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PUBLIC INFORMATION SERVICES IN HEALTH IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC IN THE YEARS 2005-2010

Abstract

The national network of medical libraries providing access to information services in the Czech Republic is shortly described. The core of the information services provided by the most medical libraries covers circulation, interlibrary loans, document delivery services, information retrieval from medical databases and electronic fulltexts and training of end –users and librarians is mentioned. It is also presented in brief the process of creation of the advanced service system in the years 2005-2010 for health by the form of flexible approach the special information sources from any working places of public information services in health.

Health Care in the Czech Republic

The Czech Republic having 10,3 millions of population i.e. density of 131 inhabitants per km² belongs to small European States.

We can characterize the Health Care by data on total expenditures in the Czech Republic in the year 2003. Total expenditure on health (without expenses in sectors other than that of Health) increased from the preceding year by 17 904 million CZK and their amount in 2003 was 186 424 million CZK, i.e., 18 274 CZK per 1 inhabitant. This total expenditure on health represents 7,36% of the GDP in 2003. Public expenditure, i.e., that of public budgets and of the public health insurance system, totalled

170 367 millon CZK, more by 16 301 million CZK than in the preceding year. The total number of persons working in health care in the Czech Republic by the end of 2003 was 241 143, of that 97.7% in sector of Health. The relative number of physicians increases every year and there were 40.9 physicians per 10 000 inhabitants. As of 31.12.2003 there were 37 260 physicians in the Registry. The 7 medical faculties had a total of 11 929 students. From January 2003 (by Act No.290/2002) the most health establishments so far administered by District Offices (financed by central government) were transferred to competence of Regional (localy elected) administration, a small part of competence of Ministry of Health or cities and municipalities. Only 272 out of the total 26 655 registered health establishments have been newly registered, almost entirely independent specialists offices and pharmacies.

Net-structure of Medical Libraries of the Ministry of Health CR and Other Departments

Medical libraries are built in medical and educational organizations with the aim to ensure the information support at first for science, research and education.

National net-structure of public information services in health is formed on principles of: regional centres, centres for integral work of faculties of Medicine and teaching hospitals, special learning, research and sanitary preventive workplaces with the incontestable role of the National Medical Library. These work places create mature centres of net structure, which are able to give delegate servi-ces to others, in the scope of similar define services cooperative work places of the net-structure.

The act follows with enactments accredit the National Medical Library (NML) as a special library in the field of health. NML is a public library, the state organizational component established by the Ministry of Health. It assures an informational support of science and education in the field of medicine and related disciplines, builds and administers collections of domestic and foreign information sources subsidize by state with the responsibility of a national depository function. It provides coordination, special, information, learning, analytical, research, methodical and reference services for the field of health information. It fulfils the roles of the national medical bibliography and branch union catalogues, administration of museum collections of the Medical Museum, WHO Documentation Centre.

The net-structure of medical libraries coordinated by NML shows to 31.12.2003 following parameters: 149 medical libraries, 95 000 users, library holdings in number of 2 850 000 items together with 3 426 foreign periodicals and 14 639 items of Czech periodicals (multiple) and 1 090 000 loans. Medical libraries participating in the Public Information Services in Health – net (PISH) are established by: the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports, the Ministry for Regional Development, the Ministry of Defense, private and ecclesiastic subject, law and physical persons, non-profit organizations and other institutions.

Public library and information services defined in article 4 of Act No 257/2001 Coll. (Library Act) include:

- Accessing library documents from own and other libraries
- Providing bibliographic, reference fact information and retrievals
- Providing information from other information sources
- Enable the access to the sources by the telecommunication technology.

The commission of PISH is to make accessible special medical information (SMI) and accommodate special health public with library and information services using a modern information and telecommunication technology (ICT), support the access to this information for keeping up and improving a life quality of inhabitants. To help on with medicine development and help to do the medical policy by an adequate access to medical information, it will allow everybody to do an informed decision about his health. Medical library (ML) which fulfils standards for support of science, research and education is an integral part of the first-rate medical care system using the way to fulfil the vision.

National Medical Library

National Medical Library has the important position in the net PISH. The year 1999 marks the emergence of REGLEK, a NML-based consultation group for the development of regional centres of medical libraries. REGLEK addresses issues concerning the activities of medical libraries and the development of their mutual co-operation in providing services to the users. In cooperation with the regional centres of the NML's activities are to a great degree affected by cooperating with the below-listed libraries and information institutions in the Czech Republic, which collect, process and provide access to literature from the field of biomedicine and related branches.

Main activities of NML are:

- Purposeful acquisition, maintenance and access to primary and secondary collections by means of circulation, document delivery and via Internet (http:// www.nlk.cz)
- Maintenance of the complete collection of the Czech medical and health publications
- Creation and access to information files on the Internet
- Build-up of union catalogues of medical literature
- Creation of the national medical and health bibliography
- Retrieval services (Bibliographia Medica Čechoslovaca, EMBASE, MEDLINE, Web of Science, HFO, Full text databases: EIFL Direct, ProQuest, Science Direct, Springer Link, Lippincot Williams and Wilkins, Wiley etc.)
- Lending services, international interlibrary loan centre
- Publishing activities
- Advisory service, consultations

- Organisation of learning sources for librarians and end-users
- Conduct of functions by virtue of a national documentation centre
- Administration of the Health Care museum collections.

In the 1992, the National Medical Library became the WHO Documentation centre in the Czech Republic.

