

HANDLING OF BIOMEDICAL INFORMATION IN THE ELECTRONIC TECHNOLOGY ENVIRONMENT

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0 INTRODUCTION

The habitat of biomedical information has been shifted from the traditional print media to the newly evolved electronic media. The electronic media is more fitted to face the challenge caused by the exponential growth of biomedical knowledge. Through the new medium, it's possible for getting access to the relevant information, from the vast amount of biomedical literature, regardless of its location. "The value of electronic information is that, it can be easily shared, distributed, up-dated, manipulated and rapidly searched. A feature of the current electronic information environment is the apparently seamless way in which resources are networked and accessed across different computing platforms".^[1]

The new medium gave birth to many electronic biomedical information products in the form of on-line databases, CD-ROMs, internet and www resources etc. This process of generating, different varieties of offsprings will continue at an accelerated rate with the advancements in technology.

The development in electronic environment and the invention of new biomedical information products have significantly changed the role of biomedical librarian. It alters his traditional responsibilities, as the electronic information products can no longer regard as static and physical entities of print media. The electronic biomedical information products can take multiple formats and are dynamic in nature. The biomedical librarian is compelled to modify the selection, organisation and dissemination process and to acquire new skills as the traditional approach is not at all feasible towards the electronic products.

1 AN OVERVIEW OF ELECTRONIC BIOMEDICAL INFORMATION PRODUCTS

With the phenomenal pace of advancements in technology, many different forms of electronic biomedical information products started appearing

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