



# 9<sup>th</sup> World Congress on Health Information and Libraries

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# **Health libraries present and future:**

## **The global health library perspective**

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# Library is a living organism

- It is affected by its environment;
- It follows the socio-economic model in which it exists;
- The socio-economic inequality results in disparity in status of health library ;
- Health library's status mirrors the digital divide locally and globally;
- Health library's status mirrors health status in a country.



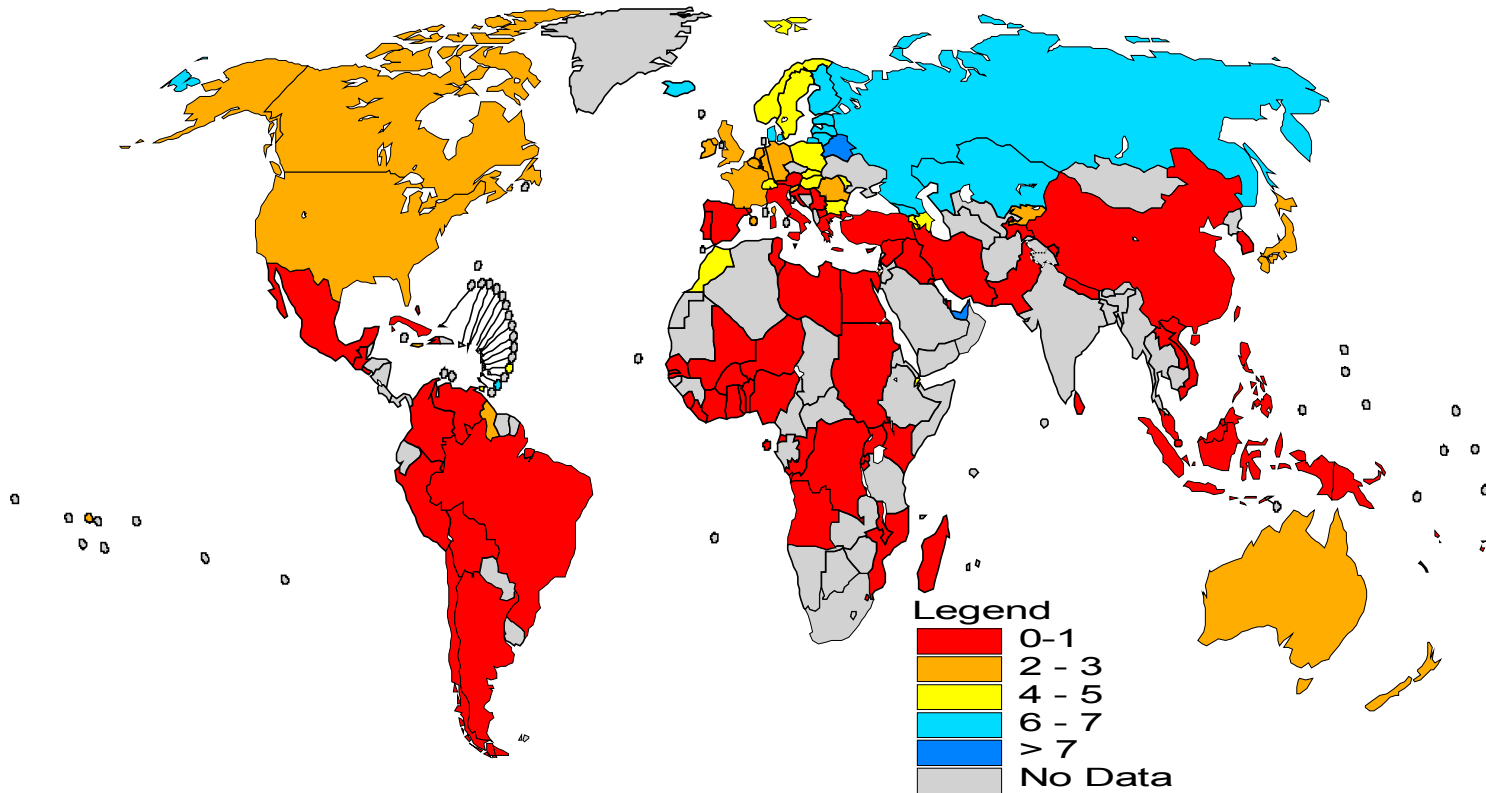
# Disparity of library situation

- Within the country:
  - Capital;
  - Major cities;
  - Districts;
  - Towns;
  - Villages;
  - Communities
- Within the Region;
  - Rich
  - Poor
- Globally