The main aim is to provide library information services based on the WHO information that is delivered to the Czech Republic from the WHO European Regional Office, seated in Copenhagen or from the Geneva based headquarters. NML closely co-operates with WHO offices in the Czech Republic – WHO documents are available in the NML's Customer Services Department and in the Department of Scientific Information at the Ministry of Health Care.

Development of the Public Information Services in Health in the Czech Republic in the years 2005-2010

Realization of Changes in Present Net of PISH corresponding to the Conception of the Health Care System includes following aims to adopt more effective control of the PISH net on 2 levels:

- Operational proceedings and coordination of the finance constitution of the Committee attached to the Department of Science, Education and Recognition of Doctors, Dentists and Pharmacists MH CR
- Consultation services and strategic proceedings constitution of an constitutional council of the National Medical Library

For Realization of the Transfer of Medical Libraries to the Modern Hybrid Type of Working Places is necessary: to realize the inovation of the present model of medical libraries (hybrid libraries) by the assistance of using net sources, services from online sources.

To change the present finance system of the development of medical libraries by this way – from the beginning of the 90th each year given "Allowance to Science Medical Information" (with an intense drop tendention of the financial volume), will be completed to "Program of public information services in health" (cont. only "program PISH") which is dedicated to projects of any medical library, which access public information services in health and which is registered by the Act no. 257/2001 Coll. Prefer the realisation of project focusing in information support of systems of health learning and medical science development in the model of "hybrid library".

It is also necessary to intensify the Quality of the Creation and Elaboration of Library Holdings and Information Sources.

In this connection will be created an acquisition scheme of health literature holdings for the work stations of PISH serving for removing an undesirable purchase duplicity and for development of standardized selective tools with respect to the international compatibility (MeSH, "Conspectus" method etc.). It is further necessary to reach a maximum compatibility and unification of library processes and to support the

cooperation of PISH work stations in acquisition, cataloguing, maintenance and protection of holding, in a creation of the national reference holding. Important is also using the digitalization for the maintenance and protection of rare holdings. And last but not least it is necessary to develop methods of an personal bibliography and quotation analysis for support of science publications and research activities of workers in the health.

Quality of Services Supply and Their Accessibility for Health Services

Using modern electronic integral library systems allows the quick and precise registration of a holdings dislocation and an access as far as to the full texts of register documents. The installation of more effective methods of searching for information (to analyze the situation of catalogues, to receive the strategic decision how to reach their integration into the virtual union catalogue very quickly). Creation of the national branch catalogue of periodicals with the possibility of online access to full texts. The consecutive creation of thematic gates on Internet for the quality searching for electronic sources. Development of the modern type of interlibrary loan services. To support the cooperation with active working institutions with similar service concentration also outside of the Ministry of Health CR department.

Creation of the Infrastructure for a High-Quality Selection of Workers for PISH Working Places, the System of Specialization and Life-Time Education

According to the conception will be supported the process of definition of the profession qualification, the installation of the modern technologies ICT and a creation of quality standards of PISH. To this goal it is proposed to install the Department of research and methodology of the PISH net in the National Medical Library. It is necessary to work on the proposition of the content of a special training and lifetime learning for the PISH workers, to project them to the proposition of the select procedure for placing head positions on PISH work stations.

International Cooperation

The NML and other medical libraries are members of several Czech library associations:

SDRUK (*Czech Republic Library Association*) is an association of legal entities of the same interest, the goal of which is the development of intellectual values in relation to securing democratic approach to information stored in the stocks of specialised and scientific libraries.

SKIP (Association of Library and Information Professionals) is grassroots voluntary professional organisation of library and information specialists. The Association is a member of IFLA.

The Czech Republic Library Association of Czech Libraries is an association of legal entities. In line with its Article of Association, it vocalises economic, legal, professional and other requirements and interests of libraries as employers and

promotes these in relations to governmental institutions and trade unions in cooperation with others sections and associations in the Union.

In terms of international cooperation, the most important thing to be pointed out is the membership of the NML and other medical libraries in *the European Association* for Health Information and Libraries (EAHIL). This association was formed in 1986 with the aim of improving library and information services of all medical professions through mutual cooperation and exchanging experience within the European region. Its activities are coordinated by the Council and Board, where the Czech Republic is represented as well. The association regularly organises conferences and symposia, and the Czech medical libraries actively participate in these actions. The European Association for Health Information and Libraries (EAHIL) organises world-wide and European conferences and workshops. EAHIL's Newsletters provide continuous professional training and education and plays the role of a forum for debate.

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CENTRA DOKUMENTACJI WHO/EUROPE W BIBLIOTEKACH MEDYCZNYCH

Streszczenie

Jednym z przykładów współpracy bibliotek medycznych w Europie są Centra Dokumentacji Światowej Organizacji Zdrowia (DC WHO/EUROPE). Biuro Regionalne WHO z Kopenhagi powołało 51 Centrów Dokumentacji przy bibliotekach lub innych instytucjach związanych z ochroną zdrowia w różnych krajach Europy. Zadaniem ich jest gromadzenie i udostępnianie dokumentów, raportów i innych materiałów WHO. Celem referatu jest przedstawienie centrów działających w Europie i omówienie zasad współpracy z innymi bibliotekami.

Abstract

An example of activities for cooperation between European libraries of medicine is the establishment of the Documentation Centres of WHO Regional Office for Europe (DC WHO/EUROPE). Thus far,