JUNTA DE ANDALUCIA
CONSEJERÍA DE SALUD

EAHIL 2016

Knowledge, Research, Innovation ... eHealth

Biblioteca Virtual del Sistema Sanitario Público de Andalucía

Thematic web portals for different user profiles in a virtual health science library: Bibliosalut's experience

Biblioteca Virtual de Ciències de la Salut de les Illes Balears

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Introduction

Normally, the users of a virtual health sciences library have different professional profiles (physicians, nurses, pharmacists...) and/or they are from different specialties (Primary Health Care, Internal Medicine, Oncology...). This poster shows the experience of the Virtual Health Sciences Library of the Balearic Islands (Bibliosalut) of creating thematic web portals, whose aim is to improve the experience of our users when browsing and requesting information resources and services from the virtual library, and to increase its use.

Methods

Different information resources that Bibliosalut offers were selected for each thematic web portals, according to the interest and frequency of use that they may have had for users of professional profiles.

We created the necessary modules from the backend of the Bibliosalut Content Management System (Joomla), to present the selected information in various thematic web portals: featured resources, e-journals and e-books of each specialty that are available in the virtual library, journals of each specialty with impact factor ISI, clinical practice guidelines, useful links, etc., as well as featured information of library services, such as training courses from the Users Training Service of Bibliosalut aimed at specific groups.

We are currently working on offering more thematic web portals for other specialties to Bibliosalut users and in the future we are going to evaluate their satisfaction about the usefulness of creating these thematic web portals.

Results

The result is a bilingual website (Catalan and Spanish), which consists of a main home page (www.bibliosalut.com) with an assortment of thematic home pages, and customized URLs depending on the speciality or the professional profile of the users of the virtual library (e.g. Bibliosalut for Primary Health Care professionals: www.bibliosalut.com/ap). In addition, it includes several sections with information resources (data bases, e-journals, e-books, and the like) available for each speciality in Bibliosalut.

Conclusions

We believe that the presentation of information in a virtual health sciences library, highlighting the most useful resources and the most used by professionals who have a specific profile or a specific speciality, will help to improve the usability of the web, the browsing experience of our users, and also increase the use of information resources and services of Bibliosalut.

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