

Croatian Digital Library Initiatives

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In response to the needs of the users in digital age the National and University Library in Zagreb has been developing projects and services for the foundation of the Croatian digital library. The basic Library's roles to identify, acquire, collect, store, organise and provide long-term access to the national heritage are adapted to suit the rapidly developing networked environment. The Library's digital collections include born digital resources - web publications and digital masters, as well digital reproductions of different library materials. The presentation provides an overview of some current projects and activities: Digitised Heritage – a web site presenting a selection of digitised rare and unique works from Library's special collections. The most valuable works of the Croatian written heritage have been digitized, such as the first Croatian printed book from 1483, the works of old masters and contemporary artists, along with maps, music prints, posters and photographs. DAR – Digital academic repository is a portal for search and retrieval of electronic theses and dissertations of the University of Zagreb. The system serves as an OAI-PMH compatible repository for digitized research theses (1880-1952) and digital born theses (from 1986 on). The portal provides a bio-bibliographic reference data base on more than 800 authors created in cooperation with the Miroslav Krleža Institute of Lexicography. DNC – Digitized newspapers and journals is a cooperative portal of the National and University Library in Zagreb and other heritage institutions that provides access to digitized Croatian historical newspapers and journals. DNC is the central point for search and access to digitized serials that aims at improving preservation of unique and rare originals, enhancing development of standardised procedures for digitization, and enabling coordination and rationalisation of digitization efforts. HAW – Croatian Web Archive is a system for gathering and storage of the legal deposit copies of Croatian web resources with scientifically or culturally relevant content. The archived content represents part of the Croatian national heritage, and supplements the national collection. The focus is on the born digital content existing on the web only, which documents the stuff of everyday life, social trends, popular events, important sport, political, cultural, or other types of events. The implementation of Aleph Integrated Library System in the National and University Library in Zagreb, and the libraries of the University of Zagreb and public scientific institutes, outlines the foundation of Croatian integrated library system (ILS). ILS comprises the holdings of forty four libraries, with a total of 3,000,000 volumes, and 140,000

library users. The objectives of ILS implementation were to rationalize work processes, to raise the quality of service and to foster universal access while securing autonomy and ownership of individual library holdings. In addition to numerous advantages of digital library services including easier and faster access to books, periodicals, maps and other library materials of interest to scientists, professionals, students and general public, the realization of these projects provides the basis for the implementation of best practices in digitization, application of international standards and creation of national policy for the collection, storage and access to digital materials. The ILS provides the general framework for cataloguing and metadata creation and serves as a uniform interface to different digital collections of the National and University Library in Zagreb.