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Regional Virtual Health Libraries in Spain: where are we and where should we be going to?

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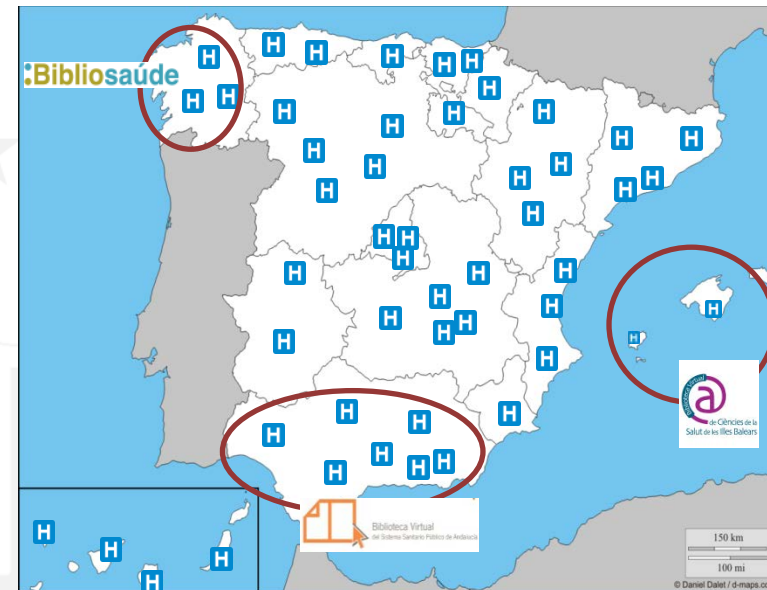
Introduction

In Spain, after in 2002 the **health competences transfer to the Autonomous Communities** was completed, the Ministries of Health of the 17 Autonomous Communities began to **design Regional Virtual Libraries**.

The aim of them was to coordinate the hospitals libraries, **avoid duplications** in the subscriptions, **optimization of spending** on library resources, and to provide all health professionals **access to the same resources anywhere**

The Spanish Ministry of Health promoted two initiatives to improve and optimize the work of those libraries: in 2008 and 2014.

Why **these two initiatives did not work?** We think that in the first case (2008) for political and budgetary reasons, and the second (2014) because of the low involvement of all regions in decision-making bodies.



Objectives

1. Analysing the current situation of the regional Virtual Health Libraries in Spain.
2. Mapping of the Virtual Health Libraries according to their structure and services.
3. And the design of a model of cooperation among the regional Virtual Health Libraries.

Methology

Analysing the current situation of the regional Virtual Health Libraries in Spain.

Autonomous Communities	Library	Answer
ANDALUCÍA	YES	YES
ARAGÓN	YES	YES
ASTURIAS	YES	YES
CANTABRIA	YES	YES
CASTILLA LA MANCHA	YES	NO
CASTILLA Y LEÓN	YES	YES
CATALUÑA	YES	YES
COMUNIDAD VALENCIANA	YES	NO
EXTREMADURA	YES	YES
GALICIA	YES	YES
ISLAS BALEARES	YES	YES
ISLAS CANARIAS	YES	YES
LA RIOJA	NO	NO
MADRID	YES	YES
MURCIA	YES	YES
NAVARRA	YES	YES
PAÍS VASCO	YES	YES

