

# Trends, Models and Strategies for Medical Libraries in the Era of Open Access to Health Information: A Report of Convention - NCOAHI 2018

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**To Cite:** Manhas, R., Bajpai, M. & Kumar, A. (2018). Trends, models and strategies for medical libraries in the era of open access to health information: A report of convention - NCOAHI 2018. *International Journal of Information Dissemination and Technology*, 8(1), 39-41.

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## TIME LAG

Received on : 15.02.18  
Revised on : 22.02.18  
Accepted on : 20.03.18

## Online Access

[www.ijdt.com](http://www.ijdt.com)

## DOI

10.5958/2249-5576.2018.00009.2

## QR Barcode



## ABSTRACT

Open access to information resources has opened up a new window for the libraries and their users to cope up with the shrinking budget of libraries and increasing cost of the information resources, especially in the case of health sciences, where the cost of information resources is too high, and it is difficult for a single library to afford all the health information resources and meet the emerging demands of health professionals. The conference provided a sharing platform for the library professionals to discuss various issues related to open access and other relevant hot topics like mobile applications in medical libraries, infrastructure to application of cloud technology, e-learning, open vs. subscribed journals, cost benefit analysis, total quality management, IPRs and role of social media tools in higher educational institutes. The aim of this report is to create awareness among the stakeholders who are working in this area, so that they may gain the necessary information for further development of the system for the benefits of library users. At the last of the report some recommendations have been put forth, so that the policy makers may do the needful for framing the policies for the development of library system in the country.

**KeyTerms:** Trends, Models, Strategies, Health Information, NCOAHI

## INTRODUCTION

The open access phenomenon is gaining popularity among the academicians and they are using it for accessing the information as well as for publication of their knowledge. When it comes to medical sciences, this system has opened a new window to bridge the gap of availability and accessibility to overcome the problems of shrinking library budgets and increasing cost of health information resources. Hence, that was the reason behind choosing the topic for 1<sup>st</sup> National Convention of Rajasthan Medical Library Association, Jaipur. The topic of the convention was "Open Access to Health Information: Trends, Models and Strategies for Medical Libraries" and is jointly organized in collaboration with M/s Jaypee Brothers Medical Publisher. The Convention was inaugurated on February 9, 2018 by Chief Guest, Hon'ble Smt. Suman Sharma, Chairperson, and Rajasthan State Commission for Women, Government of Rajasthan with lighting up the traditional lamp. The keynote address was delivered by Prof. Purnima Kaushik, HOD, Department of Library & Information Sciences, University of Rajasthan, in which she emphasized the

importance of health sciences librarianship and open access publications.

## OBJECTIVES

The main aim of the convention was to strengthen the health sciences libraries and librarianship and to advocate the leadership of medical librarians in creation of knowledge led healthcare education and research in the country. In this convention, more than 100 delegates participated and representing almost every state of the country. During this two day convention, many research papers were read on different aspects of the health sciences libraries and librarianship in the country, and a road map was deliberated and prepared for the enhancement of role of medical librarianship to develop medical education and healthcare in the country during the panel discussions held. A proceeding of the conference in which 23 papers were included was also released on this occasion.

## Emerging Trends in Digital Technology: First Technical Session of the Day

First technical session (February 9, 2018) was

on emerging trends in digital technology and started after the appointment of convention rapporteur in general Dr. Rajeev Manhas, University Librarian, Baba Farid University of Health Sciences, Faridkot, Punjab. The session was chaired by Prof. Kautilya Shukla, President Health Science Library Association and co-chaired by Dr. Ashok Kr Garg, Chief Librarian, MM Deemed to be University, Mullana, Ambala alongwith invited talk delivered by Sh. D.R. Yadav, Librarian, S.N. Medical College, Agra and rapporteur of the session was Sh. B.S. Deopa, Chief Librarian, Government Medical College, Haldwani. In this pre-lunch session, three papers were presented by Dr. IA Jeba Kumar and Dr. D. Joyson Soundrarajan, Dr. Anita Gangrade and Dr. Anita Jain and Ms. Shobha Sharma alongwith product demonstration on Jaypee Digital was delivered by Sh. Nirmal Ji from M/s Jaypee Brothers. During this session various queries were addressed to the Chair by Dr. H.D. Pandey, Dr. Rajeev Vashistha, Sh. Rakesh Srivastva and Dr. Shamji Parmar and addressing to these queries Dr. Shukla concluded the session with emphasised on strategies to be adopted for delivery of authentic information and services in the era of digital and technological advancement. While delivering the invited talk, Sh. D.R. Yadav, Librarian, S.N. Medical College, Agra, who presented the grim situation and ground reality of the libraries of the UP medical colleges, He further warned and gave thrust to play proactive role to save this profession otherwise it may be overtaken by others.

