PROVISION WITH MEDICAL INFORMATION IN LITHUANIAN MEDICAL LIBRARY

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Making its way to democracy and transforming economic spheres of the country, society needs information media, a necessary prerequisite for individual's professional training. The significance of information is clearly understood by users of medical information services, as medicine is a field where lack of information can lead to fatal consequences.

Automation of information processes and integration in the world network is the only way to achieve further developments and extension of information services in the Library.

Ten years ago, when we acquired the first computer and a MEDLINE database, the Library entered a new period of activity. Since then the scope of providing patrons with information has been constantly expanding. Our participation in several international projects made it possible to establish full Internet connection and gain access to medical databases. In 1995, a project of full automation was launched. However, automation processes are very slow due to financial difficulties. Acquisition and cataloging subsystems have been put into operation this year.

Within the Medical Internet Project, initiated by the Soros Foundation in 1998, it was possible to open a Public Internet Reading Hall in the Library and to install computerized workplaces in four branch libraries.

Regular upgrading of computer knowledge and skills for making searches in WWW is carried out among the staff members of medical libraries as well as among health professionals.