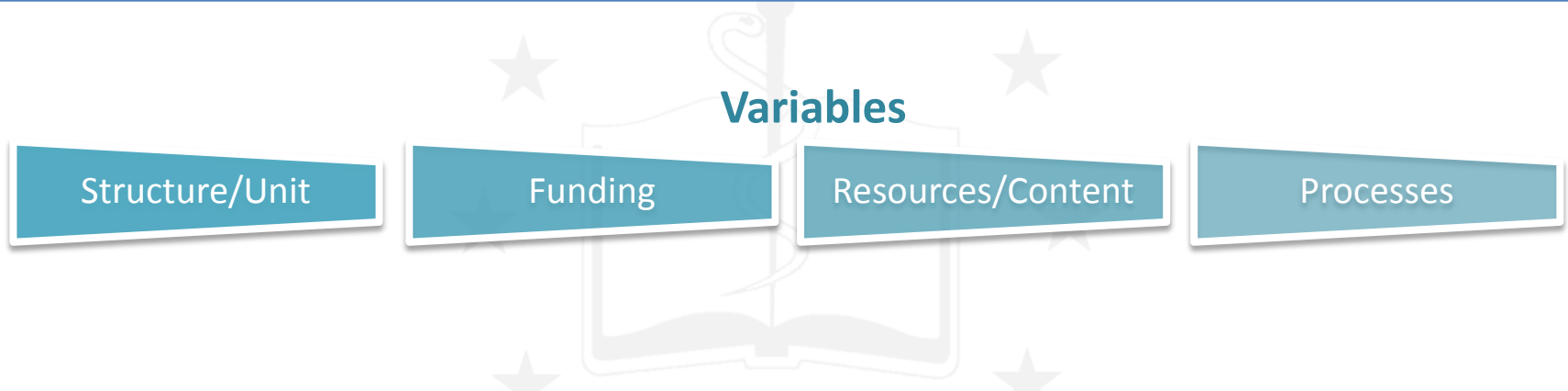


Table 1. Presence of Health Virtual Libraries in Spain on internet and answer to interviews

Methology

The research was divided into two levels of study:

A semi-structured questionnaires* through telephone interviews and e-mail surveys to the managers of the Spanish regional health libraries.



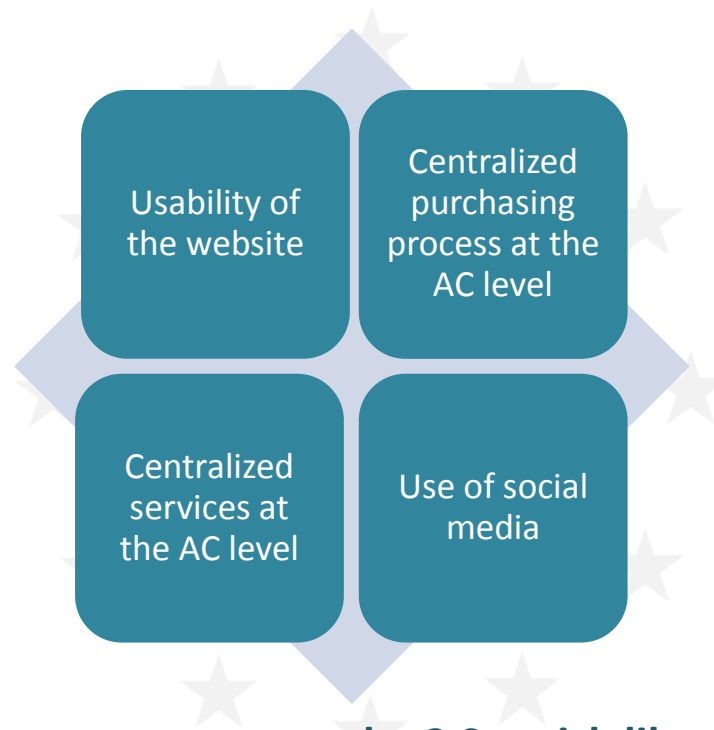
Study of usability and accessibility of their websites

- The accessibility evaluation → TAW test (Web Accessibility Test)
- The usability evaluation indicators and parameters emerged from a study published in Acimed in 2006. (6)

*(February 2015)

Methology

The ranking of the Spanish libraries has been established according to the criteria:



In the second part of the research, we selected **the 3 Spanish libraries** with a high score in our ranking, in order **to identify best practices** among them.

Results and Discussion

Structure

Structure

All are public financed and functionally dependent to the regional health ministries.

Human Resources

4 have own staff (Andalucía, Baleares, Cantabria y Murcia)

Corporate image

Of the 14 libraries analysed, 7 ACs have a website with an easily identifiable own URL, and 8 have their own corporate image.

Funding

Budget

100% Public budget

A remarkable fact is that only three libraries have a consolidated budget, the rest have a budget which is established at an annual basis

There is no data Catalonia, Extremadura, Madrid, Murcia and the Basque Country

Consolidated budget (Andalusia, Galicia and Navarra)

The rest Variable annual budget

Results and Discussion

Resources/Content

Centralized subscriptions

The centralized subscriptions system is implemented in 6 ACs (Andalusia, Aragon, Baleares, Cantabria, Galicia and Navarra), in the rest, 60%, there are duplicate resources

Centralized resources

There is a very high variation in the number of journals subscribed centrally by each region: from 266 to 5300
13 ACs use a link resolver
1 (Andalusia) has developed a thematic repository
2 ACs (Andalusia and Galicia) have a Discovery tool
and most use the bibliographic Manager End-Note Web.

