THE ANDALUSIAN PUBLIC HEALTH SYSTEM VIRTUAL LIBRARY. FOUR YEARS ON

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Introduction:

The Andalusian Public Health System Virtual Library (Biblioteca Virtual del Sistema Sanitario Público de Andalucía, BV-SSPA) set up in June 2006 was determined by the II Quality Plan 2005-2008. It consists of a regional government action with the aim of democratizing the health professional access to quality scientific information, regardless of the professional workplace.

Andalusia is a region with more than 8 million inhabitants, with 92,000 health professionals for 41 hospitals, 1,500 primary healthcare centres, and 10 centres for non-medical attention purposes.

Objectives:

- To obtain documentary resources for health professionals.
- To help citizens to find health information.
- To coordinate the Andalusian Health Documentary centres.
- To establish strategic agreements with organizations.
- To contribute to the Knowledge Management Development.

Methods:

- The BV-SSPA acquires in a centralised way, all of the information resources for the whole system.
- It offers services for all professionals:
    - Document Supply Service
    - Online Learning
    - User service
- Remote access to these resources and services.
- Communication and marketing plan to promote the knowledge and use of the BV-SSPA.

Results:

Presently the BV-SSPA has reached:

- The subscription of 2,431 electronic reviews, 8 data bases and other scientific information resources.
- The establishment of the Document Supply Service, which focuses all the article orders from and for the Andalusian Public Health System.
- The starting up for the online learning platform.
- The introduction of the user service and virtual reference service in beta mode.

- The use of appropriate tools, as the meta-researcher and the link resolver, which allow the presentation of resources and services in a tidy, easily findable way, through a Web 2.0 page where the user can take part with his contributions and where his offers and suggestion are gathered.
- Access to the resources, for the Andalusian Health Professionals worldwide requiring only an internet connection.

Conclusions:

Andalusian Health Professionals have access to the greatest Health Science Electronic Resources Collection in Spain.

The BV-SSPA has become the undisputed medium for the Health Research and Clinical Healthcare in our region, being consolidated as the Knowledge Manager into the Andalusian Public Health System.

In 2010, it faces new projects such as the institutional repository creation, HypatiaSalud; the analysis of our research activity; and the drafting of a normalised licence model for the contracting of electronic resources.