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Transfer of knowledge: A Nord-Baltic Cooperation Programme for Medical Libraries

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Tekst jest udostępniony do wykorzystania w ramach dozwolonego użytku.

Straty wydawnictw z tego tytułu są ogromne, jednak w obecnej chwili nie ma skutecznych sposobów walki z piractwem i nie ma też, jak w przypadku międzynarodowych koncernów muzycznych silnych nacisków na ustawodawców, by tę sytuację zmienić. Przyjęta stosunkowo niedawno nowelizacja ustawy o prawie autorskim, która przewiduje pobieranie opłat od urzędzeń reprograficznych nie rozwiązuje tego problemu.

Istnieje jednak nadzieja, że tak jak w przypadku utworów muzycznych być może upowszechni się w przyszłości system sprzedaży podręczników w formie plików udostępnianych użytkownikom po dokonaniu opłaty on-line. Wymagałoby to oczywiście wprowadzenia do umów z autorami nowych zapisów o polach eksploatacji, jednak może będzie to system na tyle atrakcyjny, by wydawcy, stworzyli wspólną platformę i spójny standard dostępu i zechcieli go wprowadzić. Na zachodzie istnieją już podobne systemy, więc może jest to tylko kwestia czasu...

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TRANSFER OF KNOWLEDGE: A NORDIC-BALTIC COOPERATION PROGRAMME FOR MEDICAL LIBRARIES

Abstract

Within the framework of the Nordic-Baltic partnership programme, Norway and Lithuania have established a special bilateral programme for 10 years. In year 2005 the partnership programme was finished. The evaluations of results and mutual benefits during 10 years period of cooperation are described in the presentation. Results of the cooperation programme and positive and negative factors for successful cooperation of this experience are emphasised.

Communication is all-important in partnerships - to share information, develop professional skills and awareness, and promote the interchange of ideas. To be successful and sustainable there must be a two way process! (Jean Shaw, UK. EAHIL Newsletter, 1996, 36.)

This spring we celebrated a 10-year anniversary of Nordic-Baltic partnership programme. Now the programme is finished and I would like to present you evaluation, results and mutual benefits we gained during 10 years period of cooperation and share our experience.

The Baltic and the Nordic countries have always been closely linked geographically, climatologically and culturally. After the Baltic countries became independent, it was natural to establish Nordic-Baltic relations in many fields including medical librarianship.

Background

The Nordic/Baltic health libraries programme was initiated in 1994 when 4 Lithuanian librarians thanks to Nordic government grant attended EAHIL Conference in Oslo and met colleagues from Nordic Association for Medical and Health Information there.

Within the framework of the Nordic-Baltic partnership programme, Norway and Lithuania have established a special bilateral programme. In order to become acquainted with our new partners and to plan future activities, SMH, the Norwegian medical library group, visited Kaunas and Vilnius for the first time in 1996.

Partnership with Norwegian Library Association SMH

The aim of the first project was to provide Lithuanian libraries with up-to-date medical textbooks according to priority lists from Kaunas and Vilnius medical libraries.

As a result, our libraries received a good collection of new medical textbooks from Norwegian libraries and publishers.

Norwegian colleagues understood our great demand for full text journal articles and suggested free article copy service for Lithuania over NOSP web page. SMH invited Norwegian medical libraries to join this program and now 40 libraries participate in the programme by sending free copies.

Since 1997, we receive on the average 1000 copies per year from various Nordic Libraries. We appreciate this help very much.

During this period, our librarians were supported to attend EAHIL, NAMHI meetings and workshops. Due to this support, we could gain access to the latest information on new library technologies and implement this knowledge at home after return. We also received an invaluable opportunity to get acquainted with and to talk to colleagues from various countries.

As a part of this support, the EAHIL membership fee is paid for 2 persons. Our representatives are even involved in EAHIL and NAHMI Board activities as board members. (Scandinavian colleagues are well organized and always put on the list our person for board elections).

Study tours

SMH arranged a 1-week study tour for 6 medical librarians from Lithuania. This tour was a good chance for our librarians to visit medical libraries and interlibrary loans, which are providing free article copies, meet their colleagues and improve professional knowledge. We gave presentations about our libraries and made acquainted with a lot of Norwegian librarians. This meeting contributed in fulfilling our aim of mutual educational programme Transfer of Knowledge.

Oslo University Library invited 1 librarian from our university for 1-month duration traineeship.

6 Librarians from Lithuania had possibility to participate in EAHIL Baltic-Nordic workshop in Oslo that has been organized by Nordic Library Association, SMH.

Transfer of Knowledge I, II, III

A valuable part of the partnership program is the transfer of professional knowledge. It is a very useful mean for the professional development of our staff, because other courses and seminars, which were held in Lithuania, did not meet the specific requirements of medical library information services.

Under the co-operation between the Norwegian Library Association Section for Medicine and Health, Union of Danish Librarians and the Kaunas University of Medicine Library the 5-day continuing education, courses "Transfer of Knowledge" were held at Kaunas University of Medicine in March 2000. The courses were free and open to Medical Librarians from Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia.

