Supporting editors in improving quality and visibility of their journals

**Portal of Croatian scientific and professional journals
HRČAK**

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Content

- Scope and role of HRČAK
- Ensuring journal quality in HRČAK
- Pre-evaluation of journals for Scopus
- Future evaluation and certification of journals
- Q&A

Hrčak - scope and role

- Established in 2006

- 2 main goals: promotion of OA & technical support for OA

- Multidisciplinary & multilingual

- Interoperability
  - OAI-PMH interface
  - KBART
  - Data provider for OpenAIRE since 2015
    - OpenAIRE v4 compliant

SRCE open access

Hrčak - supporting good publishing practices

- Criteria for inclusion

- Identifiers – DOI, ORCID

- OJS
  - upgraded to version 3.4.0-9 in August 2025
  - upgraded synchronisation with HRČAK

- OMP

- Machine-readability
  - Automated conversion to JATS XML for HRČAK users
  - JATS XML Converter Service

- Workshops, guidelines

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open
access

Hrčak and ORCID

- unique and persistent **identifier of researchers and contributors**
- increases author's visibility and interoperability between a wide range of information services

- a valid email address stored in HRČAK (mandatory!)
- an author receives an email from HRČAK which guides them through the process of linking their paper in HRČAK with his/her ORCID profile

- the system automatically sends a request to connect to the ORCID profile **every Tuesday and Thursday at 9 am**

Hrčak in numbers

- **Publishers and editors**
  - **490+** publishers
  - **1100+** journal administrators

- **Journals and content**
  - **88** active journals in HRČAK OJS (out of 100+ included)
  - **420** active journals on HRČAK (out of 559 total)
  - **24.000+** issues
  - **310.000+** full-text articles

- **JATS XML**
  - **1400+** articles in XML (auto-converted)
  - **5000+** manually prepared XML articles
  - **100+** users of JATS XML Converter Service

- **Identifiers**
  - **96.600+** ORCID identifiers

- **Average daily visits in 2025**

  - 700.000+ visits

- Quality of content?

Ensuring journal quality in HRČAK

- Established in 2017 by the HRČAK Advisory Board
- Latest version (2.1) adopted in 2023

- **9 mandatory criteria**
  - Open Access
  - Connection to the Republic of Croatia
  - First publication
  - Editorial board for multiple institutions
  - Author guidelines
  - Peer review policy
  - Article categorisation
  - Article metadata
  - Masthead

Activity statuses in HRČAK

- **Activity statuses**
  - **Active** - if less than 13 months have passed since the publication of the last complete issue or at least one "online first" paper has been published in the last 6 months
  - **Inactive** - if more than 13 months have passed since the last issue was published. Despite this status, the editorial boards can still edit their journals and publish papers
  - **No longer publishing on HRČAK** - the editorial board has delivered the information that the journal has stopped publishing on HRČAK or more than 26 months have passed since the last issue was published
  - **No longer publishing** - the editorial board has delivered the information that the journal is no longer being published

  - **New journal**
  - **Suspended**

- Automatic activity verification four times a year
  - 1 March; 1 June; 1 September; 1 December

- Regular publishing is <u>important</u>!
  - Late publishing leads to delayed or missed indexing in other databases

Pre-evaluation of journals for Scopus

- Collaboration Croatian Association for Scholarly Communication (CROASC/ZNAK), National and University Library in Zagreb (NSK) and SRCE
- December 2023
- Technical aspects of editorial quality
  - Title and abstract in english
  - Peer-review
  - Publication ethics and malpractice statement
  - Regular publishing
- Joint application of 108 journals

- Challenges
  - Time-consuming task
  - Extensive back-and-forth communication with editors

Future evaluation and certification of journals

- Start in October 2025
- Goal is to provide a comprehensive assessment of journal quality without evaluating content
- Motives
  - Enhance editorial quality of journals
  - Enhance visibility of (diamond, Croatian) OA journals
  - Improve metadata
  - Educate editorial boards about the improvement of editorial policies according to the latest trends in scientific publishing
  - Serve as a stepping stone for entry into other databases

- Focus on Diamond Open Access
- Current context in European systems (HRČAK, DOAS, DDH)
- Considering expansion of HRČAK criteria and interface updates to enhance metadata input

Methodology

1. Review of existing criteria (HRČAK, DOAS, DDH)
2. Defining certification seals
   - Required vs desired criteria
3. Improvement of interface and metadata with the purpose of maximal automatisation of evaluation
4. Drafting guidelines and instructions
5. Communication with editors and publishers about upcoming changes and expectations

Let's talk!

- **Open Access Week @ SRCE**
  - 22 October – Razgovori u Srcu (*Conversations at SRCE*)
  - Topics:
    - evaluation and certification of journals in HRČAK
    - Diamond Open Access

Next steps and future plans

- Technological upgrade
  - PHP & Laravel updates, module adjustments to newer versions
- OJS
  - Upgraded authentication process via trusted electronic identity providers (AAI@EduHr, Edugain)
- Advanced usage statistics
  - More adjusted and detailed

Thank you!

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