

HEALTH SCIENCES LIBRARY OF CATALONIA (BCS): A VIRTUAL LIBRARY TO THE SERVICE OF THE CATALONIAN PUBLIC HEALTH SECTOR

Roque-Castella, Pilar¹

Tomé-Barrera, Maria José¹

¹ Health Sciences Library of Catalonia. Ministry of Health of the Government of Catalonia (Barcelona, Spain)

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, with the aim of establishing a 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 until its transformation into a support tool for the management and localization of scientific knowledge through intelligent and intensive use of information and communication technologies (ICT), promoting organizational change and improvement in library service delivery.

Methods

The BCS made a Strategic Plan to 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: a cross-cutting library, integrating health sciences resources and services, a digital platform designed for end users giving uninterrupted access to resources and services, and 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 and creation of the Virtual Library.
- Definition of the economic and funding model.
- Creation of Strategic Plan for the libraries network.
- Staged incorporation of public health sector bodies.

Conclusions

The creation of the Health Sciences Library of Catalonia (BCS) emerges as a new and transformative project that has promoted a change of habits and adaptation into a new digital environment. This change has facilitated the introduction of comprehensive library vision to promote the 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