

Supporting Open Access nationwide – what is a hamster doing in Croatia?



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ONCE UPON A TIME...

Fifth Belgrade International Open Access
Conference 2012, Belgrade, May 18th 2012



Croatian journals - challenges

- low visibility
- difficulties with distribution
- small number of subscribers (mostly domestic)
- low circulation
- insufficient finances
- poor infrastructure (including ICT)
- low readability
- low citation impact
- lack of expertise in online scholarly publishing
-

Croatian journals - challenges

- ...
- irregularity in publishing
- low frequency
- low number of the original scientific papers
- non-existing, undefined, not-reliable peer review policies
- editorial boards – local, small, volunteers...
- low number of papers with foreign (co)authors
- lack of standards in editorial processes

Importance of the Croatian scholarly publishing

- communication of science in Croatia
- research topics of local or national interest
- Croatian language
- development of skills and competences: editing, publishing and writing (& citing)
- need to get/raise credibility
 - promotion of Croatian research
 - raising awareness about importance of science in the decision processes



In spite of challenges...

- domestic journals are not *a priori* **LOCAL and BAD...**
- international (commercial) journals are not *a priori* **GLOBAL and GOOD**
- International journals are also domestic from a different point of view

Global scholarly publishing crisis

- dissatisfaction of all participants
 - authors – not visible, lost of copyright on they own work
 - libraries – can no longer keep up with the increasing costs of scholarly resources, can not satisfy the information needs of their users
 - readers/taxpayers – cannot view all the research literature they need – they are less effective
 - funding bodies – multiple investments with unclear outcomes and return on investment



solution?

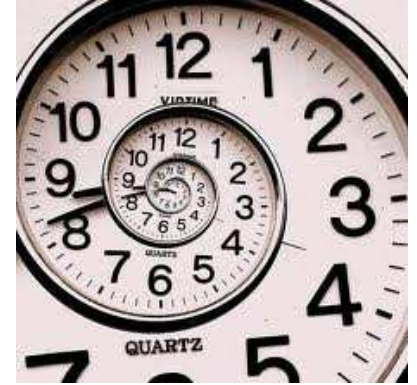
Short history

- 2002 – Croatian journals online (Konjević, S.)

	MSES journals	MSES journals online
Natural sciences	29	4
Technical sciences	39	4
Biomedical sciences	29	4
Biotechnical sciences	19	3
Social sciences	47	2
Humanities	60	2

- 2004 – first initiative (coffee) to support publishers
- 2005 - HRČAK project proposal
- 2006 – first release of HRČAK portal

Project application



- 2005 – small grant from MSES (partnership with University Computing Centre SRCE)
- 2006 - HRČAK part of the Croatian Scientific Portal
- small regular support during the years becomes smaller and irregular

HRČAK – initial goals

- simple way to make online version of the (printed) journal
- single access point for all Croatian open access journals (scholarly, professional and popular science)
- metadata and full-text articles repository
- data sharing – with international repositories, databases, archives

