

WORKING GROUP FOR CITIZEN SCIENCE IN LIBRARIES

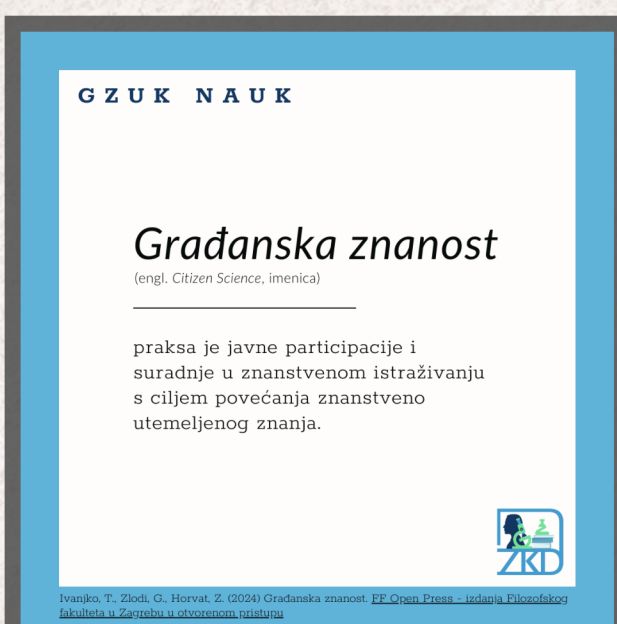
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Citizen science is transforming research by involving the public in scientific discovery, with libraries across Europe serving as key hubs connecting researchers and communities. The ECSA and the LIBER Citizen Science Working Group support this movement by promoting best practices and training. Inspired by this, the Working Group for Citizen Science in Libraries (GZUK) was founded in March 2024 within the Zagreb Library Association (ZLA) to empower librarians to engage their communities and foster collaboration with researchers. ■

EDUCATIONAL COLUMNS

GZUK produces two columns alternately published on the ZLA's social media and archived on their website, maximizing reach and accessibility. These columns help build foundational knowledge and spark ideas for future projects. The **GZUK Glossary** explains key citizen science concepts in simple terms for librarians, while the **GZUK in Practice** column highlights successful library projects worldwide to inspire local initiatives. ■



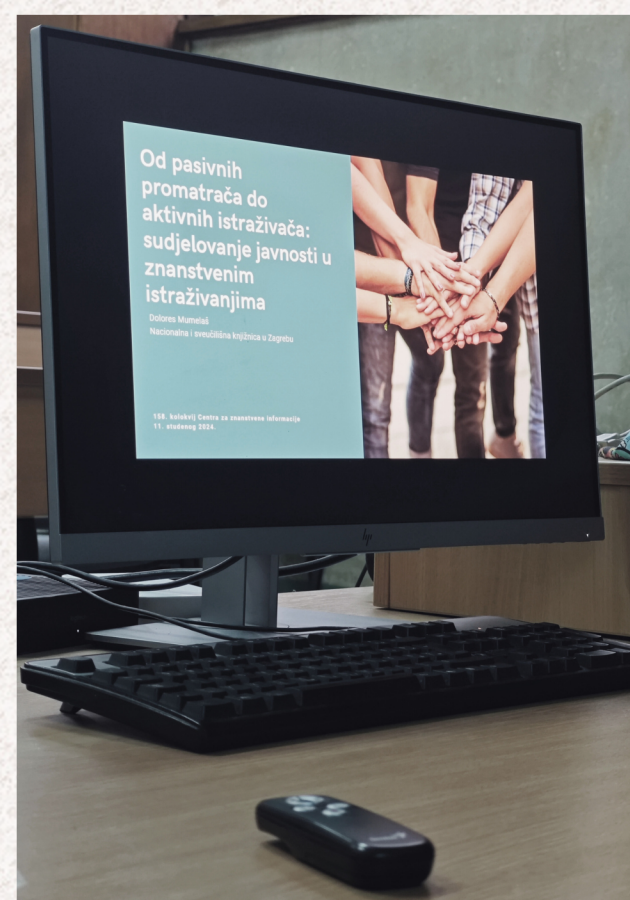
TAILORED WORKSHOPS

GZUK offers free, personalized workshops titled "Upgrade!", "Integrate!", and "Connect!" designed to meet the specific needs of individual libraries or teams. These workshops cover the basics of citizen science, project design, community engagement strategies, and collaboration with scientists and organizations. Open to all libraries in Zagreb and Zagreb County, regardless of size or type, they promote inclusivity and capacity-building.

