



# Virtual Health Library: resilience and innovation towards the future

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IT Infrastructure Coordinator of BIREME/PAHO/WHO

MAY/22  
Preconference  
**ACURIL 2022**

# 2022: 24 Years of the Virtual Health Library (VHL)

- Brief history
- Main achievements
- The way to the future



Anguilla, Antigua, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, British Virgin Islands, Dominica, Guyana, Jamaica, Puerto Rico, Saint Lucia, Suriname, Trinidad & Tobago (13)  
 Argentina, Bolivia, Brasil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panamá, Paraguay, Peru, Republica Dominicana, Uruguay, Venezuela (19)

## Conclusiones



### Declaration of San José Towards the Virtual Health Library

[versión español](#)

We, the delegates of the Latin American and Caribbean System on Health Sciences Information, at the Meeting held in San José, Costa Rica from the 23 - 27 March, 1998, IV Pan American Congress on Health Sciences Information.

#### Taking into account

That health and well-being are the foundation and reason for all efforts channeled towards development;

That health conditions are intimately related to the equity of living conditions and access to the fruits of development;

That access to information constitutes one of the essential elements to achieve these goals;

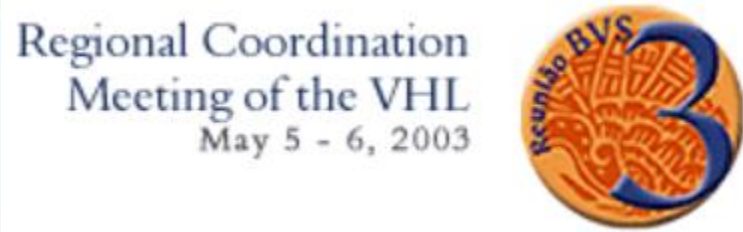
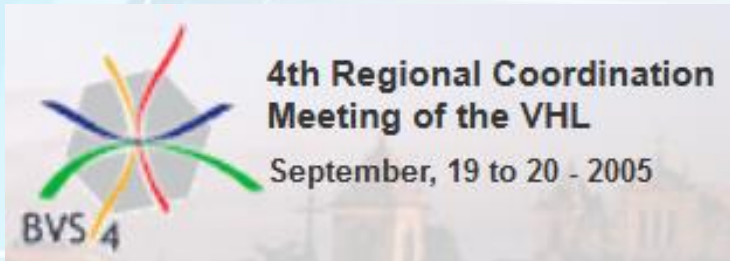
That the changes in information and communications technology in the name of globalization offers risks as well as opportunities for the goals of human development in the region;

That it is the responsibility of nations to act consciously to reduce the negative effects and maximize the benefits that technological development brings;

That the Latin American and Caribbean System on Health Sciences Information, under the leadership of BIREME/PAHO/WHO has been consolidating and effectively managing the new technologies and is capable of applying them to the realities of the region.

#### Pledge

To construct the Virtual Health Library in a cooperative manner, as a unified response to our health situation, facilitating wide access to information for the permanent improvement of health of the people. At the same time it will be a tool to strengthen our health systems and sustain human development in the Region.



|  |  |
|--|--|
| <b>VHL - Jamaica</b><br>Laxmi Mansingh, <i>CCN, MEDCARIB, Jamaica</i>              |  |
| <b>VHL - Barbados</b><br>Michael Gill, <i>CCN, Barbados</i>                        |  |
| <b>VHL - Trinidad y Tobago</b><br>Ernesta Greenidge, <i>CCN, Trinidad y Tobago</i> |  |



# MedCarib Network in the CRICS/VHL

- **CRICS** (Regional Congress on Health Sciences Information) & **VHL** (Regional Coordination Meeting of the Virtual Health Library)
- 2018 [CRICS X](#) and [VHL7](#)



| Participants CRICS10 |           |
|----------------------|-----------|
| BELIZE               | 1         |
| GUYANA               | 2         |
| JAMAICA              | 3         |
| SURINAME             | 1         |
| TRINIDAD & TOBAGO    | 3         |
| <b>Total</b>         | <b>10</b> |

