

# Andalusian Health e-Library

Submitted by the Virtual Library of the Andalusian Public Health System



## Virtual Library of the Andalusian Public Health System

C/ Bartolome de Medina 1  
1 E Modulo 1, Seville  
Spain  
www.bvsspa.es



### Contact person

**Veronica Juan**

Director

veronica.juan@juntadeandalucia.es

### Size of organisation

25-50, people involved: 6-10

### Type of sector

Information society, technology, media and audiovisual

### Key words of project

Library, virtual, scientific information, e-Library, health, Andalusia

The Andalusian Health e-Library (*Biblioteca Virtual del Sistema Sanitario Público de Andalucía, BV-SSPA*) set up in June 2006 allows health professionals to access the most prestigious resources to facilitate decision-taking, healthcare, teaching and research activities. It is considered the undisputed medium for health research and clinical healthcare in Andalusia, being consolidated as the Health Knowledge Manager in the region. It is directly linked to the II Quality Plan 2005-2008 of the Andalusian Health Ministry, which aims towards:

- enabling health professionals to obtain necessary resources for their task development;
- helping citizens to find unbiased, comprehensible and established information to be able to participate in decisions which could affect their health;
- coordinating the Andalusian Public Health libraries to sustain an institutional network for the expansion of the Virtual Library services to every health professional and to establish strategic alliances with organisations for this purpose;
- promoting the Andalusian Public Health System Knowledge Management.

Thus, the Andalusian Government created a Centre for Information and Scientific Documentation (BV-SSPA) which coordinates all of the health science documentation centres. Since the Andalusian public health system (SSPA) is composed of 41 hospitals and multiple other centres (investigation, primary healthcare, etc.), all with their own libraries and resources, this endeavour was very complex. In a first step, collaboration was created to:

- rationalise library collections to avoid duplication;
- evaluate the journal collection against individual hospitals' subscriptions to decide on their relevance;
- guarantee instant access to journals because of subscription to more resources and a resulting strong negotiation position in front of suppliers. All the signed licenses are without embargo;
- reach economies of scale: with the same budget, more resources are subscribed to and reach more users;
- access the same information and services all over the SSPA, also for primary healthcare and hospitals without a library;
- increase partnerships with institutions;
- enable access to the e-library for every professional of the Health System, regardless of his/her professional status, from the workplace or home (remote access), requiring only an internet connection.

This easy accessibility is a key success criterion of the BV-SSPA.

The functions and scope of the library are continuously being expanded.