#### ○ **Modern Information and Communication Technology for Libraries: Second Technical Session of the Day**

This post lunch session was chaired by former Director Central Library University of Rajasthan, Jaipur Dr. Pawan Kumar Gupta. Sh. Hari Prakash Pandey, Library & Information Officer, Lady Harding's Medical College & Associate Hospitals, New Delhi co-chaired it. The invited talk on "Digital Libraries, Protocols and Standards" was delivered by Prof. Purnima Kaushik, HOD, LIS Department, University of Rajasthan. In addition to it, two presenters viz. Dr. Vineeta Chauhan and Ms. Divya Singh Rawat presented the papers. Sh. PC Sharma, Librarian, DMCH, Ludhiana acted as Rapporteur of the session. The session covered the standards and protocols to be followed for creation of digital libraries, role and various applications of social media for extended library services and information about various databases used for access of health information. The chairman in his concluding remarks informed the house about standards prepared by Government of India for making health sciences document in e-format for creation of digital libraries. He added that we need to have to go where our users go and advised to create facebook pages in response to query raised and found that only few libraries have started their facebook pages. The discussion on use of databases available for health information was further supplemented by Professor Dalbir Singh and Ms. Lalita Dheer.

#### ○ **Third Technical Session of the Day**

The last session of the day after tea break was chaired by Dr. Har Kaur, Librarian, GMCH, Chandigarh and co-chaired by Dr. G.S. Ramesh Naik, Sr. Librarian, Bangalore Medical College & Research Institute, Bangalore. The invited talk was delivered by Mr. Rajesh Kathane, Librarian, LNMCR, Bhopal. Sh. Aslam Mehdi, Librarian, JNMC, Aligarh acted as Rapporteur of the session. Two papers were presented during the session by Dr. (Mrs.) Neeraj Chouhan and Dr. Milli Bajpai. In this session, various issues and initiations were discussed. The Chairman raised a question about the measurement of library value on its investment and emphasized on making new strategies for the same. During the deliberations, a need for creation of national level consortia development was also raised (All

India Health Sciences Library Network) so that as reported by the house that ERMED is only catering needs of 85 medical colleges and rest 2000 colleges including medical, dental and nursing must be given access to quality information resources through consortia as on the already created models of INFLIBNET or student fee basis self financed model of HELINET of RGUHS and HSLIBNET of BFUHS. Dr Har Kaur emphasized upon to check the utility of the resources on which Govt. is spending huge amount and also discussed about the quality of medical research.

#### ○ **First Day Panel Discussion**

After the end of technical session, a group discussion was held under the chairmanship Dr. Kautilya Shukla and other panelist were Dr. IA Jeba Kumar, Dr. Har Kaur and Dr. Rajeev Manhas. In this deliberation various issues and problems of health sciences libraries and librarians were discussed in details like poor staffing pattern, funds, access of resources, academic status of health sciences librarians, formation of national level association for putting forward all issues with the government etc. and suggestions were invited from the house for the same.

#### ○ **Emerging Challenges in Information Science: First Technical Session of the Second Day**

The second day (February 10, 2018) of the convention started with formal welcome of Sh. P.R. Meena, conference president and president Rajasthan Medical Library Association. The topic of 4<sup>th</sup> technical session was "Health Science Information Research" and session was chaired by Dr. Karori Singh, Emeritus Fellow (Former Director) South Asia Studies Centre, University of Rajasthan, Jaipur co-chaired by Dr. Shamji Sharma, Chief Librarian, CU Shah Medical College Surendra Nagar. Ms. Lalita Dheer, Librarian, National Institute of Nursing Education, PGIMER, Chandigarh delivered a practical and interactive session on Pubmed and enlighten the delegates with resources available on these websites. Three of the paper presenters highlighted their research findings in this session viz. Ms. Shruti Papreja, Mrs. Adarsh Bala and Sh. Prakash. The chairman expressed his observations on these presentations and desired more practical oriented sessions to be included in the forth coming conventions.

