

ECDL HealthDoc: the first European Computer Driving License for scientific documentation

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1 Information sources in the health field



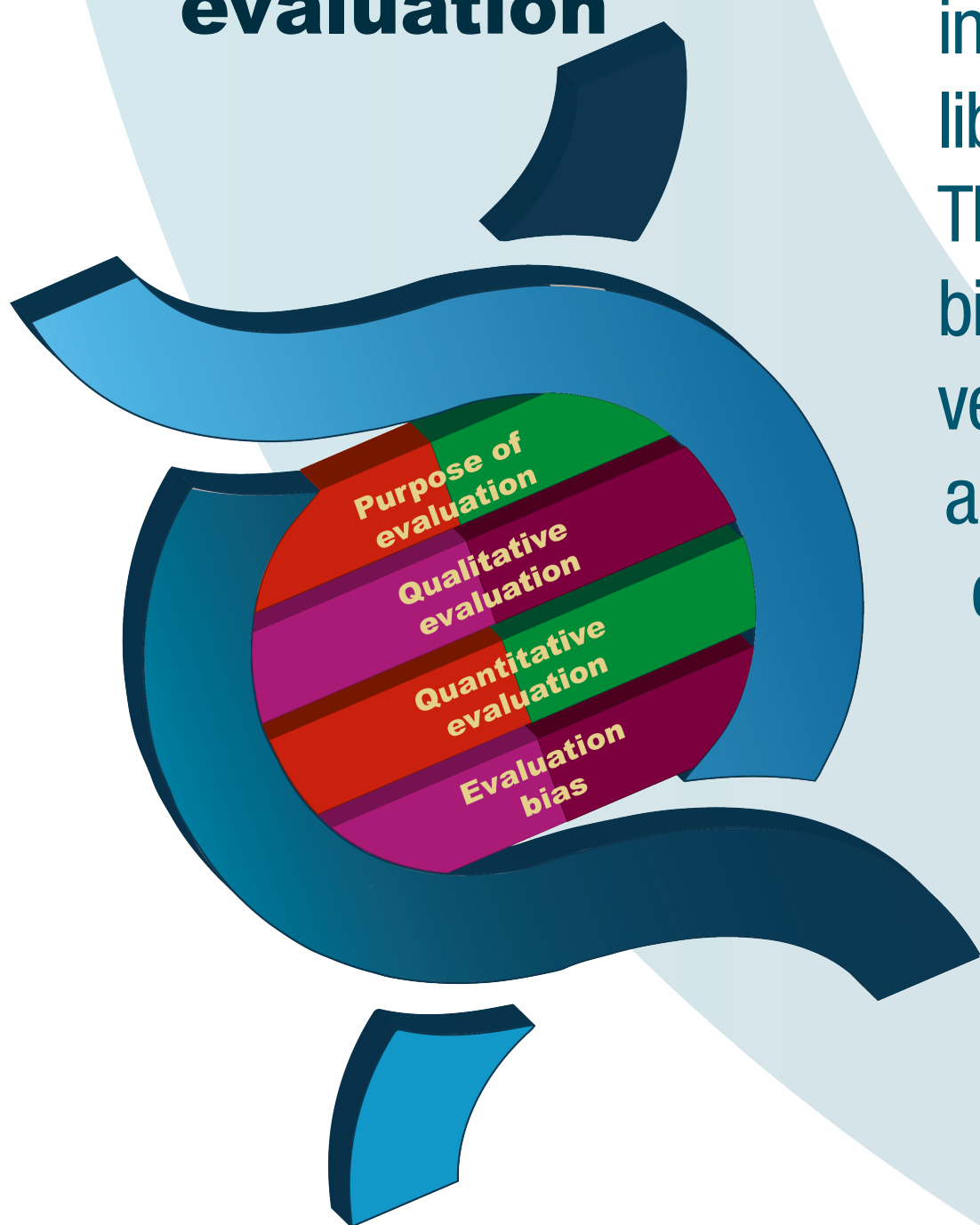
2 Retrieving the original document and accessing full-text information



