

DEVELOPMENT AND PROSPECTS OF THE LIBRARY OF KAUNAS UNIVERSITY OF MEDICINE

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The Library of the Kaunas University of Medicine is undergoing a period of great changes and activity. At the end of 1998 a Medical Information Center was established at the library in the framework of the Soros Foundation "Medical Internet Program". The Center is available for physicians from the other hospitals of Kaunas and the whole of Lithuania. Medical professionals attend the University Hospital to improve their skills.

The library staff has given educational courses "Internet for Beginners" for 400 medical specialists, and it is planned to continue training in Medical Internet resources for 600 physicians in the years 1999–2000.

The library staff has prepared materials for two courses: "Medicine in the Internet" for medical librarians and "Searching in the Medical Databases" for physicians within the Soros Foundation programme. The materials will be used for training specialists in medical information in Lithuania.

In cooperation with the other university libraries of Lithuania, we are installing the new library system "Aleph-500". Up to now, our library has used the library system "Alise" developed at the Latvian University. Our records will have to be converted from UK MARC format to UNIMARC in conformity to the new library system.

A project on reconstruction and modernization of the library was approved by the administration of the University in March. Through introducing large-scale innovations the new library building will correspond to the needs and requirements of modern library technologies.

We expect to continue our good relations with Norwegian medical librarians and to work on joint projects in the future. Also, we will promote both contacts with the medical libraries of the other Baltic countries and exchange of medical information.