

When the Library is not a Priority at a Biomedical Research Institute: Defining a Strategic Plan in a Period of Change

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AIM - The definition of a strategic plan for the library, for a period of 5 years

METHODS - The Instituto Gulbenkian de Ciência (I.G.C.) was founded in 1960 and is supported by the Fundação Calouste Gulbenkian to carry on biomedical research and education. Since 1995, the I.G.C. has operated as a *host institution* for about 250 researchers in 35 autonomous groups. The thematic ground has always been Biology, but many projects link the activity to the Health area. The plan builds on the experience of running the library for the last two years, as well as the input from the research groups. A questionnaire was designed to survey a set of research groups, considering the experience reported in the current literature about the future of the medical and health sciences libraries. It consists of fifteen open-ended questions on foreseeable future changes in library facilities and roles.

RESULTS - Data from the survey is being analysed in the following framework:

- a solo librarian,
- a growing population of local users,
- an increasing demand for quick delivery of the correct information by the users,
- the need to follow the stronger link with the Health area,
- the need for improving the virtual library concept,
- the need for building an Institutional Repository,
- budgetary limitations

DISCUSSION - Currently adopted strategies in similar libraries are in agreement with a preliminary inspection of our survey data. A plan is therefore feasible upon finishing the analysis.

CONCLUSIONS - According to the revised literature and the characteristics of this research institute; the library needs a substantial change.