ELiQSR European Library Quality Standards for Health

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Background. The presentation will report the findings from the European Library Quality Standards for Health project. The project proposal won one of the two 25th Eahil Anniversary research grant awarded in 2012. There is not a recognised and established European quality standards framework for Health libraries. Worldwide, some quality standards have been developed, the majority of which are in Anglo Saxon speaking countries eg: in England in the USA, and are similar in content. Therefore this project seeks to explore the situation surrounding Health Library quality standards in Europe.

Aim of project. To develop the framework of a Model to inform Health Library quality standards in Europe. To adhere to the objectives of Eahil by the promotion, sharing and implementation of good practice in health libraries.

Objectives of project. The objectives of this project are:
− to undertake a critical literature review of Health Library standards worldwide;
− to scope the existing Health Library standards worldwide;
− to gain views and opinions of Health Librarians in Europe re: Health Library quality standards;
− to develop a set of standards for European Health libraries quality assessment;
− to review Health Library accreditation processes across Europe.

Methodology. A mixed methods approach has been used allowing the researchers to use both quantitative and qualitative methods. The major benefit of using mixed methods is the opportunity to gather rich seams of data and triangulate these data. Resulting findings are therefore guaranteed to be of a robust quality and empirically sound. To gather the stakeholder view of existing Health Library Standards across Europe a survey was developed .The survey was subsequently piloted with key stakeholders prior to distribution, several questions were ratified as a result of the pilot. The survey was distributed via the Eahil membership list during 2013.

Findings. The scope of the literature review revealed Health Library standards existed in Anglo Saxon countries, but not in the rest of Europe. Results from the survey show wide interest in Library standards from a variety of European countries, with respondents from Turkey, Poland, England, Spain, Germany, France, Slovinia, Portugal, Scotland and Ireland. The researchers invited several leading European Librarians to comment and advise on the results of the survey, as “Critical Friends”. The resulting findings and opinions from the survey, “Critical Friends” and the literature will form the basis of a model for a European Library Quality Standards for Health.

Outcomes. The outcomes of the project will be:
− the development of a Model for European Health Library Quality Standards;
− a roadmap for use by Health Librarians for both practical implementation and to inform the accreditation process.