These courses became possible thanks to the grant from Nordic Council of Ministry. They were held by experienced lecturers from Norway, Denmark and Sweden on the topics which were considered hot for medical librarians: Evidence Based Medicine /Cochrane Library, Reference Manager, searching PubMed, Medical Internet Resources.

The documentation was translated into the three Baltic languages. The purpose of translating was both to facilitate the learning for the course participants and make the material accessible for others. The material was published on the libraries' homepages

All participants' forms pointed out in their feedback the usefulness of the courses and expressed wishes to continue this educational program in the future. As a result "Transfer of Knowledge II" courses under the same program were organized in 2002 and "Transfer of Knowledge III" in 2004. The main subjects were on Evidence Based Health, Evidence Based Librarianship, and Health resources on the Net, Cooperation between Libraries.

With a help of courses run by ourselves, we can spread newly acquired knowledge among other Lithuanian librarians who were not able to take part in the educational program.

Though educational programme is over, we continue to cooperate with Norwegian colleagues in other programme - Transfer of Knowledge to Russia. We want to build on the experience and the network developed so far with the Nordic-Baltic countries. Our knowledge of Russian language and culture is in great value. In June this year, educational courses were organized in St.Petersburg for medical librarians where our experience with the Transfer of Knowledge played role as good facilitator and as a mediator between Russia and Europe.

Evaluation

Positive results of Partnership Program

Inspired by Scandinavian educational programme and having good back-ground of medical information knowledge we started our user-training programme, this was very popular among physicians and other medical professionals. We held 2440-hour courses on health information searching for 2200 people from Kaunas and its surroundings.

As a result of educational activities, beginning with 2001 informatics has been included as a new subject into the University study program for Public health students.

On the other hand, user training naturally encourages staff to take greater responsibility for their own personal development. It is very important in present situation when the importance of the role of medical librarian in medical community is continually increasing.

The community of medical librarians is rather small in Lithuania and other Baltic countries. This is the reason why we have no national association for medical Librarians. Inspired by successful partnership between Norwegian and Lithuanian medical libraries we decided to establish Baltic Association for Medical Libraries (BAML), this has been formalized last autumn.

Our representatives are elected to the NAHMI and EAHIL boards.

Negative factors for partnership

The main obstacles, which prevent our cooperation to become even more efficient, are:

- Language problems. Most of people had acquired basic English or German at schools or universities. Nevertheless as a rule, their practical skills were very limited. Only scarcely, they could communicate fluently enough, especially the older generation. At present, the language situation tends to gradually improve and it is not so urgent for the younger generation.
- Financial problems. Due to the lack of appropriate funding we are not capable of participating in various events as equal partners in financial terms
- Psychological barriers to communicate. Both of the factors mentioned above cause certain psychological communication barriers. In spite of a friendly environment people usually feel uncomfortable and experience a lack of self-confidence in situations when they are dependent and cannot share organizational burden or equally contribute to discussions

Factors for successful partnership

- Long-term partnership program is one of the main factors for achieving good results. The partnership between Norwegian and Lithuanian health libraries already lasts for 9 years.

- Partnership between national associations rather than between twin libraries allows involving much more people into activities.
- Mutual analysis of needs and mutual program creation. Joint efforts are necessary both in the analysis of needs and collaborative program creation. "Transfer of Knowledge" is a good example of such approach. It was based both on our requests and proposals of the Norwegian party on relevant topics in European librarianship.
- Priority for professional development. It is a backbone for Library modernization and service improvement process.
- Support to attend conferences and workshops. It is a useful factor for professional development
- Involving into activities of professional associations (EAHIL, NAMHI). Participation in professional associations is very useful in establishing international contacts, acquiring new friends.
- Both sides' personalities (activeness, friendliness, ability to communicate...)
- Very good social programmes (during study tours we stayed in the private houses of our colleagues, we have many opportunities to communicate in informal parties and joint travels in Fjords or in Lithuania.

Conclusion

The partnership program between Baltic and Nordic medical libraries and the knowledge gained from Nordic colleagues has contributed very much to our professional achievements. The close collaboration between SHM and Lithuanian medical libraries remains to be an important stimulus for our future activities.

I have started my presentation with quotation from Jean Shaw, where she says, that cooperation is a mutual thing. The TK project has been a very mutual thing.

Mgr Teresa Górecka-Klejjs
Aalsmeer – EBSCO

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Streszczenie

Według przewidywań wielu ekspertów na rynku wydawniczym do 2020 roku nastąpi odejście od wydawnictw drukowanych na rzecz elektronicznych. W zakresie nauk medycznych i ścisłych zmiany te najprawdopodobniej nastąpią jeszcze szybciej. Wraz z zadaniami w zakresie wspierania procesów ustawicznego kształcenia w społeczeństwie opartym na wiedzy stawia to przed bibliotekami wiele wyzwań w zakresie udostępniania zasobów elektronicznych.