[www.crics10.org](http://www.crics10.org)

# 2022: 24 Years of the Virtual Health Library (VHL)

- Main achievements, some aspects:
  - VHL in the Caribbean countries towards the sub-regional Caribbean VHL;
  - VHL in the Region and its importance for the national health institutions (Ministry of Health, Health Secretariats, Academy and others);
  - The thematic instances of the VHL that are strategic (Traditional, Complementary and Integrative Medicine – TCIM, Nursing, Scholarly Communication in Health Sciences);
  - Main sources of information of the VHL: LILACS (Latin America and Caribbean Literature on Health Sciences), DeCS/MeSH (Health Science Descriptors); and
  - Some access statistics

# 2022: 24 Years of the Virtual Health Library (VHL)

## The Network

Institutions and professionals working in the collective construction of the VHL contributing to the democratization of access and use of health information



# 2022: 24 Years of the Virtual Health Library (VHL)

24 years



## The Network

**67 VHL Instances**

## Access to VHL

**21 million** Sessions/year  
**59 million** Pageviews/year

Thematic

National

Institutional

Regional

## Users



Health workers



Researchers



Decision-makers

**30 Countries**

**2,3 k** Institutions

**2 k** Collaborating Libraries



**50** Information Sources

**+33 million**

Bibliographic records

**+15 million Full text**



# Main types of VHL

- **National and/or Thematic National** – Argentina (5), Brazil (22), Bolivia (3), Colombia (1), El Salvador (1), Cuba (1), Costa Rica (1), Honduras (1), Guatemala (1), Ecuador (1), Panamá (1), Paraguay (1), Peru (1), Venezuela (1), Porto Rico (1), República Dominicana (1), Uruguay (5)
- **Institutional** – Argentina (2), Brazil (6), Peru (2), Uruguay (3)
- **Regional** – MTCI (16 countries), Enfermería (8 countries), Caribbean (English Caribbean)

- Adolescência
- Adolpho Lutz
- Aleitamento Materno
- Atenção Primária à Saúde
- Bioética e Diplomacia em Saúde
- Carlos Chagas
- Determinantes Sociais da Saúde
- Doenças Infecciosas e Parasitárias
- Economia da Saúde
- Educação em Ciências da Saúde
- Educação Profissional em Saúde
- Enfermagem
- Hanseníase
- Homeopatia
- Integralidade
- Medicina Veterinária e Zootecnia
- Odontologia
- Prevenção e Controle de Câncer
- Psicologia
- Saúde Pública
- Violência e Saúde

- CONASS
- FIOCRUZ
- Instituto Evandro Chagas - SVS/MS
- Ministério da Saúde
- Secretaria de Estado da Saúde de São Paulo (SES-SP)
- Secretaria Municipal da Saúde de São Paulo (SMS-SP)

## Brasil



### A Rede

#### Rede Brasileira de Informação em Ciências da Saúde

Participam da rede instituições centrais, cooperantes e unidades participantes com o objetivo de ampliar e democratizar o acesso às informações em saúde e que colaboram com os produtos e serviços da Rede BVS Brasil.

- Membros da Rede

#### Rede BIBLIOSUS - Rede de Bibliotecas e Unidades de Informação Cooperantes da Saúde

A Rede de Bibliotecas e Unidades de Informação Cooperantes da Saúde - Brasil (Rede Bibl) tem o objetivo de ampliar e democratizar o acesso às informações em saúde, disseminadas por meio da Rede BVS e da distribuição da produção editorial do Ministério da Saúde, com economia de recursos e multiplicidade de opções bibliográficas e eficácia de resultados. Fazem parte unidades de informação e instituições do Sistema Único de Saúde (SUS), por meio de articulações políticas, estratégias e metodologias integradas, promovendo um novo patamar de participação ins na formulação de políticas públicas de saúde.