# Public Library books per capita.

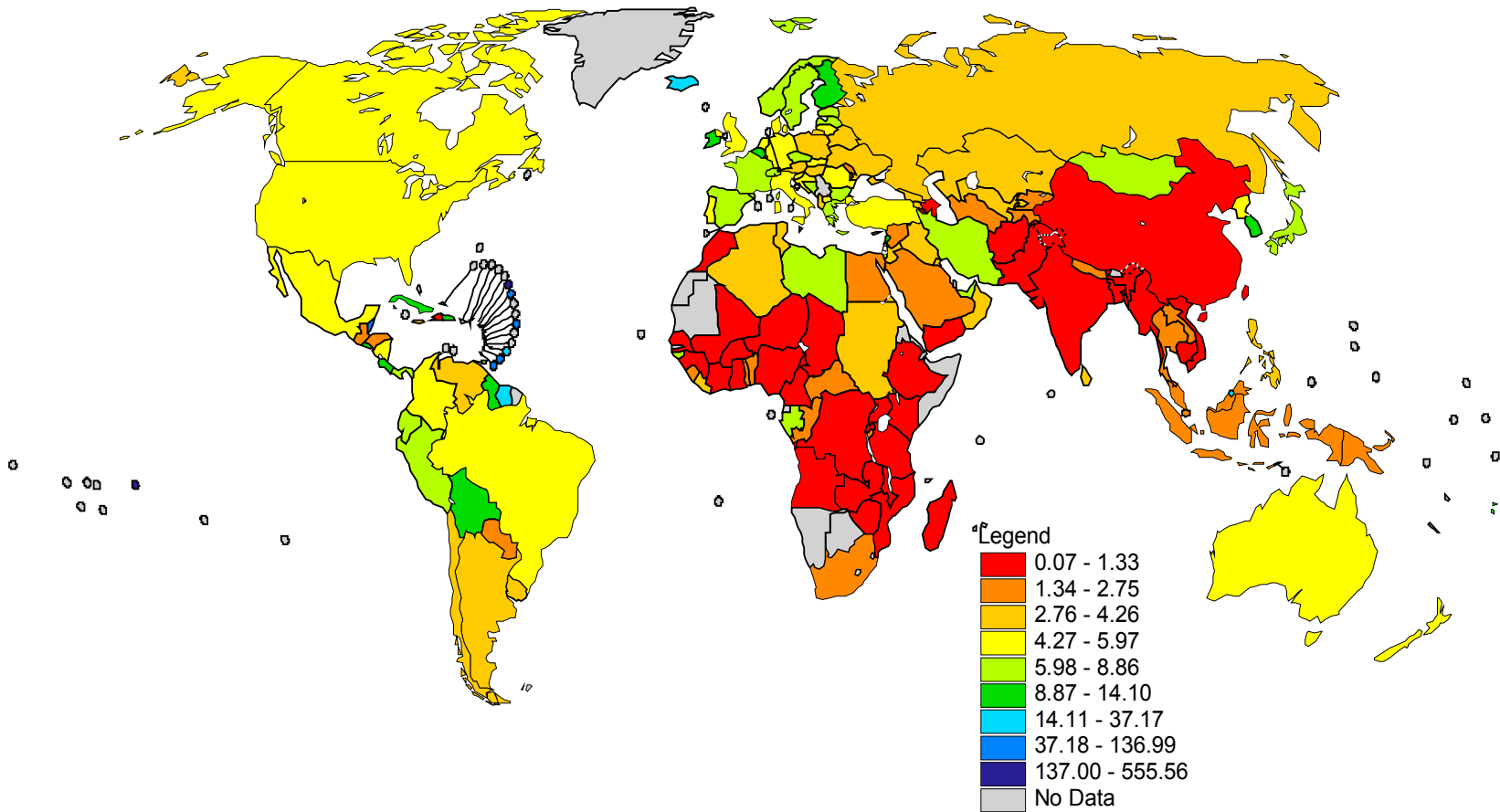
Red represents areas with less than one book per citizen