GZUK also organizes lectures for scientists to promote the benefits of public participation in research and demonstrate how libraries can support citizen science projects, exemplified by Dolores Mumelaš's lecture during International Open Access Week 2024.

The group has supported projects like the nationwide GinkgoBiFlav initiative, involving citizens in collecting ginkgo leaves for scientific analysis, and "Every Bird Counts," which encourages community

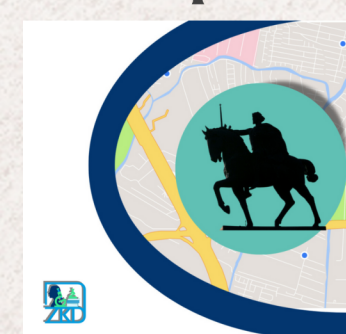
birdwatching to aid biodiversity research. Members actively advocate for citizen science by presenting at national and international conferences, earning awards for their innovative work.



These efforts raise awareness of citizen science's value, highlight libraries' roles, and foster partnerships with scientific and community organizations. ■



GZUK projects



Streets of medieval rulers engages public and school libraries across Croatia to geolocate streets, parks, and squares named after medieval Croatian rulers. It promotes historical awareness through community participation and mapping activities.



Organized by the August Cesarec Library and GZUK, the project **Following in the footsteps of Croatian writers** involves students mapping locations named after Croatian writers in Zagreb. Using Google Maps, students contribute to preserving cultural heritage through citizen science.



In collaboration with the Green Libraries Commission and biologist Iva Čupić, a biodiversity project **Spiders under the magnifying glass** invites the citizens to observe and document spiders, helping raise environmental awareness.



A total of 161 individuals actively participated in GZUK's projects, involving over 26 institutions and organizations. Together, they collected more than 570 data points, demonstrating the power of collaboration between libraries, researchers, and the public. These results clearly showcase

GZUK's success in fostering community engagement, building partnerships, and advancing citizen science as a meaningful tool for research and education. Through these collective efforts, GZUK continues to strengthen the role of libraries as vital hubs for scientific discovery and public participation. ■

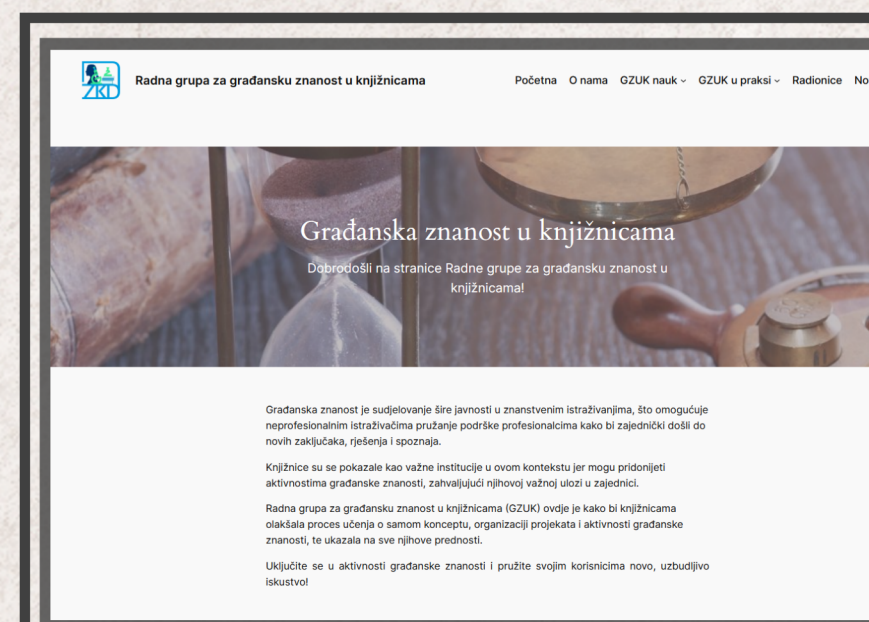


“GZUK empowers librarians to bridge science and communities, making research accessible and fostering meaningful public participation.”