Centralized services

Document Delivery Services → 10/14
Remote Acces → 11/14
Experts Bibliographic search → 9/14
User training → 10/14

Most respondents say they have centralized services, but after a review of their web pages this could not be verified.

Usability

Andalucía is getting the best ranking, followed by Galicia, Balearic Islands, Navarre, Murcia, Castilla y Leon and Aragon.

The rest don't pass the usability test.

Results and Discussion

ANEXO 3: TEST DE EVALUACIÓN DE BIBLIOTECAS VIRTUALES EN SALUD	AND	AR	AST	BAL	CAN	CANT	CYL	EXT	GAL	MUR	NAV	PV	TOTAL
1. Autoría													
Autoría	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3,00
2. Contenido													
Arbitraje de los contenidos	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	3	3	2	2	2,17
Originalidad de los documentos	3	2	3	3	2	2	2	2	3	3	3	2	2,50
Actualización	3	1	1	3	1	3	2	3	3	3	2	1	2,17
3. Navegación y recuperación													
Mapa del sitio	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	3	3	0	3	0	1,08
Facilidad de navegación	3	3	3	3	0	2	3	3	3	3	2	1	2,42
Presencia de enlaces externos	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3,00
Sistema de búsqueda	3	0	2	1	0	0	2	0	3	3	0	0	1,17
Presencia de metadatos básicos	3	3	0	3	0	0	3	0	3	3	3	3	2,00
Presencia de metadatos de formato Dublin Core	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0,25
4. Calidad del diseño													
Claridad (contraste adecuado entre figura y fondo)	3	3	3	3	3	2	3	3	3	3	3	2	2,83
Legibilidad	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3,00
Velocidad de acceso	3	2	3	3	2	3	2	3	3	3	3	3	2,75
Tipo de formato de los documentos	0	1	0	1	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	0,42
5. Código de ética y respeto a la privacidad													
Política privacidad	3	3	3	3	3	0	3	3	2	0	3	3	2,42
Profesionalismo (on line)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0,00
Responsabilidad.	3	3	3	3	3	0	3	3	0	3	3	0	2,25
Puntuación obtenida test evaluación páginas web	41	36	32	37	25	23	36	35	38	36	36	26	33,42
Cumplimiento de Indicadores en %	80,39	70,58	62,75	72,55	49,02	45,1	70,59	68,63	74,51	70,59	70,59	50,98	65,52

Accesibility

None of the tested libraries pass the test accessibility.

Social Networks

With regard to social networks (twitter and facebook) in February 2015 (date of the study) had only 4 regional libraries with activity in these social networks

Results and Discussion

Mapping

Based on the criteria applied in this study, the existing Virtual Health Libraries could be classified according to the following levels:

- Level 1: accomplish all criteria: Andalusia, Galicia and the Balearic Islands
- Level 2: accomplish 3 of the 4 criteria: Aragón, Navarra and Murcia.
- Level 3: accomplish 2 of the 4 criteria : Cantabria, Castilla y Leon and Extremadura
- Level 4: accomplish less than 2 criteria : Asturias, Canarias Islands, Castilla La Mancha, Catalonia, Valencia, Madrid and the Basque Country.

