

Open Access Initiatives in Croatia

Key institutions and organizations in Croatia support open access through different activities: Ministry of Science, Education and Sports finances nearly 2000 research projects, University Computing Centre starts the first project "Croatian open access journals - HRČAK", Croatian Academic and Research Network - CARNet co-ordinate an overall meta-project regarding OAI, Scientific Information System embrace 120 academic and special libraries as active participants in the OAI promotion and Croatian Information and Documentation Association gave the first initiative regarding OAI.

Access to the scientific information is organized mainly through libraries: OPACs in 1992, e-journals in 1994, consortial access to databases in 1995, EZB project participation in 2000, consortial access to major e-journal collections (ScienceDirect, WileyInterscience, SpringerLink, Kluwer, etc.) in 2002 and consortial access to e-books collections in 2005.

According to Croatian Scientific Bibliography (CROSBI) there are 4500 journal papers and 10.000 other publications (books, book chapters, conference proceedings papers etc.) annually. There are 230 scientific and professional journals in Croatia and 14 of them are indexed in ISI Thomson databases. Scientific achievements are evaluated according to the qualification criteria set up by the Scientific Field Councils. For scientific advancement and promotion the most important criteria are number of papers published in "Current Contents journals" and number of papers published in journals included in other indexing databases. The presence in the most prestigious journals is more important than the impact of paper.

At the present there are no institutional repositories in Croatia. There is a possibility of self-archiving in CROSBI as in some international subject-based archives (arXiv, E-LIS). CARNet meta-project will initiate the network of institutional repositories as foster the exchange and reuse of metadata. Besides improving the access to the information OAI in Croatia will improve also the visibility of Croatian scientific output and the impact of Croatian research on the global scene.

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