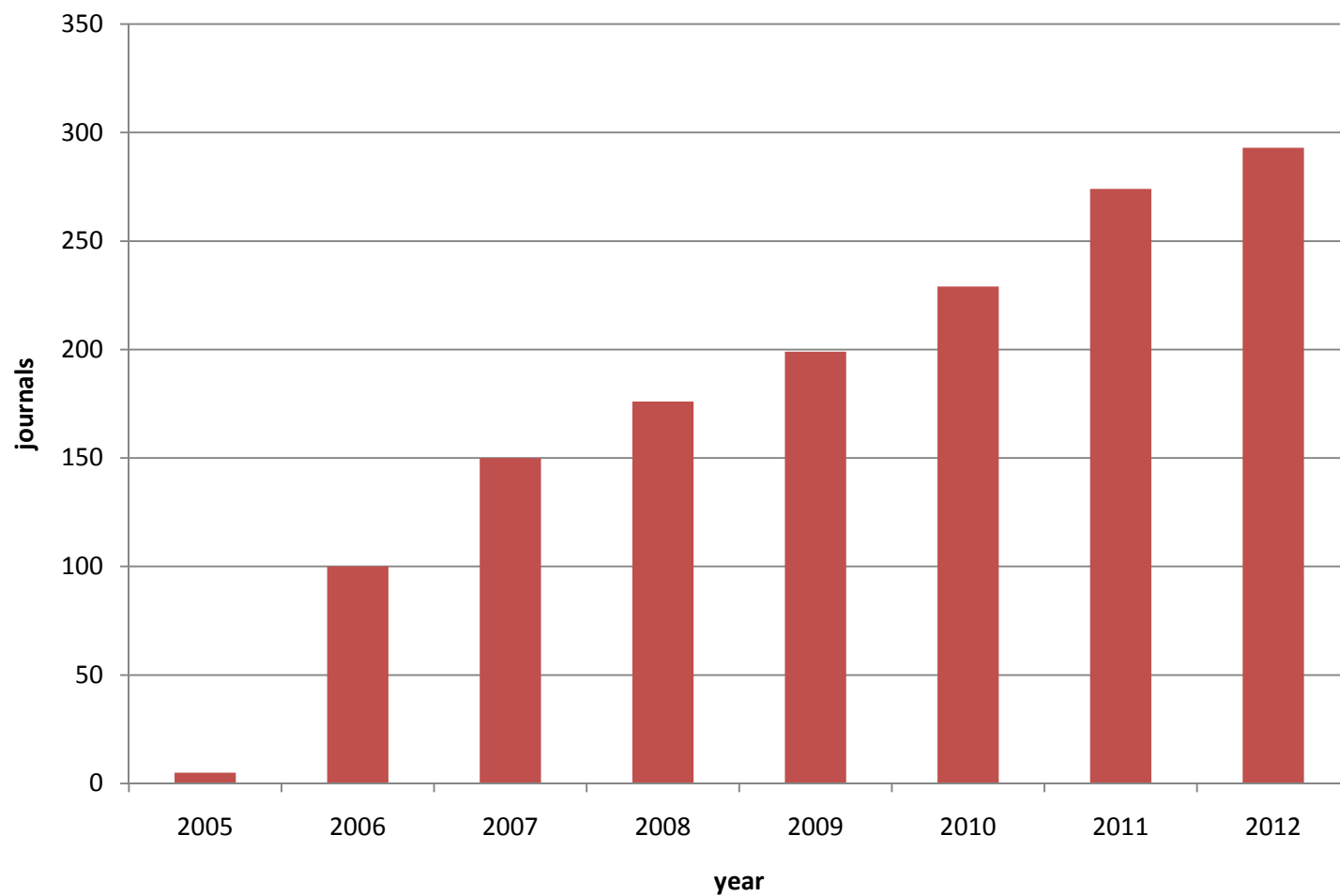
HRČAK basic features

- content created by journal editorial teams
- scholarly content
- open access
- interoperability

