

AUDIOVISUAL RESOURCES IN THE PROVISION OF HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS IN LITHUANIA

История медицины повествует, что в 15 веке в Литве из стран Западной Европы, появились первые образованные медики. Сегодня о нашем здоровье заботится обширное медицинское общество.

От знаний, зависит квалификация медиков. Библиотека – это один из основных источников знаний, а долг библиотекаря – предложить читателю новейшие источники информации и методы доступа к ней.

В конце 1994 года в Литовской медицинской библиотеке открылся Центр аудиовизуальных средств обучения. Для удобства медиков в Республике открыли еще 4 филиала этого центра.

Основная коллекция аудиовизуальных средств обучения хранится в Литовской медицинской библиотеке. Медики чрезвычайно рады этому новшеству, помогающему легче усваивать профессиональные знания.

Старая поговорка гласит: “лучше один раз увидеть, чем сто раз услышать”.

Medicine, as a science, has a very long history. For ages barbers, pagan priests, wizards, sorcerers, herbalists took care of people with various health disorders. Only in the early 15th century, after the adoption of Christianity, a first trained physician came to Lithuania to work at the court of the Grand Duke.

In the beginning of the 16th century the first hospitals, chemist's shops were established. “Commentariola Medica et Physica ad Aliquot Scripta“, the first book on medical subjects, appeared in Lithuania in 1584. S.Simonius, the physician of Steponas Batoras, the King, wrote it.

In 1715, the royal Medical School was founded in Gardinas where medium-level medical specialists were prepared. Medical science began to develop faster, when in 1781 the Medical Faculty (Collegium Medicum) opened the door at Vilnius University, one of the best teaching institutions in Europe in the 19th century.

Nowadays medical professionals are trained in the Medical Faculty of Vilnius University and Kaunas Medical Academy. Medium level education is provided in medical schools in Kaunas, Vilnius, Panevezys and other towns.

Public health care in Lithuania is provided by 1749 medical institutions including out-patient departments with 16 884 practising physicians and 38 603 medium level medical personnel. Health care professionals continue their training after they graduate from medical schools or universities. There is a great pressure on medical professionals to keep up-to date professionally. Knowledge in the medical field is forwarded by great efforts and resources put in research.

Library makes a significant part of knowledge infrastructure. Its duty is to offer the readers the newest information sources and retrieving methods and teach how to use new technologies for information searches.

Regaining Independence in Lithuania started a new step in our libraries' activities. After the iron curtain disappeared, there are more contacts with foreign libraries. Dale Lukas, the acquisitions librarian from the National Library of Medicine (USA), Craig Locatis, the multimedia specialist from the same library, have brought ideas to our library, new to us, but widely applied in the USA and other developed countries. In 1994, the Lithuanian Research and Study Centre in Chicago in co-operation with the World Lithuanian Medical Association prepared a project of the Audiovisual Resource Centre in the Lithuanian Library of Medicine.

Why was this centre founded? Medicine, as a profession, historically depends on visual materials in its teaching programs. With the development of visual and audio technologies, medical educators were the first to apply them to teach medical students the basics of anatomy, pathology and new surgery techniques. The videotape is highly useful in providing continuing medical education to physicians and medical personnel in order to keep them up-dated in art techniques, treatment procedures and patient management protocols.

The old adage, a PICTURE IS WORTH A THOUSAND WORDS, is very suitable in the medical field. In therapy and surgery the visual experience can expand the professional knowledge in many healing or even life-saving ways.