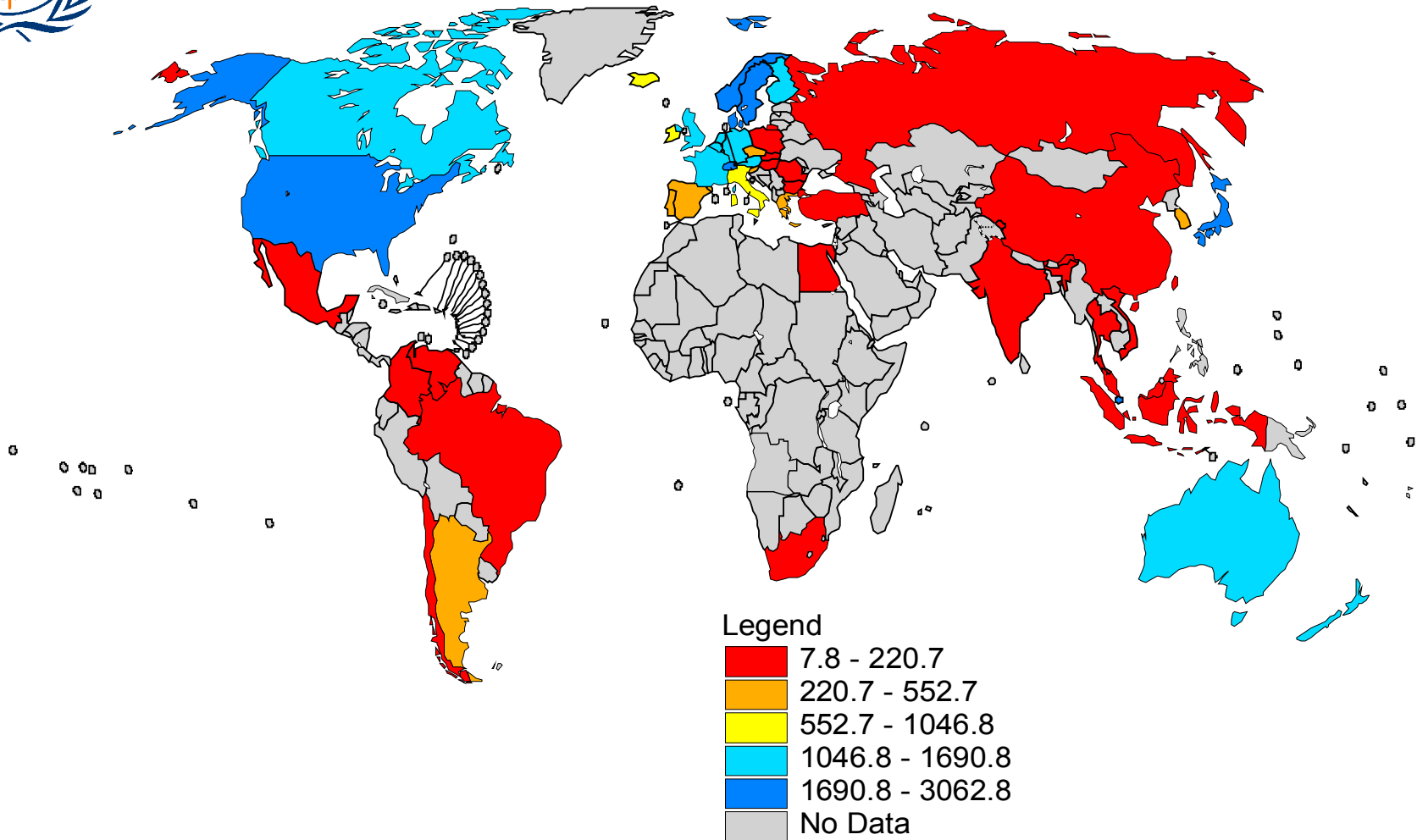
## Medical Schools (per 10,000,000)

Red represents 1.3 or less schools/medical libraries





# IT expenditure per capita



The Library and Information are  
influenced by the healthcare  
scene





# A combination of factors

- **Intrinsic** factors related to the health care delivery “business” or “profession”;
- **Extrinsic** factors related to the environment in which the healthcare delivery services are provided.



# Health care is an information-based service

- Health care is an **information-driven service**;
- Information is a **major resource** in health;
- Health information systems should be viewed on a **continuum**;
- **Quality** of data and their transformation into information are basic to the efficiency and effectiveness of all information systems.



# Healthcare delivery model

- Patient/citizen centered healthcare services;
- Managed care services:
  - More control by the patient on course of action of medication;
  - Challenging medical decisions;
  - More informed patients;
  - Legal issues;
  - Cost.