- Membros da Rede
- Cadastramento na Rede

**Coordenação das redes:** Coordenação-Geral de Documentação e Informação - CGDI/SA

**Responsável:** Shirlei Rodrigues

**Portal de Revistas em Medicina Veterinária e Zootecnia** - Portal de revistas em Medicina Veterinária e Zootecnia de acesso aberto.

#### VetTeses (Base Referencial de Teses e Dissertações de Medicina Veterinária e Zootecnia)

- VetTeses é um catálogo de dissertações e teses defendidas em todas as instituições brasileiras de ensino em medicina veterinária e/ou zootecnia, com indicação de biblioteca de depósito e um link para o texto completo, se disponível.

**BBO (Bibliografia Brasileira de Odontologia)** - é uma base de dados da literatura na área de odontologia, editada a partir de 1966, sob a responsabilidade do Serviço

### BVS no país

• Nacional

- Nacional

• Temáticas

- Adolescência
- Adolpho Lutz
- Aleitamento Materno
- Atenção Primária à Saúde
- Bioética e Diplomacia em Saúde



Buscar em:  Coleção Brasil  Todas as bases

### Objetivos e Metas Plano Nacional de Saúde 2020-2023



Ampliação e a resolutividade da atenção primária



Acesso aos serviços de atenção especializada



Doenças e agravos passíveis de prevenção e controle



Promoção do acesso às tecnologias em saúde



Uso racional dos medicamentos e insumos estratégicos



Proteção e promoção da Saúde Indígena



Aperfeiçoamento da gestão do SUS

### Literatura Científica e Técnica do Brasil

Estudos Clínicos



Relatórios Técnicos, Publicações Governamentais



Sínteses, Revisões e Guias



Segunda Opinião



Rede BVS Brasil

Institucionais

- FIOCRUZ
- Instituto Evandro Chagas - SVS/IMS
- Ministério da Saúde
- Secretaria de Estado da Saúde de São Paulo (SES-SP)
- Secretaria Municipal da Saúde de São Paulo (SMS-SP)

### Fontes de Informação



Revistas Brasileiras

### Temáticas

- Adolescência
- Adolpho Lutz
- Aleitamento Materno
- Atenção Primária à Saúde
- Bioética e Diplomacia em Saúde
- Carlos Chagas
- Determinantes Sociais da Saúde
- Doenças Infecciosas e Parasitárias
- Economia da Saúde
- Educação em Ciências da Saúde
- Educação Profissional em Saúde
- Enfermagem
- Hanseníase
- Homeopatia
- Integralidade
- Medicina Veterinária e Zootecnia
- Odontologia
- Prevenção e Controle de Câncer
- Psicologia
- Saúde Pública
- Violência e Saúde

All databases  Site pages



**WHO Global Centre for Traditional Medicine**

The World Health Organization (WHO) and the Government of India signed an agreement to establish the WHO Global Center for Traditional Medicine.



**Health Strengthening**

Healthcare Models and TCIM approaches for Health Strengthening

[view more](#)



**Traditional Medicine in the Americas**

Policy on ethnicity and health, with the terms ethnic diversity and ethnic groups

[view more](#)



**Strengthening Research**

Resources for capacity development in TCIM research

[view more](#)



**Conceptualizing**

Understanding diverse paradigms and developing new concepts

[view more](#)

Redes Internacionales

Argentina

Bolivia

Brasil

Canadá

Chile

Colombia

Cuba

Ecuador

EEUU

Guatemala

México

Nicaragua

Perú

● Redes Internacionales

**Red para la Integración Iberoamericana de la Investigación Médica en Homeopatía (REDIMEH)**

Descripción: REDIMEH fue creada en mayo de 2009 y entre sus objetivos se encuentran: - Establecer una estrecha interrelación entre los investigadores Iberoamericanos que posibilite un fluido intercambio de conocimientos y experiencias. - Trabajar de manera conjunta en integrada en diversos proyectos de investigación médica.

