

## **Press Release for Hospital Library Information Services during the Pandemic**

### **Role of Hospital Libraries**

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According to recent census (2021) there are about twenty five active Hospital Libraries. Twenty three under the supervision of the Ministry of Public Health and Social Solidarity, one under the supervision of Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs and one under the supervision of Ministry of National Defense.

Right from the beginning of Pandemic, majority of Hospital Libraries in Greece, completely aligned with the recommendations of the International Federation of Libraries Associations and Institutions (<https://www.ifla.org/covid-19-and-libraries>) and the Association of Greek Librarians and Information Scientists: "Recommendations for the reopening of Libraries and the management of Library material in relation to COVID-19" (approved by Hellenic National Public Health Organization 4/5/20).

During 1st lockdown the Libraries provided only electronic services, while during 2nd lockdown, physical presence of the users was allowed in compliance with the distance regulations.

First emails of scientific information about Coronavirus were sent to hospital staff at the beginning of 2020. In details:

- An informal network was developed among the Hospital Libraries.
- Coronavirus and Covid-19 material was posted in the Institutional Repository "Asklipios" of the General Hospital Asklepieio Voulas.
- Use of social networks of the libraries for scientific information posts
- Informative e-mails were sent to Hospitals' scientific staff and library users.

Emails and posts about Pandemic included:

- Bibliographic reviews (with translated abstracts by librarians) daily and / or 2-3 times a week.
- Recommendations / Guidelines of the World Health Organization (WHO) and other International / European Scientific Societies.
- E-books
- Databases
- Scientific information evaluation tools, as the volume of COVID-19 information on the internet was huge.
- Medical article concerning the criminal evaluation of ICU doctors during the Pandemic by Sakellaropoulou V. & the Association of Judges and Prosecutors in Greece.
- Nutrition papers for the public about the strengthening of the immune system.
- Weekly newsletters about the Pandemic written by distinguished scientists.
- Webinars.