

Use of the “Marquesa de Pelayo” virtual Library by Cantabria Health Care professionals

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Summary

The library of the “Marqués de Valdecilla” University Hospital in Santander, named “Marquesa de Pelayo” is an Information and Document Service with the aim to provide professionals working for the Cantabrian Health Service (SCS) with an updated bibliographic material so as to contribute to a better performance in the quality of its purpose. It offers a digital platform offering open and remote access to any professional working for The Cantabrian Health System. It also gives access to one of the best sources of scientific information. The nursing staff plays a significant part with specific resources such as journals, databases or scientific reviews. After reviewing the use of the library through internet connection and being considerably well under the expectations, especially by the nursing staff, we decided to carry out a deeper study to help establish specific promoting strategies.

Objective

Through this study we intended to have a more precise knowledge of those professionals who currently know and systemically use the “Marquesa de Pelayo” virtual library, and to identify those factors influencing its use by health care professionals.

Material and method

We designed a study with 8 questions with the following aspects: knowledge of the library, use, user registration, frequency and access point as well as the most significant difficulties of use. Discussions were held with the Teaching Departments of the different Cantabria Health Service managements by way of meetings to explain the project in order to obtain their collaboration. The survey is aimed at the Cantabria Health Service physicians and the nursing staff. It was conducted over the telephone by TELECYL S.A. The stratified random sampling was carried out around the different Health Centre managements and by professional profiles. There is an overall population of 4,857 physicians and nursing staff and a necessary 5% sample size for confidence interval and 95% confidence level of 400 professionals.

Results

The survey was started in February; from a total real sample of 400 people, 144 could not be found due to the following reasons: 79 untraced, 21 uninterested, 20 off sick, 3 on vacation, 3 unavailable. With the aim of completing the results obtained in the survey carried out in February, a new sample was taken in March where all surveyed participants except for one were located, this one belonging to the Primary Health Care Management 1. It is worth mentioning that 30.2% of those surveyed are unaware of the library, rising to 44.1% when referring to the nursing staff. Although 97.1% health care professionals consider it as a useful tool, only 52.4% are registered, emphasizing a lower percentage in Primary Health Care and the nursing staff. Lack of time (35.1%) is the main difficulty hindering professionals a more frequent use of the library. 17% is unaware of its use, rising to 25.8% with regards to the nursing staff.

Discussion

It was confirmed that 30% of those surveyed are still unaware of the existence of the library, with a higher percentage of unawareness from the nursing staff and Primary Health Care managements. It is more noticeable that out of 70% who know the library, only 52% are registered. These figures are again lower for the nursing staff, where only 24% of the professionals who know of it are registered, whereas only 17% in Primary Health Care are registered. Hardware with internet connection and access to the library is not a problem as professionals have access to a computer either at work (94.1%) or at home (84.8%). If we intend to ascertain strategies to encourage the use of the library, to identify the difficulties professionals come up against is indispensable. Regarding this matter there are some difficulties found which hinder a more frequent use, and we can contribute directly. They are its unawareness of use (17%), access problems (16.7%) and other problems such as lack of time (35.1%) which can be dealt with indirectly by showing the results to the different managements. However, the language barrier is not a deterrent as only 2.9% consider it to be the case. The nursing staff (25.8%) is a group we should specially work with as their ignorance of use is higher than physicians (9.5%); With regard to Primary Health Care it is worth mentioning their ignorance of use in comparison to other managements.