Contacto: Dr. José Eizayaga - redimehomeopatia@gmail.com

**Programa de investigación aplicada a la medicina popular del Caribe (TRAMIL)**

Descripción: TRAMIL, proyecto de investigación aplicada sobre la medicina tradicional popular de Haití, de República Dominicana y de las demás islas y costa caribeña del continente, nació de un esfuerzo común de endo-caribe, del Laboratorio de las Substancias Naturales de la Facultad de Medicina y Farmacia, Puerto Príncipe, de la Federación de Asociaciones Campesinas de Zambrana-Chacuey, República Dominicana, y del dispensario SOE de Thomonde, en la planicie Central de Haití, con miras al mejoramiento y la racionalización de las prácticas medicinales populares fundadas en el uso de las plantas medicinales.

Contacto: co-fundador de TRAMIL Lionel Germosén-Robineau, Médico de Salud Pública

**Sociedad Latinoamericana de Fitomedicina**

La Sociedad Latinoamericana de Fitomedicina (ex Asociación Argentina de Fitomedicina) es una insti-





Main sources  
of  
information  
of the VHL



**LILACS**

Latin American and Caribbean  
Health Sciences Literature



**DeCS/MeSH**  
Health Sciences Descriptors

# LILACS - Latin America and Caribbean Health Sciences Literature

LILACS, scientific health information from Latin America and the Caribbean countries



[Advanced search \(iAH\)](#)

[How to search?](#)

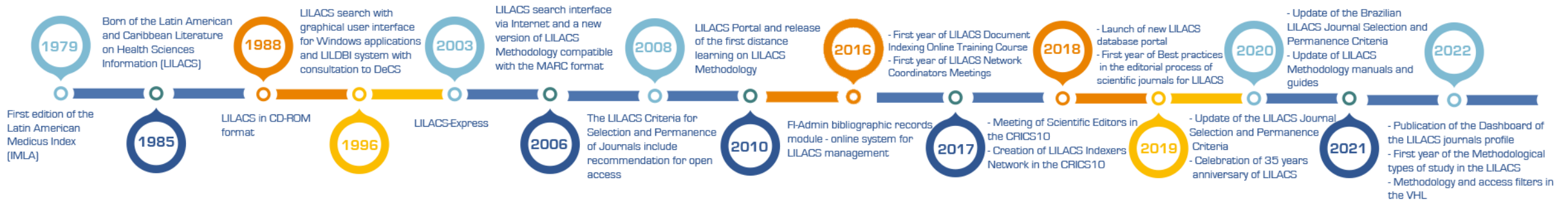
36  
years

26  
countries

887  
journals

996 k  
records

572 k  
full texts



# DeCS/MeSH Health Sciences Descriptors

## DeCS/MeSH Health Sciences Descriptors

### 4 exclusive categories

### 16 MeSH categories

| terms in English    |          | 9,2 K | 253,6 K | terms in English    |          |
|---------------------|----------|-------|---------|---------------------|----------|
| descriptors         | synonyms |       |         | descriptors         | synonyms |
| 4,4 k               | 4,8 k    |       |         | 29,9 k              | 223,7 k  |
| terms in Spanish    |          | 8,8 K | 91,2 K  | terms in Spanish    |          |
| descriptors         | synonyms |       |         | descriptors         | synonyms |
| 4,4 k               | 4,4 k    |       |         | 29,9 k              | 61,3 k   |
| terms in Portuguese |          | 9,5 K | 91,9 K  | terms in Portuguese |          |
| descriptors         | synonyms |       |         | descriptors         | synonyms |
| 4,4 k               | 5,1 k    |       |         | 29,9 k              | 62 k     |
| terms in French     |          | 4,5 K | 123,5 K | terms in French     |          |
| descriptors         | synonyms |       |         | descriptors         | synonyms |
| 4,4 k               | 107      |       |         | 29,9 k              | 93,6 k   |

2021 edition



HOME > Sin categoría > Contribution of BIREME to fight infodemia in times of COVID-19

BIREME Bulletin n° 51

## Contribution of BIREME to fight infodemia in times of COVID-19

Posted in 6 January, 2021

The Latin American and Caribbean Center on Health Sciences Information – BIREME, as a Pan American Health Organization specialized center, part of the Department of Evidence and Intelligence for Action in Health (EIH), has played an important role since the beginning of the pandemic, together with the Organization's efforts to provide health professionals and society with a series of products and services with reliable information about COVID-19.