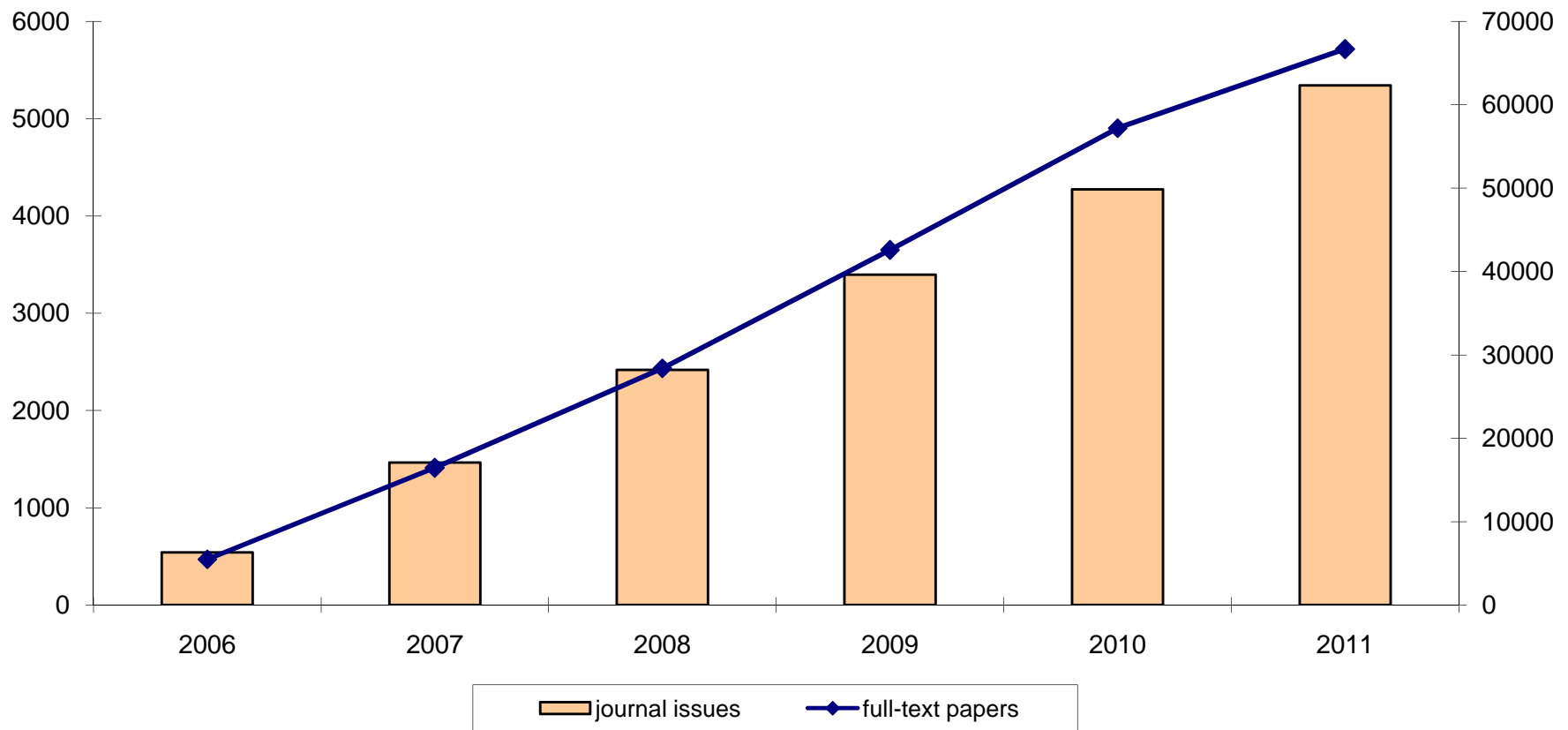


HRČAK IN NUMBERS

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number of HRČAK journals by years



Number of journal issues an full-text papers by year

HRČAK today

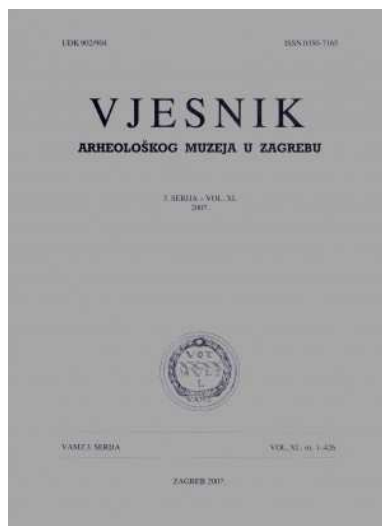
- Journals: 293
- Journal issues: 5977
- Articles (metadata): 4700
- Articles (full-text): 74660