GZUK showcases how libraries can bridge the gap between science and communities by making research more accessible and encouraging active public participation. Through education, collaboration, and innovative projects, it empowers librarians to effectively support and lead these initiatives, fostering stronger community engagement and building lasting partnerships with scientific institutions and organizations. By integrating both digital tools and in-person activities, the group strengthens libraries as inclusive hubs for lifelong learning, social cohesion, and helps

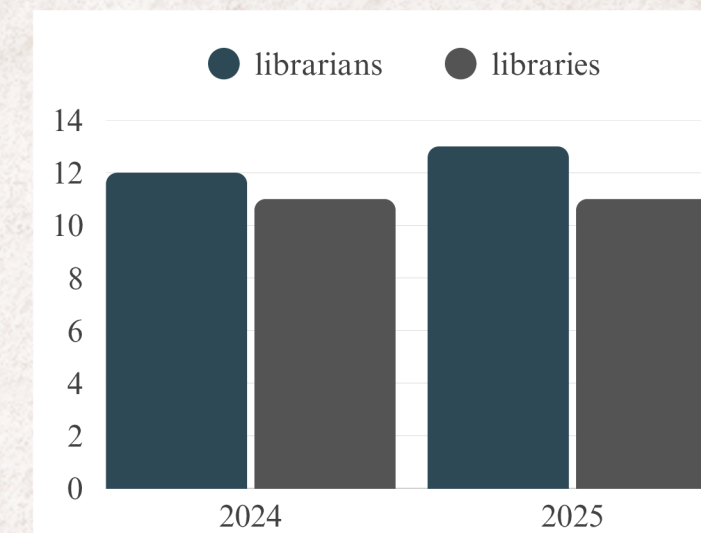
democratize science. This approach not only expands the traditional role of libraries but also ensures their continued relevance and impact in a rapidly evolving scientific and social landscape.

Looking ahead, GZUK continues to expand its activities, develop new projects, and foster partnerships with scientific institutions and community organizations. The group is committed to adapting to the evolving landscape of citizen science, including emerging postdigital trends that blend physical and digital participation, allowing libraries to remain at the forefront of public engagement in science while inspiring creativity and contributing to the development of the field.



GZUK STATISTICS

Members of GZUK

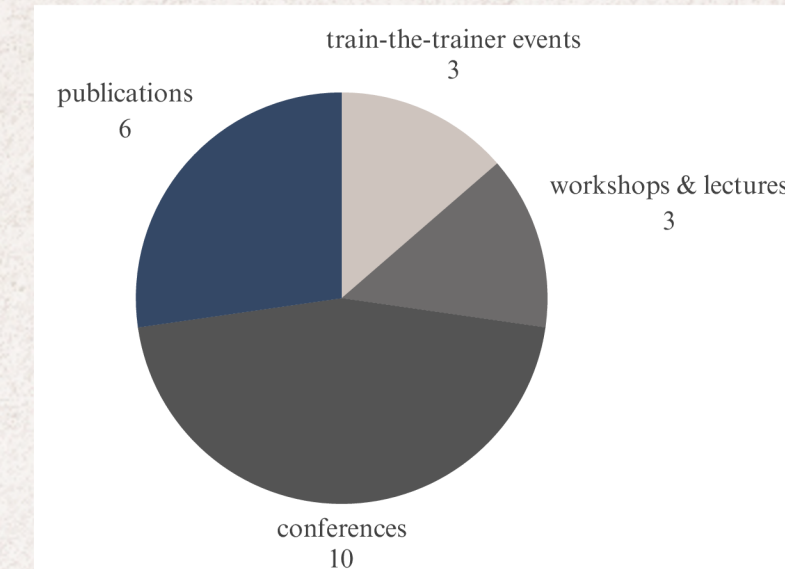


GZUK's multidisciplinary team draws from public, academic, and research libraries, working towards empowering librarians with the knowledge, resources, and networks necessary to engage their communities.

Website traffic statistics for October 2024 - May 2025

Top countries	Views
Croatia	2,913
United States	49
Netherlands	19
Ireland	17
Slovenia	15
North Macedonia	10
Germany	10
Bosnia & Herzegovina	8
Austria	8
Portugal	6

GZUK advocacy through public events



For more information, visit the GZUK website or contact us at gzuk.zkd@gmail.com

