

National and University Library Zagreb  
Maja Jokić, PhD  
mjokic@nsk.hr

*Comments on the EC-DG Study on the Economic and Technical Evolution of the Scientific  
Publication Markets in Europe*

On behalf of the National and University Library Zagreb and University of Zagreb, I would like to express our support for the Recommendations contained in the report. The study is very comprehensive and the results and recommendations are useful for the future action. We would like to make some points.

Recommendation A1:

The main role in organizing public access to publicly funded research results shortly after publication, in countries like Croatia, could have university libraries. Reasons: libraries are involved in organizing consortia, experienced in repository and in copyright advice.

Recommendation A2:

It is very important, especially for research funding authorities, scientists too, to be aware of existence of various business models in publishing. In Croatian experience, model library-pay journals are dominant. Author-pay journals and reader-pay model are not so popular, and we need to do a lot to introduce those non-traditional models in our scientific community, with their pros and cons.

Recommendation A3:

Research funding body in Croatia trying to evaluate national journals by indexing in relevant bibliographic databases, and by other bibliometric parameters. The reasons are, from one side, to have the picture of visibility and accessibility, and the potential impact of the research published in Croatian journals, and on the other side, to justify invested public money in publishing national journals.

Recommendation A4:

National and University Library Zagreb, as a main institution in the country for legal-deposit is willing to accept an active role in long-term preservation of electronic resources. We are interested in participating very active in the ESF project ERIH (European Resources Index in Humanities) including national journals in humanities. We expect that ERIH will soon offer creation of a European non-profit journals preservation program "JASTOR-like" or create a portal as a central access point to digital journals and articles in humanities.

Recommendation A5:

We are interested very much in common e-infrastructure building strategy, because it could foster our contribution the European Research Area.

Recommendation B3:

Concerning the VAT in Croatia, standard VAT rate is 22%, but scientific publications, books and periodicals are exempt from the paying, i.e. the VAT rate is 0%.

According to the *Study...* recommendation to encourage public funding and public-private partnerships in the creation of journals digital archives, especially for quality European journals in Social Sciences and Humanities, National and University Library Zagreb started with pilot project *Croatian Scholarly and Professional Journals Full-text database* (<http://www.nsk.hr/DigitalLib2c.aspx?id=457>). Scientific and professional journals published in Croatia, about 220 in number from diverse fields and disciplines, are published almost exclusively by academic institutions and societies. Currently, issues from 2000 on, of the fifteen most influential Croatian scientific journals, are included in the database. The creation of the database was facilitated by the fact that all texts already existed in the digital format. After the processing and converting data into XML, access to articles using XSL enabled flexible searching and bibliographic analysis using criteria such as authors, title, journal, ISSN, abstract, keywords, cited references and words from the body of the article. The pilot phase of the project was successful, which motivated us to further develop and maintain a full-text database of all Croatian scientific and professional journals. Encouraged by ESF project ERIH we will force archiving journals in Social Sciences and Humanities, more than 100, and we are planning to digitise whole collections of print journals, back to the very first issues. It is one of Croatian contribution to open access and to idea that publicly funded research data are a public good, produced in public interest.

Maja Jokić