and services, and to build up a library network ensuring the provision of services in a consistent and coordinated way.

Results

The results obtained were the following:

- Creation of the Health Sciences Library of Catalonia (BCS) within the Ministry of Health of the Regional Government of Catalonia as a cross-cutting body.
- Definition of the services portfolio of the BCS.
- Identification of bibliographic resources.
- Identification and development of an ICT model for the creation of the Virtual Library.
- Definition of the economic and funding model.

- Creation of the network of libraries and staged incorporation of public health sector bodies.

Conclusions

The creation of the Health Sciences Library of Catalonia (BCS) has brought about a change of habits and adaptation into a new digital setting both to introduce a comprehensive library vision promoting cooperative working and optimize existing bibliographic resources and services within the Catalan public health system, enabling homogeneous and cross-cutting access to quality scientific information for health professionals through the use of information and communication technologies (ICT).

Keywords: Knowledge Management; Libraries, Digital; Libraries, Medical; Health Information Management; Library Services; Information Services