

The Andalusian eHealth Library, ten years of leadership.

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Introduction

The Andalusian eHealth Library (BV-SSPA) was set up in 2006 under the scope of strategy number IV, Knowledge Management, of the II Quality Plan for the Andalusian Health System (2005-2008)¹, which established the key process: To guarantee the knowledge exchange within the Health System, with the following specific aims:

- To define and develop a scientific information strategy for the Health System.
- To establish the Andalusian eHealth Library.
- To coordinate the Andalusian Health documentary centres.
- To establish strategic agreements with similar organizations.

During its ten years of operation, the BV-SSPA has focused on providing Health System Professionals with the best scientific information available, in a timely manner, for clinical decision purposes, as well as research and training; in other words, the knowledge manager which integrates and coordinates the hospital libraries.

Objective

The objective of this work is to demonstrate that the BV-SSPA has become the Knowledge Manager of the Andalusian Public Health System, providing its professionals with the appropriate tools and resources from the most relevant Health scientific Information available in databases and impact factor journals, as well as the particular software which helps them to take the best clinical, research and training decisions. It will be proven that the BV-SSPA has managed to provide the Andalusian Health Professionals with these valuable scientific resources while coordinating the library network services.

Methodology

The analysis of these last ten years has been possible thanks to the annual usage and statistic reports which are issued by the BV-SSPA. These reports demonstrate that according to the Health Ministry Strategy this library copes well with the user needs and librarians'.

The annual reports collect the results of the following work groups: Marketing and Communication; Thematic subjects, Interlibrary loan service, Impactia, Institutional Repository, as well as the data from the user forms and followers on BV-SSPA social media such as Facebook, Twitter, Slideshare and Youtube

Results

- 2007: the central purchase of scientific resources is initiated; from 975 subscribed titles in 2007 the BV-SSPA managed to subscribe to 2,431 in 2009 when all the hospitals stopped contracting individually. This also meant significant savings of more than 25% from the previous hospital budgets for subscriptions². Presently, there are 3,139 available journals including the open access ones and the currently subscribed titles.
- 2008: One of the most important challenges of the virtual library was the set-up of the remote access system. Andalusian Health Professionals can access the scientific resources and services provided by this library whenever and wherever they wish. Besides that, not only the employees of big hospitals have these available resources, but also the ones from small hospitals and rural distant areas of Andalusia.
- 2009: the Interlibrary Loan Service is set up. This service has provided the BV-SSPA users with more than 150,000 articles for the last seven years.
- 2010: the BV-SSPA launches its profile on social media and web 2.0 tools addressed to both health professionals and individuals. Presently, it has 2,699 Facebook followers; 2,167 at Twitter; 21,000 views on Flickr; 1,200 video downloads and 26,000 Slideshare downloads and this year, the number of entries to the BV-SSPA web was 1,645,321 with 924,277 downloads and more than 1,500 requests to the user service.
- 2011: The Institutional Repository and the Software Impactia are launched. IMPACTIA is the software which analyzes the scientific output of the Health System according to:
 1. Programme Contract of the Health System Ministry taking into account the impact factor.
 2. Total output of all the institutions belonging to this Health System both with and without impact factor.

The Institutional Repository collects and manages all the scientific output generated by the Health System professionals, following the guidelines of the Programme Horizon 2020 from the European Commission, as well as the Spanish and Andalusian Science Laws.

During the past ten years, the BV-SSPA has actively participated in scientific events as attendant and also as organizer. This is the case of the workshop of the Andalusian Health Libraries which took place every year from 2006 until 2011, the 2nd European National Digital Libraries of Health Conference held in Seville in 2008, the organization of the XIV Health Science Information National Conference (Bibliosalud) in 2011, and currently the 15th EAHIL Conference in Seville.

This presence at national and international events and the publication of its achievements in health science specialist journals provide the BV-SSPA with an excellent visibility outside its boundaries.

Conclusions

The transformation of traditional hospital libraries into a library network integrated in the Andalusian eHealth Library, meant a change of the health science information resource management, and therefore the role of librarians.

Innovative activities such as ours, supported by the Andalusian Government, have been both internationally and nationally recognized. This also means budgetary savings for the health system and the equality of access to resources and as a result, the European Institute of Public Administration granted the BV-SSPA with the Cross-Administrative Honourable Mention and the Best Practice Certificate in 2013.

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