The initiave #AyudaBiblioteca in Spain: A SWOT analysis

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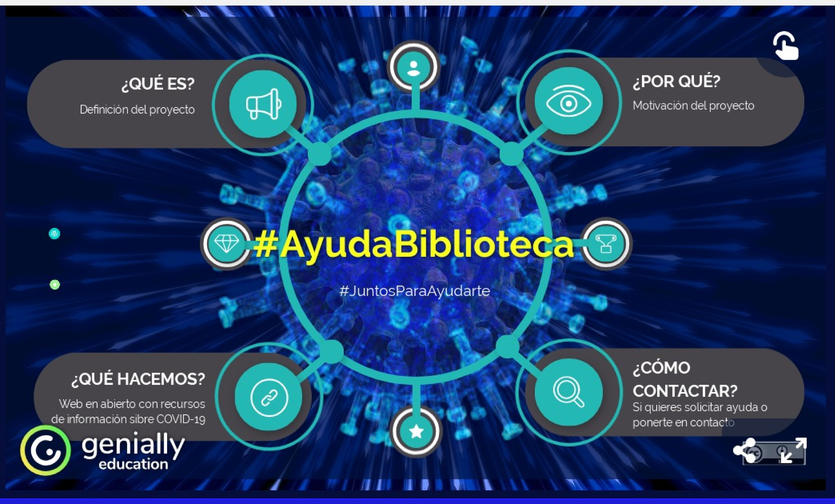
The COVID-19 crisis inspired more than 90 health sciences librarians and information specialists in Spain to join forces online to share doubts and exchange ways of working, tools, experiences, and documentation.

The objective of this poster is, first, to make this initiative known, and second, to present a SWOT analysis reflecting on how to improve our information services in crisis situations such as the COVID-19 pandemic.



SWOT Analysis

STRENGTHS

- Previous committed workforce and the informal collaboration experience.
- Horizontal coordinated organisation, arisen spontaneously among the health librarians, as response to the demands of the alarm period.
- Good command of technologies and tools for collaborative work in virtual environments.

WEAKNESSES

- Lack of economic, human and material resources, either from the contributing libraries or from other external institutions.
- Lack of experience facing a similar pandemic or crisis, this made us to work learning by doing, and modify procedures along the way.
- Need to balance the duties of **#AyudaBiblioteca** with the own teleworking and personal circumstances.

OPPORTUNITIES

- Increase of open access and more visibility of resources, documents and data about related to COVID-19.
- Increasing of the visibility of health science librarians and information specialists and the relevance of their work, both in their own institutions and for external users.
- Availability of many free technological tools allowing of all collaborative work.

THREATS

- Lack of Information quality: inaccurate information, lack of evidence, fake news, etc. Besides, excess of information due to the urgency of the pandemic.
- Lack of institutional commitment to the professional profile, and the present and future risks endangering special libraries.
- Uncertainty of the continuity of this initiative due to the lack of organisation that supports it.

Conclusions

This SWOT allowed us to reflect on our role as librarians, the weaknesses we have to face, and to identify threats affecting library services..

We managed to transform the weaknesses and threats into professional challenges, turning this into an opportunity to increase our visibility.

We now hope that the collaboration of the **#AyudaBiblioteca** initiative will continue over time!

Academic and Research Libraries in the whirlwind of a pandemic: a trap or a chance for transformation?

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