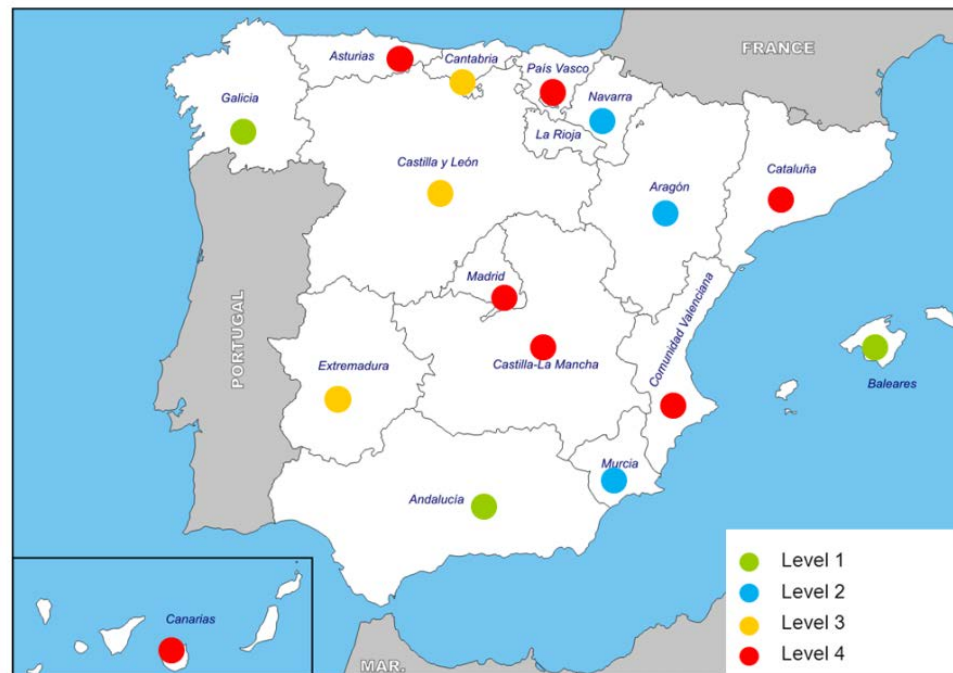
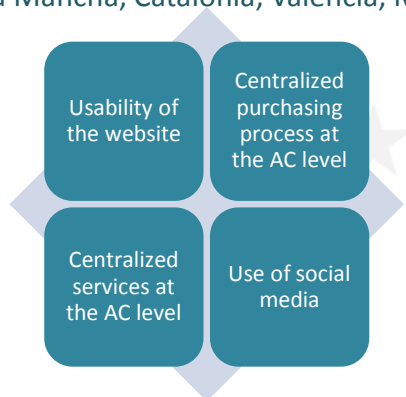


Figure I: Degree of development of Regional Virtual Libraries in Spain

Results and Discussion

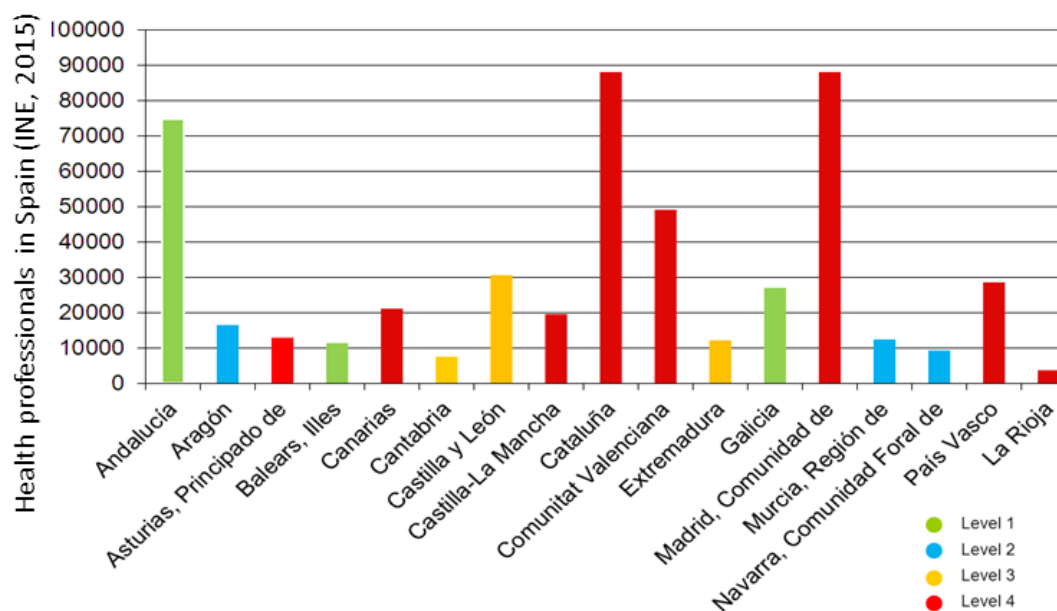


Figure II. Number of health professionals and by colour the level of development of its Virtual Library

With these data, and with reference to the number of registered physicians (public and private according to the National Statistics Institute) in Spain → **only 22% of physicians have access to a Virtual Library Level 1**

Results and Discussion

Best Practices

In the second part of the research, we selected the 3 Spanish libraries with a high score in our ranking, in order to identify best practices: **Andalusia, Galicia and Balearic Islands.**

The good practices identified are:

- Web design clean, clear and intuitive (Balearic Islands)
- A very active role in social networks (Andalusia, Balearic Islands)
- Centralized subscriptions (Andalusia, Galicia, Balearic Islands)
- Coordination and/or centralization of processes: learning, Document Delivery Service ... (Andalusia, Galicia, Balearic Islands)
- Model changes negotiation with publishers (Andalusia, Balearic Islands),
- Organization of the Information in website by topic (Andalusia).



