

THE PARTICIPATORY HEALTH LIBRARY AS A COMPONENT OF A RESEARCH NETWORK AND MEDICAL PRACTICE: A CASE OF STUDY

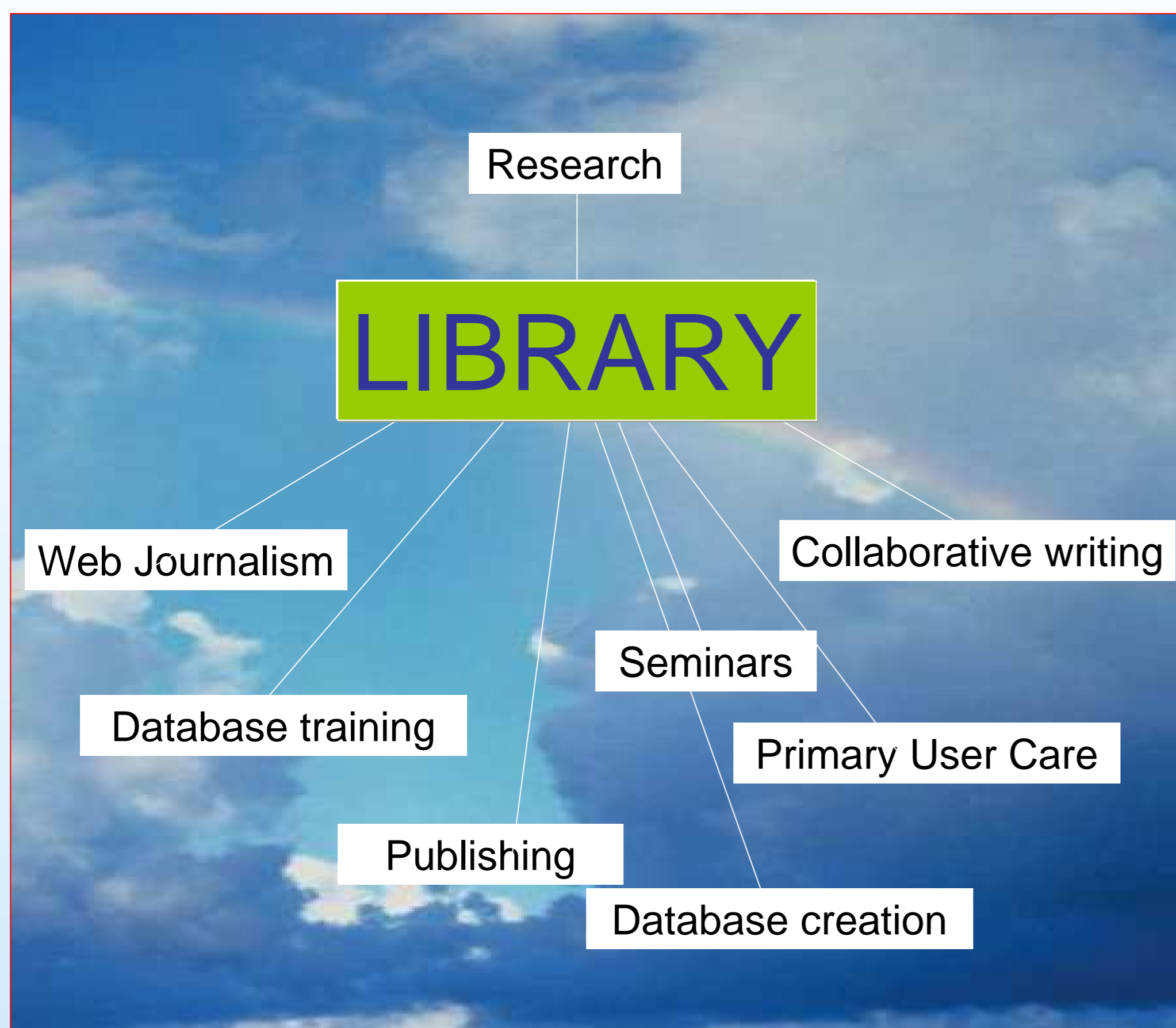
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Nowadays, a scientific library is no longer a place where people goes to ask for books and papers. In fact the World Wide Web, along with electronic journals, brings to the researcher's desk, in a matter of seconds, up-to-date authoritative full text scientific publications.

Due to this change of the library space, librarians must find new activities, in order to promote a new range of services to deal with users.

The "Participatory Health Library Project" is a new approach to bibliographic activities aimed at bringing on-demand scientific reviews to the research teams, under experimentation at the "Zooprofilattico Sperimentale of Umbria and Marche" Institute (Italy). The Participatory Project is changing the Library procedures as well as its profile of activities.

Our research has pointed out that it is of great significance that the whole Library acts as:

A publisher, developing advanced tools such as Web magazines and Web Institutional Repositories. In the IZS Web-journal "Sanità Pubblica Veterinaria (<http://spvet.it>)", upon researcher's information requests, reviews and digests from scientific databases and online journals, are worked out by librarians and volunteers. Reviews are thoroughly disseminated and become available to researchers and people concerned in this branch of knowledge in the IZS E-print Repository (<http://indice.spvet.it/>)

A continuing education functional structure working mainly on scientific databases and electronic bibliographic resources for library users. The IZS - Library courses, seminars and conference on Pubmed, e-journals, Civil Service for a new range of library services, are a basic part of the Institute's efforts to deal with users teaching them how to take advantage of new scientific tools.

A place in which specific research programme are performed. Questionnaires and interviews are submitted to user panels in order to set up new library services and specific informative tools.



In our experience on the collaborative approach here discussed, librarians are taken to a higher qualification, becoming important parts of the corporate research team.