Below, we detail some of them:

- The methodology of the Windows of Knowledge, a resource of the Virtual Health Library (VHL) that provides content on relevant and/or priority topics, was updated and applied in three showcases related to COVID-19. Two were linked to the VHL Regional Portal and two linked to thematic instances: "Nursing COVID-19", and another one related to "Traditional, Complementary and Integrative Medicine, TCIM, to the COVID-19 pandemic".



- At the request of the World Health Organization (WHO), BIREME has contributed to the development of the global database of scientific evidence on COVID-19. The WHO COVID-19 Database search interface was launched in April, using the same platform as the Global Index Medicus (GIM). This database is updated daily and data curation is the responsibility of the WHO. It coordinates a global network of volunteers and specialists for the identification, selection and organization of evidence. The average monthly growth rate of the base is 69% between April and October. To date, there are more than 124 thousand documents available, of which 80% full text. The accesses to the database demonstrate its visibility and global impact, with accesses from 230 countries and territories, according to the Google Analytics service. Comparing the period from August to October with May to July, there was a growth of 93% in number of users, 78% in sessions and 8% in pageviews. With eight months of operation, they already add more than 515,000 users, 658,000 sessions and 1.6 million pageviews.



- The Evidence Maps methodology, adapted by BIREME, which constitutes the graphic representation of the existing evidence in a given area, classified by types of evaluated intervention and measured result, was applied to COVID-19 by the TCIM Americas Network, which systematized the evidence of reviews and randomized clinical studies on the application of some integrative practices in the clinical management of the symptoms of COVID-19. Its purpose is to provide evidence and for establishing public health policies.

<https://boletin.bireme.org/en/2021/01/06/contribution-of-bireme-to-fight-infodemia-in-times-of-covid-19/>



**BVS** Biblioteca Virtual en Salud Enfermería | Enfermagem  
Português | Español

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## Enfermería COVID-19

Conteúdo atualizado em: 22/05/2022

**INFORMACIÓN CIENTÍFICA**

**PRODUCCIONES DE ENSEÑANZA Y COMUNICACIÓN**

**CURSOS ONLINE**

**TRABAJO EN ENFERMERÍA**

**DOCUMENTOS TÉCNICOS**

**DESARROLLO DE PROYECTOS DE INVESTIGACIÓN**

Considerando las pautas de la ciencia abierta, en el marco de la ciencia ciudadana, la BVS Enfermería Internacional ha establecido una serie de iniciativas dentro del alcance de su Red para sistematizar y difundir materiales convencionales y no convencionales en desarrollo o ya producidos sobre el desempeño de la Enfermería en la pandemia de COVID-19. Estas iniciativas conforman el esfuerzo para crear la Vitrine Nursing Now en alianza con el Ministerio de Salud de Brasil y BIREME / OPS / OMS, que, desde el surgimiento de la pandemia, se ha desarrollado a un ritmo más rápido.

