Technological evolution in health libraries, and the implications for librarians: The experience of the Virtual Health Sciences Library of the Balearic Islands (Bibliosalut)

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The development of information and communication technologies brings with it radical changes in the functioning of health sciences libraries. These changes often imply the appearance of new models of libraries, from face to face to virtual. The need to adapt to new times and new ways of working with users is a constant challenge for information and documentation professional, who, now more than ever needs to be continually updated in the application of information technologies to library services. In this communication we present the experience of the technology evolution in the Virtual Health Sciences Library of the Balearic Islands (Bibliosalut), which was created in 2003, where a small team of enthusiastic and dedicated professionals, work daily with the aim of constant technology improvement and the corresponding improvement of the services given to the users. We refer to: remote access development, document supply service, subscription centralization, content management, user attention service, social network, screencasts, etc. Technological development is a very important challenge for librarians. We want to emphasize that the new libraries need more and better trained professionals, who will require some of the following skills:

− Highly qualified and motivated.
− Able to adapt to new times.
− Innovative and trend setting.
− Continuously updating.
− Capable of working in multidisciplinary teams.

These librarian skills have brought with them a transformation in the relationship between the library and the users, who are now more independent, with the possibility of self-service and self-learning. With this presentation we want to paint the new vision of how librarians work in these ever-evolving times, and also to reiterate the importance of high visibility.