

## Changes in database related information types in the 21<sup>st</sup> century

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Our aim is to survey the area of life and health sciences to show how the information types have changed and more information became available prior to and since 2000. We introduce the databases of the website of Central Library of Semmelweis University and how they changed before and after 2000 and how interactive they are.

Databases of life and health sciences have been trying to meet the rising expectations of their users with more and more services. Databases of Central Library of Semmelweis University compete with their value-added services. While the Central Library got the databases in the form of CD-ROMs until 2000 (1), nowadays there are online sources – except for a few one – on the website of the Library: so the services have become faster and better and the number of the databases have increased while covering a wider area.(2) Here is a sample from the databases available at the Library (3):

The international bibliographic databases – as the *MEDLINE* database on the medical area – and the multidisciplinary bibliographic databases are the most important sources, since they provide a starting-point in searching for a document. In multidisciplinary sources the possibility of searching citations adds value (i.e. value-added) to the service. Such sources are the *Web of Science* database from Thomson and *Scopus* database from Elsevier publisher. *BioMed Central* is the main source among the online open access publishers. Open Access is the way of the future – with Semmelweis University being its only member from Hungary. The *Evidence Based Medicine* is the source of the evidence-based medicine from the OVID where you can search reviews on this topic. The *Evidence Matters* is the database of ProQuest, which through a user-friendly interface tries to help choosing the best therapy for the patient after asking a series of simple questions. The essence of this database is that the latest peer-reviewed results are organized in an evidence-based manner into graphs or tables, summarizing the effectiveness, safety and cost (etc) of the therapy. This source is useful for both doctors and patients but cannot replace the personal consultation between them. It just eases the communication of the two in finding the proper diagnosis.

In special areas we emphasize the *ProQuest* database with the dissertation collection, where users can search in dissertations of the Semmelweis University, which is useful querying for research topic. The *Primal Pictures* database from OVID has three-dimensional pictures of the human body that helps the area of the anatomy.

Above-mentioned online information sources join in the fast information flow with their newer and newer services and communication tools of the Internet such as forums, blogs, discussion lists, rss systems, etc. These tools give rise to interactivity in the area of the medical and health sciences, too, so the databases can become expert „forum” for the doctors, researchers and medical librarians. This process is in an initial stage in Hungary.

The online information sources and interactive tools are helping each other: the forums, blogs, rss systems advertise the news of the databases, and criticise them as well; the information sources use blogs and rss systems to advertise their „products”.

The way of the future is that the information flow has to be as fast as possible and the information needs to contain relevant values. With the new options of the Internet – like rss, blog – the interactivity will be better and better, so obtaining the information will become more efficient and librarians will have to “grasp” this possibility to help interactivity of these databases. Therefore the aim of the Central Library of Semmelweis University is to create a

metasearch system on the website of the library, which is able to search in all databases combined.

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