**BVS** Windows of Knowledge

Home / Windows of Knowledge

## Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19)

Conteúdo atualizado em: 07/02/2022

**Publications about COVID-19 in the VHL**  
Filter of documents in more than 35 databases

**Publications on relevant topics in COVID-19**  
Filter of documents in VHL

**Enhancing response to Omicron SARS-CoV-2 variant**  
World Health Organization

**COVID-END Evidence Network to support Decision-making**  
McMaster Health Forum

**COVID-19 Vaccines**  
Pan American Health Organization

**Technical Documents (for professionals)**  
Pan American Health Organization

**Situation in the Region of the Americas**  
Pan American Health Organization

**Ongoing Living Update of Potential COVID-19 Therapeutics Options**  
Summary of Evidence, Rapid Review  
Pan American Health Organization

Relevant Topics

**BVS** BVS MTCI Américas Medicinas Tradicionais, Complementares e Integrativas  
**REDE MTCI Américas**

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## Contribuições das Medicinas Tradicionais, Complementares e Integrativas (MTCI) no contexto da pandemia de COVID-19

Conteúdo atualizado em: 30/09/2020

**Mapa de Evidências Aportes das MTCI no contexto da pandemia de COVID-19**

**Gerenciamento do estresse**

**Fortalecimento do sistema imune**

**Autocuidado dos profissionais de saúde**

**Saúde mental**

**Saúde ocupacional e teletrabalho**

Contribuições das MTCI no manejo complementar dos sintomas clínicos





Health Topics ▾

Countries ▾

Newsroom ▾

Emergencies ▾

Data ▾

[Home](#) / [Diseases](#) / [Coronavirus disease \(COVID-19\)](#) / [Global research on coronavirus disease \(COVID-19\)](#)

# Global research on coronavirus disease (COVID-19)

Credits



 **CHOICE**  
OUTSTANDING ACADEMIC TITLES, 2021



Awarded To World Health Organization (WHO)

Global Literature on Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19)

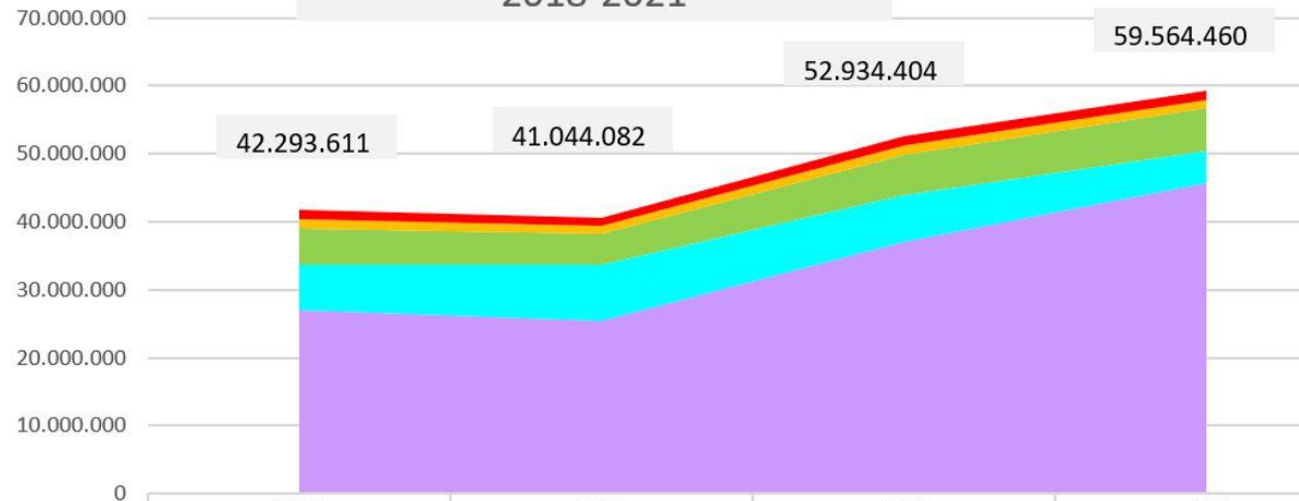
Awarding outstanding works for their excellence in presentation and scholarship, the significance of their contribution to the field, their originality and value as an essential treatment of their subject, and significance in building undergraduate collections.