Such practices have proven to be effective, which could be transferable and represent an innovative element. One of the biggest reasons is related to **reducing costs**, in the acquisition of resources and the provision of services, and also with more **efficiency in the coordination and implication of librarians in hospitals.**

Results and Discussion

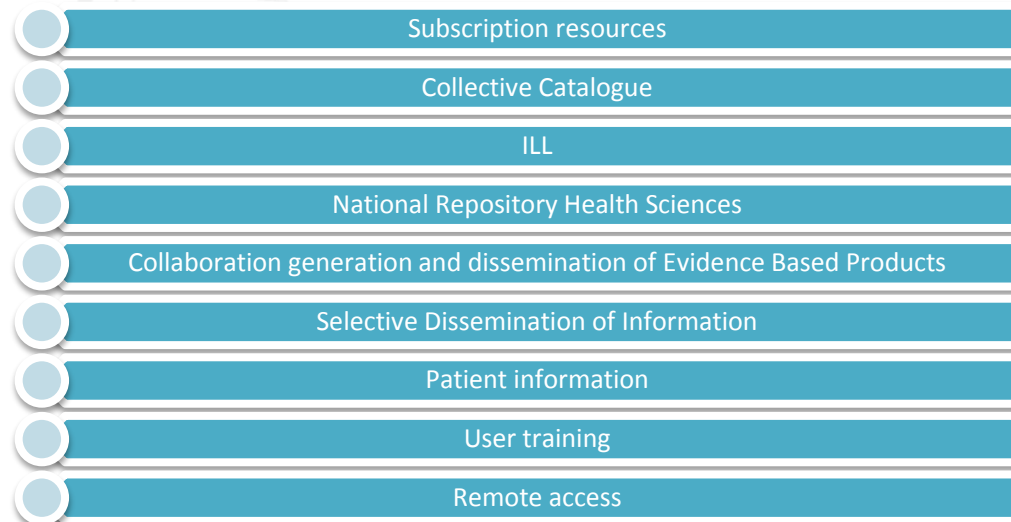
Propose a model of cooperation among the Spanish Regional Virtual Health Libraries

We developed a draft model of a **National Network of Health Sciences Libraries in Spain**. With regard to the organisational aspects:

- Institutional support of the Ministry of Health (ensure the functional stability)
- The **17 Regional Virtual Health Libraries** would be part of a collegial body created for this network:
 - Technical Commission
 - A Network secretariat
 - And creation of Working Groups

There are **several benefits** of this system:

- improve negotiation force
- economic benefits
- synergy effects
- balance between regions which also implies benefits in clinical practice.



Results and Discussion

Research Limitations

We have also to acknowledge some limitations in research:

- There are **inconsistencies** between what is actually in the regional libraries and the responses to the questionnaire.
- In addition to this, **the present study should be expanded** with the involvement of the only library association in health sciences in Spain, **REBISALUD***
- The **3rd objective is very ambitious**, and it should take into account legal and political aspects.

*<http://www.rebisalud.org/>

Conclusion

The principle of **equal access to the best scientific evidence is not assured** in the Spanish National Health System.

The Libraries in Spain have developed at different rates →

Different organizational designs, supply of resources and services


All of them should offer services and minimal resources →

Equity in access to information needed for decision-making



Improved healthcare

Conclusion



- The **good practices** identified are related to **centralization of subscriptions and processes**, proving to be the best tool to facilitate access to quality information resources at all levels (health care, research, training and management).



Conclusion



- **A library cooperation network** should be established in Spain.
- The librarian miss the presence of an organism that promotes the library collaboration, taking advantage of the high capacities of some virtual libraries that have highly developed projects, like Andalusia or Balearic Island.
- The **Spanish Health Ministry should be involved** in this important topic for healthcare professionals

¡Muchas Gracias!

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