

Parallel Sessions A
A4 - Benefits of Co-operation

Thursday, September 19, Room E, 11.00

Cooperation between Medical Academic Libraries in Poland

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There are 11 medical academic libraries in Poland. Most of them were established in the fifties. At the beginning the collaboration between them was limited to exchange of academic publications and interlibrary loan.

Since 1981 close cooperation has been developed based on principles and rules once formulated, but constantly updated and improved:

Yearly problematic conferences, formation of coordinative team, collaboration in solving problems, organization of common training and seminars, common programs of library didactics, unification of rules of interlibrary loan, coordination in periodicals subscription, cooperation in computerization of science information services, information exchange on library collections over the Internet (on-line catalogs, new acquisitions, subscription lists), implementation of unified software for creation of own bibliographic databases, creation of medical libraries consortium for common access of worldwide databases, organization of consortial access to electronic journals, creation of union catalogs of periodicals, experience exchange in implementation of integrated electronic library systems, cooperation in creation and common use of Polish version of electronic MeSH – NLM's controlled vocabulary thesaurus, cooperation with foreign libraries, creation of the first Polish electronic system of document delivery service doc@med for articles based on medical academic libraries holdings.

Academic libraries maintain close cooperation not only within themselves but also collaborate with Main Medical Library and numerous libraries of scientific institutes, which take part in common conferences, seminars and meetings.