Mark Cummings, Editor & Publisher

# Some VHL access indicators

VHL Regional Portal - PageViews\*

2018-2021

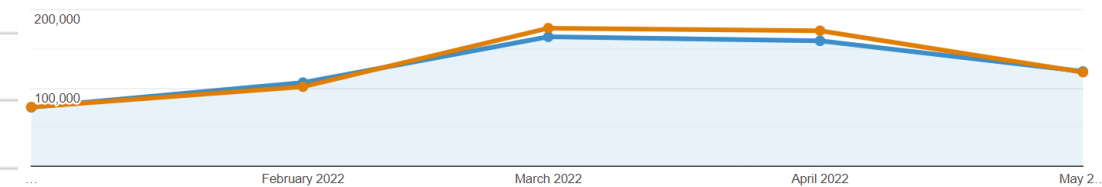


|                       | 2018       | 2019       | 2020       | 2021       |
|-----------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Journals Portal + LIS | 1.384.041  | 1.353.431  | 1.525.195  | 1.380.659  |
| LILACS Portal         | 1.334.946  | 1.052.499  | 1.206.256  | 1.148.835  |
| VHL Portal            | 5.501.564  | 4.581.836  | 5.973.512  | 6.225.243  |
| Search by Google      | 6.670.097  | 8.285.767  | 6.820.243  | 4.852.441  |
| Search by IAHz        | 26.936.396 | 25.397.517 | 37.125.219 | 45.679.252 |

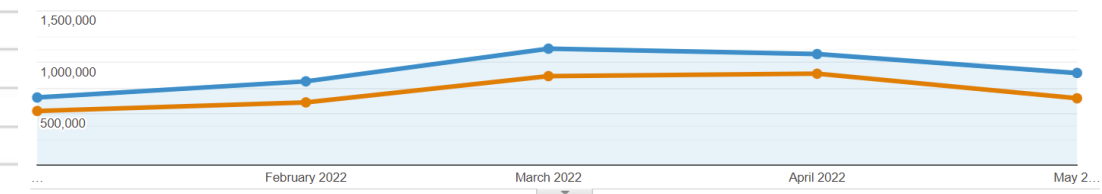
\* Number of pages viewed in the sessions

Source: Google analytics  
VHL Regional Portal - <http://bvsalud.org>

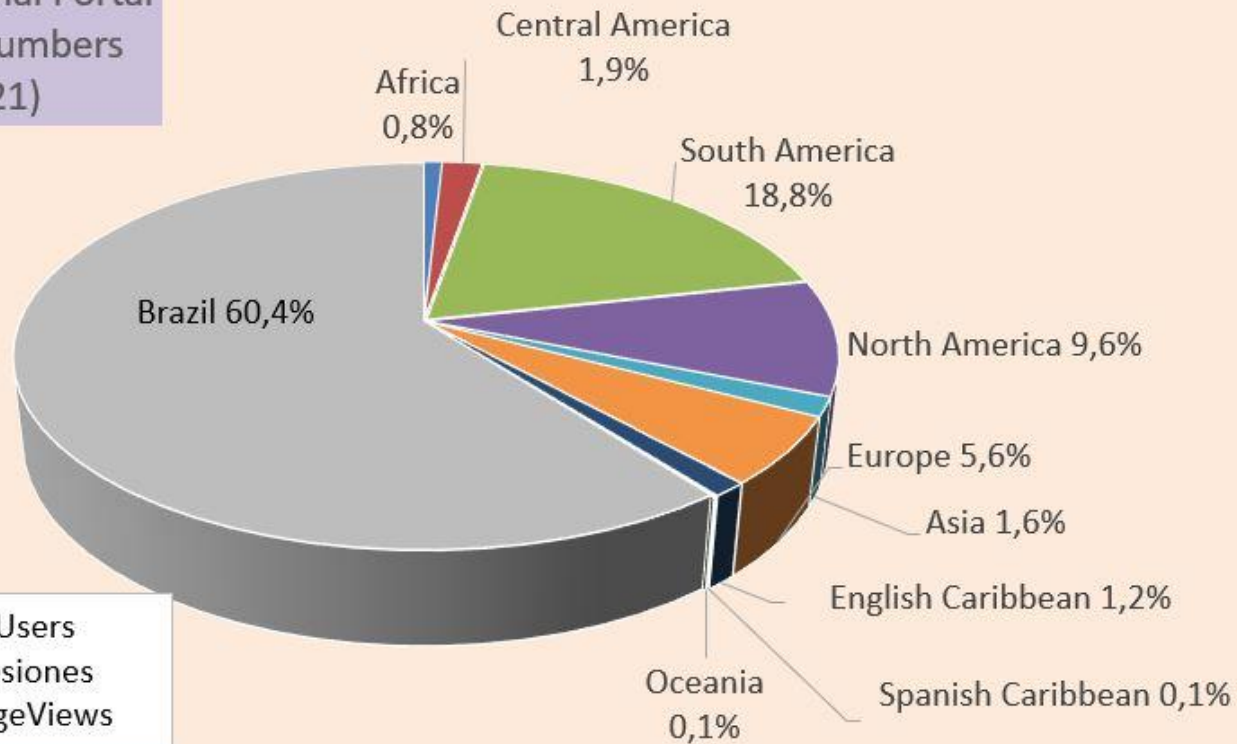
Jan 1, 2022 - May 21, 2022: Users  
Jan 1, 2021 - May 21, 2021: Users