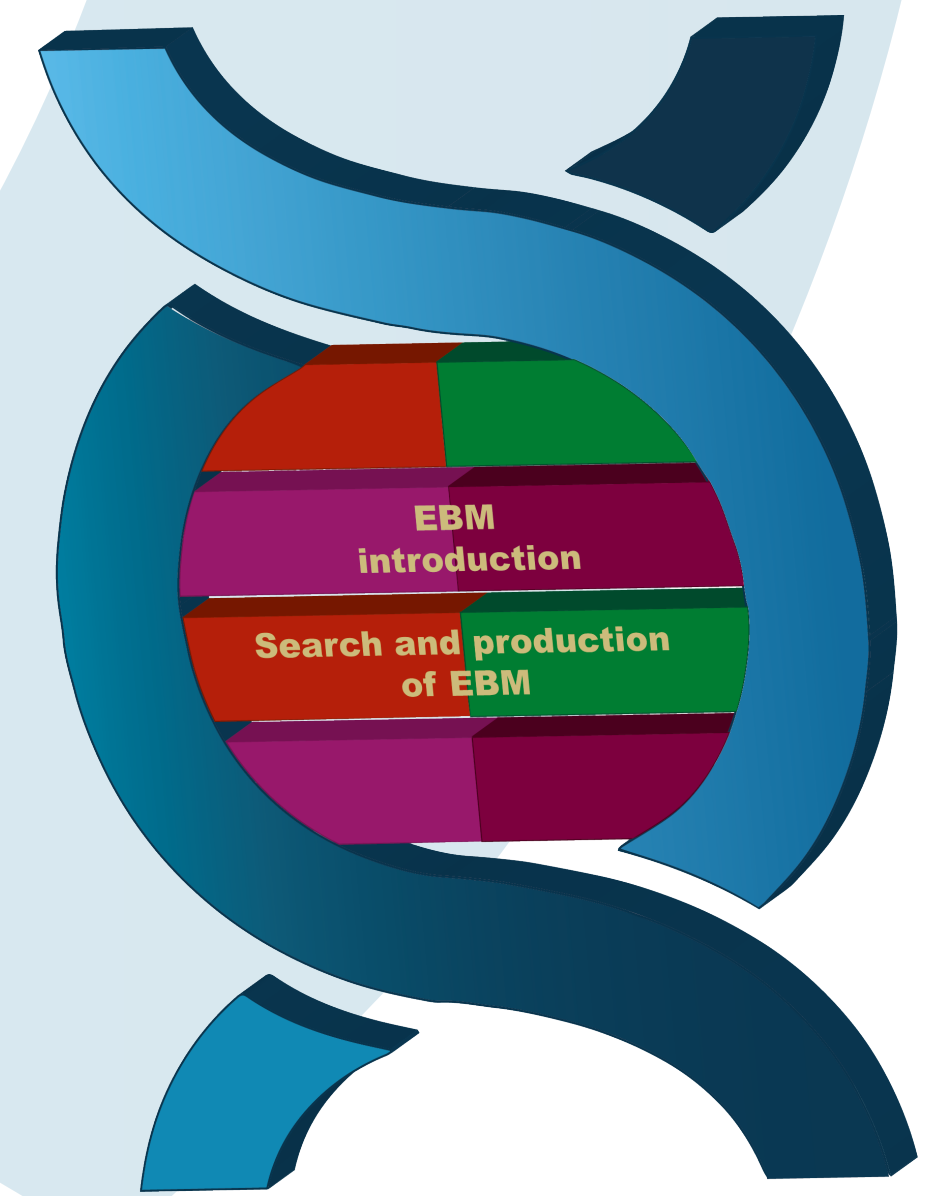
3 Quality of health information on the web



