

What would the future be without history? Knowledge and research to preserving the past

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Introduction

The Carlo Besta Neurological Institute Library in Milan, Italy owns an important historical neurological heritage consisting of books and scientific journals as well as a document archive and medical-surgical instrumentations.

In 2014, we started a library online cataloguing project beginning with works by Carlo Besta who founded the homonymous institute in Milan the first in Italy to bring together in a complex clinical monothematic, scientific, therapeutics and surgical experiences of the nervous system.

Aim

The access to scientific documentation and the use of it in healthcare organizations are important components both in research and clinical practice. Specific skills and technical solutions are necessary to support them and to provide relevant information at the right moment and place.

We want to shed light on a hidden treasure through the cataloguing process and the MeSH (Medical Subject Headings) subject heading of the entire monographic collection in the Regione Lombardia's OPAC (Online Public Access Catalogue) and in the Italian national library system (Servizio Bibliotecario Nazionale SBN). This leads to an increasing national and international awareness of the collection, that becomes a fundamental documentary authority in the history of neuroscience. Books and instruments cataloguing allows for the preservation of a remarkable patrimony for future generations.

Methods and instruments

In collaboration with FENS (Federation of European Neuroscience Societies) the Library organized the conference "Carlo Besta and the Italian Neurosciences Development", accompanied by an exhibition of monographic material, medical and scientific instruments. This event allowed the Library to promote the documental collection between doctors, researchers and students.

The conference was the first of a series of seminars held in different European cities such as Paris, Venice, London, Oxford, in 2015.

We gave a satisfaction questionnaire to evaluate the initiative.

Results

The results of the questionnaire prove that the project and the promotional events linked to this heritage provide a significant contribution to the spread of biomedical information and historical scientific culture (Figure 1 and 2).

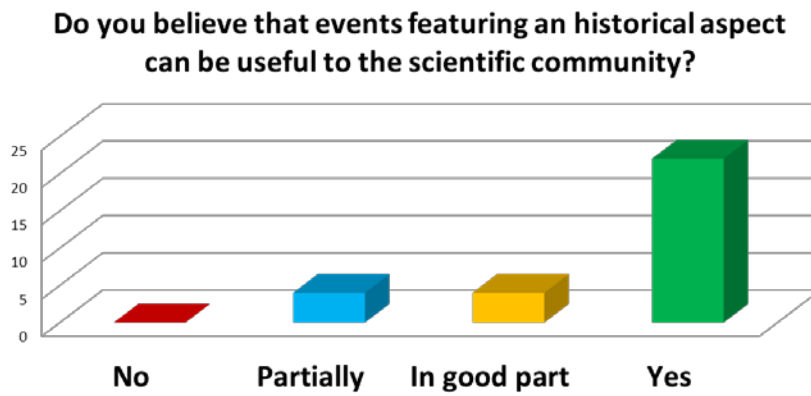
Thanks to the organization of this events, meetings, exhibitions and workshops the library can be a real support to the research and clinical practice of the health professionals.

Keywords

History of Medicine, Education, Information Storage and Retrieval, Knowledge Management, Information Services.

Tables and figures

1. Figure 1



2. Figure 2