Jan 1, 2022 - May 21, 2022: Users  
Jan 1, 2021 - May 21, 2021: Users



VHL Regional Portal  
Access numbers  
(2021)



12,5 Millions of Users  
20,4 Millions of Sesiones  
59,5 Millions of PageViews

**The democratization of access and visibility of scientific knowledge in health in countries are the most important achievement.**

In **2021** more than **12,5 million users** from countries around the world accessed the VHL via the Regional Portal

# 2022: 24 Years of the Virtual Health Library (VHL)

- The way to the future:
  - Innovation
    - Maturity Assessment Instrument
  - International standards in science and technology
    - Open-source tools to implement the VHL
    - Methodology constantly updated following international standards
    - Infrastructure as a service

The **Virtual Health Library (VHL)** is an information management model based on **collaborative work and networking**, applied to the creation, organization and dissemination of information and scientific and technical evidence in health, that aims at providing **access to information and scientific evidence in health** to users from the health sectors, contributing to narrowing the gap between knowledge and practice in Latin America and Caribbean (LA&C) countries and also for the Portuguese speaking countries. The outcomes of this initiative might impact the following SDGs:

- 3 – Health and Well-Being;
- 4 – Quality Education;
- 10 – Reduced Inequalities; and
- 17 – Partnership for the Goals.



# CRICS XI and VHL 8

[CRICS X - Advancing towards the 2030 Agenda: Contributions of evidence and knowledge](#)

São Paulo, Brazil. December 04-06, 2018

[CRICS IX – eHealth – Reaching universal access to health](#)

Washington, D.C. US. October 22-24, 2012

[CRICS VIII – Information and scientific knowledge for health innovation](#)

Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. September 16-19, 2008

[CRICS VII – Commitment to equity](#)

Salvador, Brazil. September 20-23, 2005

[CRICS VI – Knowledge for decision making: scientific and technical information for health decisions](#)

Puebla, México. May 5-9, 2003

[CRICS V – Knowledge for change: information & knowledge for health equity](#)

La Habana, Cuba. April 25-27, 2001

[CRICS IV – Information networks: a bridge to the third millennium](#)

San José, Costa Rica. March 25-27, 1998

[CRICS III – Interconnection of information technology: the future nexus](#)

Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. October 16-18, 1996

[CRICS II – Challenges of the information era: agents and users](#)

São Paulo, Brazil. October 18-20, 1994

[CRICS I – Health Sciences Information in Latin America and the Caribbean: current situation, new trends and the application of modern information technologies](#)

São Paulo, Brazil. October 14-16, 1992



Thank you

