

Croatian case: current state, goals and trends in journal development and visibility



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Croatian journals

- Published mostly by public and private not-for-profit organisations
- Only a few small private companies (often as co-publishers)
- Cases of international companies/corporations acting as service providers or (co)publishers
- High reliance on public subsidies or the support of 'parent' institution or association (financial, in-kind, personnel)
- Dominantly 'diamond' OA publishing landscape (only 30 APC-based journals - around 7.5%)
- Only a handful of closed (subscription) journals

Current state

- Continuation of the change that started in 2006 with the launch of Hrčak
- Before Hrčak, Croatian journals were almost 'invisible':

The appearance of certain journals on the internet is similar to advertising something by placing a piece of paper on one of the electric lamp posts. In that spot, it will only be noticed by random passersby. (T. Toth, 2005)

- Hrčak today: 407 active scholarly/scientific, professional and student-led journals, fully OA

Why is visibility a priority of Croatian journals?

- Visibility is a priority for all scholarly outputs!
- Visibility within Croatia and internationally, in the scholarly community and for the wider society
- Benefits of Open Access for visibility
- Implications of multilingualism for the visibility
- But, there is an additional pressure from funders to achieve global visibility
- Ministry of Science and Education - annual calls for subsidies to journals
 - an important point in the publishing cycle of all academic publishers in Croatia
 - MSE's application criteria have a strong influence on the publishers' practices
- Inclusion and coverage in international indexes often used as a proxy for international visibility and impact

Coverage of Croatian journals in international indexes

- Scopus: 155 journals from the active Hrčak dataset or 163 according to Scimago
 - Scimago: 6 Q1, 29 Q2
- 132 Croatian journals in Web of Science (124 in JCR; 2 Q1, 2 Q2)
 - 31 SCIE
 - 5 SSCI
 - 17 AHCI
 - 76 ESCI
- 157 indexed journals in DOAJ (none with a DOAJ Seal)
- 119 journals in ERIH PLUS
- 113 in Sherpa Romeo
- Importance of discipline-specific databases!

Memberships in professional organisations

- European Association of Science Editors (EASE) >25 individuals
- Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE) - 13 members
- Open Access Scholarly Publishers Association (OASPA) - a few?

- CROASC - Croatian Association for Scholarly Communication
 - since 2019. (editors, scholars, librarians)
 - Promotion of scholarly communication, especially the activities of Croatian scientific and professional journals, and publications that promote science to the general public.
 - Advocating for scholarly communication based on the principles of free, open, publicly financed and accessible science by promoting the principles of open science.
 - 31 organisations & 108 individuals

CROASC goals and actions

- Advisory and reactive role in regulatory activities
- Collaboration with Hrčak and National and University Library (CALC & Croatian DOI Office)
- Supporting the indexation :
 - Harvesting content from Hrčak for the Clarivate
 - Harvesting content from Hrčak for the Elsevier (in progress)
 - Mediation in the procedures of metadata and coverage correction
- Support in the technical challenges (e.g. JATS XML)
- Collaboration with JISC (Sherpa Romeo)
- Collaboration with DOAJ
- Workshops & webinars
- Guidelines
- Co-organising the PUBMET conference

Future for Croatian journal publishing?

- The future is dominantly Diamond
 - [DIAMAS project](#)
 - [CRAFT-OA project](#)
 - EU support ([Council Conclusions](#): "immediate and unrestricted open access should be the norm in publishing research involving public funds, with transparent pricing commensurate with the publication services and where costs are not covered by individual authors or readers)
- Need for technological and policy improvements
 - Journal policies
 - Public policies toward journals
- Need for revision of sustainability models and the role of publishing organisations

Thank you!

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