4 Research evaluation



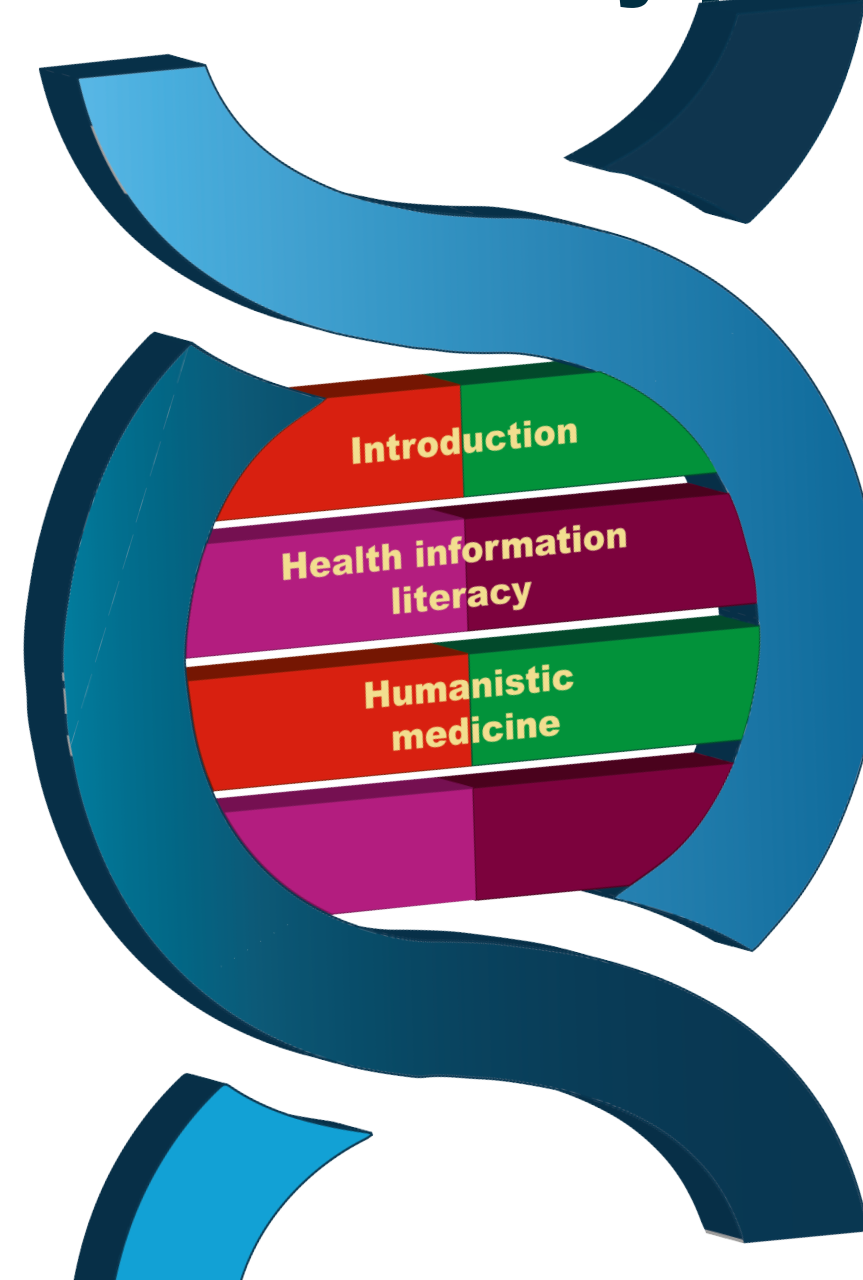
5 Evidence based medicine (EBM) documentation



6 Scientific writing



7 Healthcare information for patients and lay people



8 Web 2.0 in the biomedical field



The European Computer Driving License (ECDL) Foundation releases a series of licenses certifying basic competencies related to the use of information technology. Documentation skills are essential for managing knowledge in all domains. In particular, in the biomedical field, scientific documentation is vital to ensure the appropriate delivery of health care. Good-quality information guarantees the validity of health treatments and should be considered an essential part of the curriculum of health professionals.

ECDL HealthDoc <<http://www.aicanet.it/health-doc>> was promoted in 2014 by AICA (Italian Association for Informatics and Automatic Computing) in collaboration with the Association of Health Librarians Documentalists (BDS). The project was developed by a Working Group of medical and scientific information professionals affiliated with various Italian research institutions in the field of public health: librarians, documentalists, editors and publishers in the scientific area. The Working Group produced a syllabus listing the basic competencies required to properly manage biomedical information retrieval and use. The modular structure of the syllabus has been conceived to verify critical learning related to: information sources in the health field; retrieving the original document and accessing full-text information; quality of health information on the web; research evaluation; evidence based medicine (EBM) documentation; scientific writing; healthcare information for patients and lay people; web 2.0 in the biomedical field.

The first five-day course was held in 2014 addressing health professionals (researchers, medical staff, nurses, laboratory technicians and others) practicing in the field of oncology. This training initiative received good feedback.

A driving license for documentation should be spread over to other disciplinary fields and applied also in basic educational programmes to enhance information literacy of all citizens.