

Professional Practices of Medical and Health Sciences Librarianship at Bezmialem Vakıf University Library

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Abstract

In the light of the development of concepts such as information society, information age, information management and technological developments, various innovations are occurring in library services with the change in the environments where information is located and stored. Today, libraries are not just institutions that organize and present information with specific tools, but have undertaken guiding duties on how the user can access existing information, how to benefit from the information, the importance of presenting information based on evidence and ultimately the use of information.

Medical knowledge in the field of health develops very quickly and changes rapidly compared to other scientific fields. For this reason, this information should be presented to users with up-to-date learning environments and services, as well as keeping and monitoring the library collections up-to-date. The continuous development and change of information and communication technologies are reshaping the information acquisition and learning environments, tools and the structure of information provision services. Up-to-date and accurate information, clinical data and evidence-based practices are required for the continuous improvement of health sciences and correct medical education. For this reason, information seeking behaviors of those working in the field of health are different from other fields. It is medical libraries that provide this information, organize the information systematically and make it available to health professionals. Those working in the field of health want to receive the services professionally and quickly. Medical libraries have an important contribution to the provision, processing, protection and accessibility of medical information when necessary. Academic medical libraries are units that compile, organize, make use of various information resources in line with the needs of their users and affect the research activities and scientific outputs at the university.

Bezmialem Vakıf University is one of the first thematic universities established in the field of health in Turkey. One of Bezmialem Valide Sultan's greatest foundation works is the Gureba-i Müslimin Hospital, which was established in 1845 for the

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benefit of the strange and the foreigner, and which is also the first hospital of our country in modern terms. This institution, which has been providing health services since 1845 and raising health professionals at the same time, has transformed into a university in 2010 by taking the understanding of health care and education to an advanced level. BVU's vision is to be a leading health university that is taken as an example in education and health services, guides science, and keeps the foundation culture alive. In this direction, BVU, which trains health professionals, aims to be the best in medical education and health sciences. In this context, within the university, to support the education of health professionals, to support the knowledge, use and transfer of national and international knowledge, to enable users to access more information quickly regardless of time and place, which does not fall behind the developments and has a high power to support academic and social life. BVU library and documentation directorate was established in order to create an information center. BVU libraries, which serve in three different campuses, aim to increase the education quality of the university, support research and development studies, provide accurate, reliable and universal information to the service of users with modern facilities, and to meet the information and document needs of the users in all types and environments quickly, from the best source.

BVU libraries, an academic university library and a medical library, offer a variety of services that support continuous development and lifelong learning, taking into account user needs within the scope of reader-information services, research services and administrative-technical services. It maintains these services with online services that support distance education in addition to physical environment services. Since BVU has academic staff educating students in the field of health and doing research in the field of health, the library collection is mainly developed in the field of medicine and health sciences. Today, as the most important current and evidence-based source for research in the field of medicine and health is electronic resources and BVU is a thematic health university, BVU Libraries as well as printed basic resources, many prestigious national and international electronic databases make it easy for users to learn. information needs are responded quickly. In this way, with 24/7 access to many types of online resources, it provides convenience for users' sourcing and academic success.

Processes such as electronic database management, academic publication scanning and publication provision service, institutional open access archive, analysis of research outputs, bibliometric analysis and reporting, university rankings tracking and data management, visibility studies are carried out directly within the scope of the library's research services. In addition to these services, the integration processes of the university's distance education system and databases, the establishment of the infrastructure that provides 24/7 remote access to the resources, keeping the website constantly updated, preparing subject guides for users, preparing short videos about library services and electronic resources and adding them to the training panel, Processes such as providing information

literacy training, following up and announcing academic announcements and current news to users instantly, active management of social media are among the important activities carried out by the library to support distance education. In this study, the academic studies and professional practices carried out by the library of Bezmialem Vakıf University will be mentioned in detail, and examples of the work done as a library will be given.

Keywords: Bezmialem, Medical Librarianship, Health Sciences, Electronic Database, Library Service, Knowledge Management, Distance Education



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