



The Bridge to Technical Cooperation in Scientific Health Information in the VHL of Puerto Rico



Carmen M. Santos-Corrada, MLS, MA (UPR, Medical Sciences Campus); **Luisa Vigo-Cepeda**, Ph.D. (Graduate School of Information Sciences and Technologies, UPR); and **Raúl Castellanos-Bran**, MD, Puerto Rico Department of Health.

With the collaboration of **Luis Méndez-Márquez**, MIS
and **Juan Pablo Delerme**, BA



Introduction



- The Regional Library of Medicine (BIREME), now known as The Latin American and Caribbean Center on Health Sciences, is a specialized center of the Pan American Health Organization/World Health Organization (PAHO/WHO), oriented to technical cooperation in scientific health information.
The headquarters of BIREME are located in Brazil. Technical cooperation is implemented by means of the Virtual Health Library (VHL), launched in March 1998, with the Declaration of San José Towards the Virtual Health Library (VHL), approved during the 4th Regional Congress on Health Sciences Information (CRICS4)

<http://regional.bvsalud.org/bvs/por/ideclar.htm>



Introduction



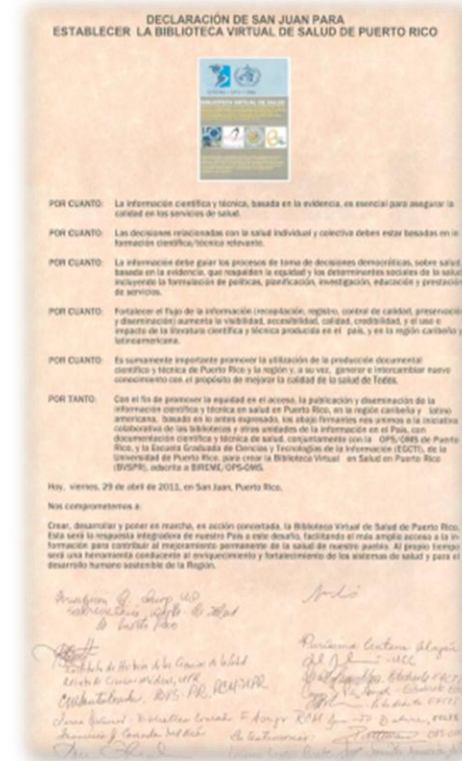
- Puerto Rico participates in this initiative through the collaboration of the Conrado F. Asenjo Library, UPR, Medical Sciences Campus <http://rcm-library.rcm.upr.edu/> , the Graduate School of Information Sciences and Technologies (GSIST) UPR <http://egcti.upr.edu/> , the Puerto Rico Department of Health <http://www.salud.gov.pr/Pages/default.aspx> , and PAHO <http://new.paho.org/index.php> .
- The VHL-PR was launched on April 29, 2011, with the Declaration of San Juan, establishing a commitment between the principal member institutions of Puerto Rico, and representatives of the Department of Health of Puerto Rico, BIREME, and PAHO. Prof. Carmen Santos-Corrada, Director of Special Collections, Conrado Asenjo Library, UPR, coordinates the collaborative venture.



The VHL-PR Commitment



- The Declaration of San Juan was signed by members of the Health Community on 29th April 2011, at the Medical Association of Puerto Rico





Methodology



- The Community of Practice was created and a strategic plan was developed. The continuous development of the VHL-PR is conducted through its CoP, constituted by 13 representatives of specialized entities or institutions that have related documentation on health. In an effort to collaborate and strengthen the initiative, the GSIST/UPR declared a research line, under the leadership of Dr. Luisa Vigo-Cepeda, geared to develop products and services, and to facilitate the training of the CoP's membership.





Methodology



- In the creation and development of the VHL-PR, the model and methodologies developed by BIREME have been followed. (<http://bvsmodelo.bvsalud.org/php/index.php?lang=es>).
- In the network development, the following conceptual and theoretical frameworks have been used: Evidence-based Practice for the Information Professional, by Booth & Brice (2004); Communities of Practice, by Wenger (1998); and Connectivity, by Siemens (2005).



Methodology



- Apart from the entities previously mentioned, the CoP includes representatives from the following institutions of higher education: Universidad Carlos Albizu, Universidad Central del Caribe, University of the Sacred Heart, University of Turabo, Interamerican U. of Puerto Rico, Universidad del Este, Metropolitan University, U. of Puerto Rico-Rio Piedras, U. of Puerto Rico-Agriculture Experimental Station.
- The network has been organized following the guidelines indicated by BIREME: an Executive Committee, with six (6) Working Teams: Administration/Organization, Contents, Technologies, Education/Training, Knowledge Management, and Public Relations/Marketing. The interest and enthusiasm of the CoP, to learn and working collaboratively in order to reach a common goal, for the benefit of All, is a major asset.



Results



Major Collaborative Agreement

- Conrado F. Asenjo Library, UPR
- GSIST/UPR
- PR Department of Health

Community of Practice Development

Teams

- Administration
- Education/Training
- KM
- Contents & Technologies

Blog

Official Website

Assessments



Blackboard Collaborate





Results



- The research work has been concentrated in the creation and development of the Community of Practice and two major products: a blog and the official website of the Health Virtual Library.



<http://bvspr.wordpress.com/>

In this blog the work being conducted is documented.



Results



The official website of the VHL-PR follows BIREME's standards. It is our pleasure to launch and share officially The Virtual Health Library of Puerto Rico at this CRICS9 event.



Contact

<http://puerto-rico.homolog.bvsalud.org/php/index.php>

In addition, an electronic questionnaire has been administered to members of the CoP to validate the usability of the virtual products with lots of success. Learning assessments in trainings are being conducted to ensure success.



Discussion



The action to develop the Virtual Health Library of Puerto Rico with research, products and services, is a concerted effort of the CoP member institutions, geared to rescue the documental patrimony and the creation of spaces, with equal access to the information, scientific communication and technical research in the health areas in Puerto Rico.

The project, with its special products and services, is becoming a special tool, a bridge to the technical cooperation in scientific information in the Virtual Health Library of Puerto Rico for effective decision making.



Conclusion



Although it is in its initial stage,
the Virtual Health Library's collaborative effort
is proving to be
a bridge to the technical cooperation
in scientific health information in Puerto Rico
for effective decision-making.

Thank you for your kind attention.

Bvspuertorico.egctiupr@gmail.com