



Growth of Medical and Health Sciences Librarianship in Spain: 40 Years of BiblioSalud Conferences

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From fragmented local services to a collaborative, digitally connected, and strategically engaged profession: four decades of transformation in Spanish health sciences librarianship

Source base: Programmes and proceedings from 17 National Health Sciences Libraries Conferences, 1986–2026.

PRE-CONFERENCE CONTEXT

The Origin: Before 1986



A Fragmented Landscape

Libraries were centred on print collections and user services, with limited formal structure and heterogeneous professional backgrounds. Many staff members lacked formal library training. The exponential growth of scientific information created new challenges.



1986–1995: Foundational Phase

Structure, Cooperation and Early Technology

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First National Conference of Health Sciences Libraries



"White Paper" Project
"White Paper" on Health Sciences Libraries in Spain (1994-1998)



Regional Union Catalogues of Medical Journals, 1984-1993



CD-ROM: the new papyrus
Early technology support and information retrieval services

1996–2007: Transition Phase

Evolution of Knowledge and Digital Context

From Transition to the Digital Era (1996–2007)



Spanish Catalogue of Medical Journals (C17), 1996



Digital transformation
The Web, e-journals, and hybrid libraries



Interlibrary Loan Service

Resource sharing begins: document delivery and interlibrary loan services



Consortia

Shared licensing, access, and services

2009–2011: Opening Phase

External Expansion and Open Access

Opening Up to the World (2009–2011)



Open Access

Commitment to open access and the free flow of knowledge



Building Virtual Libraries and Repositories

2014–2023: Strategic Phase

Alliances, Integration and Advanced Management

Strategic Consolidation (2014–2023)



SDGs and Libraries
Libraries as Social Actors



Professional Association-Building



BiblioSalud Working Group, 2023

2026 and Beyond: Future Challenges

Preparing for a dynamic and ethical future

Looking for the Future (2026 and Beyond)



The intelligent revolution
AI and big data in healthcare and research



BiblioSalud Association, 2026

BIBLIOSALUD CONFERENCES



1986 – Santander



1987 – Barcelona



1990 – Sevilla



1992 – Bilbao



1994 – Palma



1995 – Madrid



1997 – Granada



1999 – Santiago



2001 – Cáceres



2003 – Málaga



2005 – Terrassa



2007 – Zaragoza



2009 – Oviedo



2011 – Cádiz



2014 – Madrid



2019 – Oviedo



2023 – Valladolid



2026 – Alicante

BiblioSalud: four decades of conferences, a strong professional community, and a shared vision for the future



ICML 2026

14th International Congress on Medical Librarianship **Glasgow, Scotland** 14th - 16th July

Digital poster
Scan to view online

