



# CONGRESS SUBTHEMES

## 15<sup>TH</sup> BIENNIAL AHILA CONGRESS IMPERIAL RESORT BEACH - ENTEBBE 17 – 21 OCTOBER 2016. UGANDA

### 1. Health information and rural communities

**Description:** Rural health care providers and patients often face obstacles different from those in urban areas in accessing consumer health information. This is due to the geographical, cultural, and economic factors that impact how providers deliver care and how patients receive it. Papers under this sub-theme should aim to share experiences of innovative ways regarding how consumer information is delivered to the rural communities and how the communities receive and utilise it.

#### **Papers may focus on:**

- Access to health information by rural communities: the role of librarians
- Consumers of health information provision, Innovative rural health information services delivery
- Patient care and patient empowerment to health information
- Promotional of Health care information communication

### 2. Librarians and Evidence Based Healthcare

**Description:** The implementation of evidence based practice (EBP) requires acquisition and use of a complex set of skills, including: the ability to locate and critically evaluate clinically relevant research literature; the ability to clearly formulate PICO elements from research questions; the ability to clearly understand how systematic reviews are developed and applied to inform health policy formulation. Speakers will be required to provide an overview of the role of the health sciences librarian in evidence based medicine practices such as developing systematic reviews and health policy briefs.

**Paper may focus on:**

- The role of Librarians in implementing Evidence Based Medicine
- Evolving role of information scientists in systematic reviews development
- Capacity building to practitioners in implementing evidence based practice for effective health care service delivery
- Knowledge attitude and perceived barriers for evidence practice for quality health care service provision

### 3. Evolving Medical education curriculum

**Description:** Trends in health sciences education are blending a variety of instructional designs, such as Problem Based Learning (PBL), team-based learning, and community based learning and research services (COBERS). Medical librarians should be well versed in these instructional methods in order to best support the learning and teaching. The curriculum develops in students the learning skills essential for independent study and continued learning in their life as physicians. Speakers will provide an overview of instructional trends and how librarians can play a role in learning and teaching, including providing resources and services for different learning methods.

**Papers may focus on:**

- Embracing Learner centered approaches to medical education
- Changes in the medical curriculum in different African countries, and challenges faced by both learners and teachers
- Application of Competence based curriculum in medical universities

### 4. Capacity building of Health Information Professionals: the role of LIS education in Africa (Curricular design and instruction)

**Description:** Librarians have an important part to play in supporting research, training and developing the knowledge economies of nations. The changing roles of librarians and the new skills and knowledge required to play these roles are a major challenge for libraries and librarians in developing countries, especially those in Africa. To meet this challenge, advanced training and continuous career growth should be promoted. The presenters should consider papers that focus on advanced professional training and continuous career development of medical/health sciences librarians.

**Papers may focus on:**

- Training of Medical librarian professionals in providing effective service delivery
- Continued professional programmes for capacity development of information professionals
- Definition of minimum competencies for LIS professionals in Africa

## 5. Communicable and non-communicable diseases

**Description:** Currently, non-communicable diseases are sweeping the entire globe. There is an increasing trend in developing countries, where the demographic and socio-economic transition imposes more constraints on dealing with the double burden of infectious and non-infectious diseases in a poor environment, characterized by ill-health systems. Among non-communicable diseases, special attention is devoted to cardiovascular diseases, diabetes, cancer and chronic pulmonary diseases. The burden of these conditions affects countries worldwide but with a growing trend in developing countries. Preventative strategies must take into account the component of improved access to health information. The presenters in this sub-theme should aim at giving a global view of the main diseases and their impact on populations living in low-and middle-income nations, and the contribution of information access and strategies such as vaccination programmes for polio and some childhood diseases, other diseases like HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria and dengue.

**Papers may focus on:**

- Health promotion messages to communities by both medical librarians and health workers
- Finding information on clinical effectiveness
- Communicating the threat of an emerging outbreak to the public

## 6. Preservation of rare medical records

**Description:** Libraries have a responsibility to preserve, conserve, and, if possible, restore their local history and local materials. Such materials, may include sensitive and fragile patient records which require extra care and authorization during the preservation process. The papers to be presented should address the process of preservation, conservation, and restoration of heavily used, fragile, and

rare local history and other materials that may be available in hospitals, churches or medical institutions of higher learning.

**Papers may include:**

- Digitization of hospital records
- Preservation and archives of medical information in hospitals and medical schools

## 7. ICTs and health information provision and access

**Description:** Librarianship is a rapidly changing profession, continuously evolving to keep pace with the continuing technological advancement and the changing needs of patrons. This is one of the major reasons professional development is critical for librarians. It enables them to apply technologies in their routine work as information professionals. Paper presenters should focus on experiences of applying new technologies in Library work and promoting provision of and access to health information.

**Papers may focus on:**

- Use of ICTs in enhancing health information dissemination in rural communities
- Mobile technology application and health information communication
- Utilization of ICT and health information systems

**Abstract details:**

Abstract should be in English or French with a maximum of 300 words long. The abstracts should be submitted as attachments and sent to the following:

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