# Healthcare delivery model

- Community participation;
- Private vs. public services;
- Highly specialized medical service centers;
- Evidence based;
- Technology based diagnosis and treatment;
- Gene therapy;
- Individualized medication;
- Problem based medical education;
- Community based medical education.



# Change in disease pattern

- Elimination of communicable diseases such as malaria, tuberculosis, leprosy, measles, etc. **The state was and still is the major player to combat diseases;**
- Emerging of non-communicable or chronic diseases such as diabetes, cardiovascular diseases, obesity, blood pressure, etc. **The individual is and will be the major player to combat diseases.**



- In many countries the double burden of diseases is evident and will continue for some time. **Shared responsibility and collaboration between the state and the citizen.**
- A disease in a country is likely to transmit to another in no time. **Trans-border and global impact.**

# Emerging of the Information Society

- **Information Society**: An evolving social environment characterized by a global free flow of knowledge and information in key domains such as education, business, government, health, environment and others.
- **knowledge economy**: an economy in which knowledge acts as the main engine of growth.



# Emerging of the Information Society

- **An Informed population:** Easy and open access to information meant more awareness of global, national and personal issues;
- **An educated population:** Better ability to formulate more informed opinion on health issues, better participation and enforced transparency.







# Information technology and telecommunication

- Increased and endless **storage capacity**;
- Data transfer rate and quantities allowed closed to **unlimited flow of information**;
- Multilingualism and computer-assisted **translation**;
- **Open access** to information;
- **Mobile services** anywhere anytime;



# Information technology and telecommunication

- Ownership of **personal health data**;
- Anyone can **publish**;
- Information **quality** assurance;
- **Personalization** of services;



## WSIS Plan of action:

### Access to information and knowledge

- Support the creation and development of a **digital public library** and archive services, adapted to the Information Society, including reviewing national library strategies and legislation, developing a global understanding of the need for “**hybrid libraries**”, and fostering worldwide **cooperation between libraries**.



# The World Bank says:

- With the increased information flows, ICT availability and usage tends to allow greater transparency, accountability and accessibility in the delivery of public services, *{including health}*. In addition, the public becomes informed of their rights and increases their awareness of political and development processes that influence their lives. WB Group, 2003.



# Future of the health library

Part of the future is present



# The shift in libraries

- Passive
- Active
- Analogue
- Paper-based
- Support education
- Standalone
- Active
- Proactive
- Digital
- Electronic
- Support learning
- Networked



# The shift in libraries

- Isolated
- Availability
- Ownership
- Support  
scientists and  
researchers
- Connected
- Accessibility
- Locator
- Support citizens,  
patients and  
consumers



# The shift in libraries

- Information dissemination/diffusion
- Single format
- Provide information
- Information exchange and communication
- Hyper, multimedia
- Deliver knowledge





# The shift in librarians

- Gatekeepers/curators
- Knowledge workers/ facilitators
- General librarians
- Subject specialists, marketing managers, webmasters, etc
- Support medical staff
- Part of medical team
- Trainers of library skills
- Mentors of users

**What do we do?**

**Think globally, act locally**



# Country and Regional Actions

- Needs assessment;
- National Policy and Strategy Development;
- Capacity building and human resources development;
- Institutional development: ICT and connectivity;
- Development of the EMR Virtual Health Sciences Library;
- Provision of health literature: printed, electronic;
- Development of systems and tools.



# **Globally**

# **Global Health Library**



# The Global Health Library aims to:

- point to reliable information collections and systems
- facilitate and enable access to information contents produced by key providers
- support communities of practice and training



## The Global Health Library will strive for:

- universality
- a focus on developing countries
- a role as resource locator for print format in areas with no ICT



# OPPORTUNITIES FOR EQUITY

	Broadcast	Online			Managed Offline	Offline	Print	Story
		Good	Medium	Poor				
<b>Individual</b>	Red	Green	Red	Red	Red	Red	Yellow	Red
<b>Community</b>	Red	Green	Yellow	Red	Red	Red	Yellow	Red
<b>District</b>	Yellow	Green	Yellow	Red	Red	Yellow	Green	Red
<b>Country</b>	Yellow	Green	Green	Red	Red	Yellow	Green	Red
<b>Region</b>	Green	Green	Green	Yellow	Red	Green	Green	Red
<b>Global</b>	Green	Green	Green	Yellow	Red	Green	Green	Red

**Well Served**

**Moderately Served**

**Poorly Served**

Thank you

