Looking for New Paths in Educating Health Librarians in Brazil

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Among the conclusions drawn from recently study done by the authors involving health professionals from various institutions in the city of Campinas, SP, there was the clear indication for the need of library and information personnel to be trained in the health fields. Brazilian Library Schools have not still been able to include health-oriented topics in their education and training programmes in order to meet these needs. This indergoing research project has the financial support of the National Council for Scientific and Technological Development (CNPq) in order to point out the subject areas where information professionals must be trained, as well as to develop a methodology for designing training programmes which might be offered in the future by the existing Library Courses in the country. Data have been collected through interviews with university professors and researchers, as well as practitioners from nine categories of health professions. Research results pointed to such subject areas as: the development and updating of medical research sources, dissemination of information produced by health institutions in the country; development of digital libraries, information storage and retrieval from health library collections and data bases, among others.