

Parallel Sessions C
C3 – Veterinary Special Interest Group

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Improving Access of Veterinarians to Drug Information – the Role of Librarians

Cuk, A

Cuk, Angela: KRKA, d.d., Library and Information Services, Smarjeska cesta 6, Novo mesto 8501 Slovenia, angela.cuk@krka.si

Keeping up with drug information in veterinary medicine has not been as widely described in scientific and professional journals, as this was the case with human medicine. This article outlines the most widely used information sources about veterinary drugs. This work aims to find out if there is any influence of new information and communication technologies on how veterinarians access scientific information and what is the role of veterinary and medical libraries when the veterinarians search for information about veterinary drugs, and brings out the need for education of this group of information users for the use of new information sources. Introduction of concepts of evidence-based medicine into clinical practice, which can also be applied to veterinary medicine, has emphasized the need of medical practitioners to be able to search and evaluate medical literature and new opportunities for medical librarians to help them.

The survey covers a representative group of veterinary practitioners in Slovenia. Those are veterinarians who prescribe and/or use veterinary drugs and need the latest independent scientific information about the existing and new drugs and therapeutic approaches to treatment. Specific situation regarding field work of large percentage of veterinarians is included in the survey and the new possibilities of information provision for this group of users are being indicated.

Veterinary librarians should employ new information technologies and new approaches to better serve their users in new ways of acquiring information.