#### ○ **Emerging Challenges in Information Science: Second Technical Session of Day**

The second session on "Emerging Challenges in Information Science" started with the introduction of the session given by Dr. S. Siva Chindambaram, Session Chairman and Chief Librarian, AIIMS, New Delhi on the various aspects and he further elaborated the recent developments in the field of health sciences librarianship. He emphasized on inclusion of the latest technology and creation of such environment, so that library users not only access the information but also create the new knowledge. So, he further emphasized on creation of places like Makerplaces and common 2.0 and encourages the users for use of Info graphics and gamification based learning and thus in overall the development of library as Knowledge Learning Resource Centre for users. The session was co-chaired by Dr. Anita Gangrade and she also presented the invited talk on emerging challenges in information science. In this session, three papers were presented by Dr. Shraddaha Kalla, Dr. Pradeep Kumar, Sh. Kumar Abbas and Dr. Shweta Pandey.

S L Vij Orientation Best Librarian Award in health sciences librarianship category was bagged by Dr. D. Joyson Soundrarajan, Sr. Librarian, CMC, Vallore for dedicated services to the users since 1983.

## Second Day Panel Discussion

The session was chaired by Dr K.P. Singh, Director, National Medical Library, New Delhi and other panelists discussant were Dr Rajeev Manhas, Dr D. Joyson Soundrarajan, Dr Ashok Kr Garg, Dr Har Kaur, Sh. P.R. Meena and Sh. Aslam Mehdi. The session started with observations made and points chalked out on the previous day. Then discussion was opened to the house and suggestions for final recommendations were invited. The various proposals were discussed on the issues and resolutions were made which would be put forth at government level for the welfare of health sciences libraries and librarians in the country:

The house agreed that there should a national federation on health sciences librarianship. Dr K.P. Singh as Patron, Dr Kautliya Shukla as Advisor, Sh. P.R. Meena as Founder President, Dr Rajeev Manhas, Vice-President, Sh. Aslem Mehdi, Vice-President, Dr Har Kaur, General Secretary, Dr Rajeev Vashistha and Ms. Lalita Dheer Joint Secretaries and Sh. Kumar Abbas as Finance Secretary and name resolved as "Federation of Health Sciences Library Association" and February 10, 2018 as foundation day. This association would take the further step for upliftment of the health sciences libraries and librarianship in the country. At last, there was an invited talk of Dr S. Siva Chindambaran, Chief Librarian, AIIMS, New Delhi and he enlightened us on the topic of the Convention. The following awards are conferred to the paper presenters on the basis of content and their delivery:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Position for Best Paper Award was given to paper written by Dr Har Kaur, Librarian and Ms. Adarsh Bala, Deputy Librarian, Government Medical College & Hospital, Chandigarh jointly.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Position banded by Ms. Shruti Papreja, Maulana Azad Institute of Dental Sciences (MAIDS), New Delhi.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Position in Best Paper Category is awarded to Dr Shweta Pandey, Assistant Librarian & Information Assistant, The LNMIT, Jaipur

## SUGGESTIONS

On the basis of discussion held during two days of the conference, the following suggestions are set forth for

development of open access environment in the country, so that maximum number of users and libraries may draw the benefits of this system:

- The development of policies favorable to open access to research results requires new competences at both university and country levels. Universities should prepare themselves and plan for building expertise in the following areas: a) negotiations of 'big deals'; b) legal matters (copyright, data protection); c) management of platforms (access, security, application development); d) management of research data; e) training of researchers, students and university staff in general as suggested by European University Association<sup>1</sup>.
- It is estimated that only 30% of researchers are aware of what publishing OA means (EUA Survey 2015/16). Researchers need to receive updated information and training. Incentives could include institutional policies for career progression rewarding publishing in open access repositories and/or scholarly journals; the sharing of research data with proper open licenses and accessible e-infrastructures<sup>2</sup>.

## CONCLUSION

The publication and dissemination of scientific outcomes is the backbone of scientific activities. In general, the conditions for publishing and publication usage in recent years have become more cumbersome, and prices have rocketed sky high. A more efficient use of public research funds and swifter scientific progress could be achieved by opening access (OA) to research outcomes<sup>3</sup>.

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