Centralized management of subscriptions and access to the e-journals of the Virtual Health Sciences Library of the Balearic Islands
www.bibliosalut.com

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Introduction

In 2003 the Virtual Health Sciences Library of the Balearic Islands (Bibliosalut) was started, beginning a small centralized subscription management of scientific e-journals, databases and e-books. From then onwards the objective has been to change from paper format to electronic, and in this way, increase access to quality scientific content for public health professionals.

Subscription, management and centralized access of the journals from the libraries belonging to the Public Health System of the Balearic Islands Region (IB-Salut) has contributed to a marked increase in quality scientific resources subscribed.

Objectives

1. Change from print to electronic format.
2. Democratizing user access for all IB-Salut centers.
3. Improve quality and quantity of resources.

Method

First of all the situation was analyzed, what the libraries had, user need and the future objectives.

Then a database was carried out wherein information related to contracted journals was collected (subscribing centers, formats, providers, prices...). The analysis of such information allowed the study of new contracts with editors and aggregators.

Results

In these years Bibliosalut has subscribed to new electronic scientific resources, culminating in the process of centralization and management of all subscriptions through the Virtual Library in 2008.

Conclusions

This has allowed us to optimize resources, negotiate better with subscriptions services, improve e-journal use control, achieve access and manage incidences. Centralized management of journal subscriptions has contributed to the operating of our regional virtual library with an important number of quality publications available for all public health service professionals, and with a clear improvement of economical resources.

Some of the advantages brought about by the changes from print to electronic journals and subscription centralization:

✓ Qualitative increase of the journals.
✓ Quantitative increase of the number of journals by centers and users thanks to the negotiation with editors to subscribe to a greater number of journals at a better cost.
✓ Democratization access to all the centers thanks to the electronic format.
✓ Interconnectivity with databases and e-journals through link resolver.