- 12000 new full-text articles from May 2011

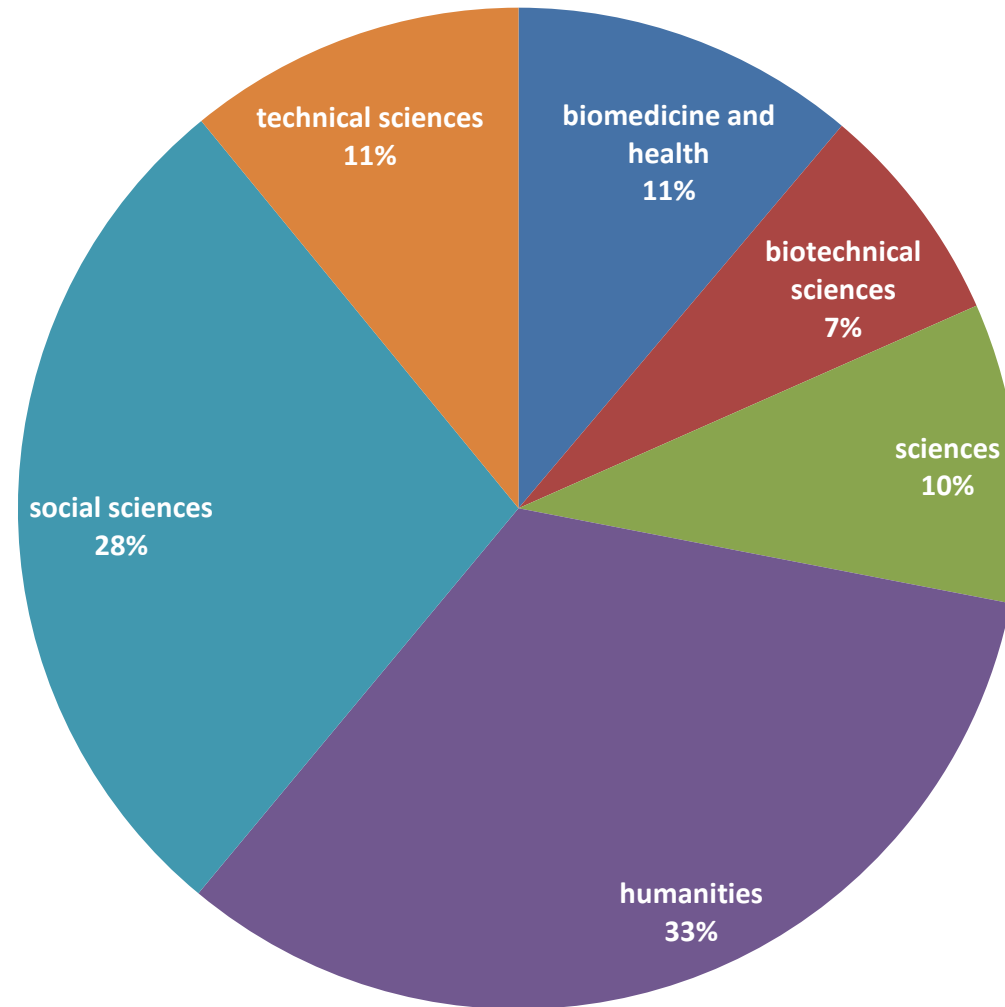


Top ten journals by content (number of full-text papers):

- Theological Review (5964)
- Collegium Antropologicum (2379)
- Folk Art: Croatian Journal of Ethnology and Folklore Research (2305)
- Acta Clinica Croatica (1796)
- Dairy Industry (1671)
- Renewed Life (1595)
- Journal for General Social Issues (1387)
- Acta stomatologica Croatica (1366)
- The Journal of the Institute of Croatian History (1139)
- Political Thought (1125)



The oldest HRČAK journal – from 1870



HRČAK journals by discipline

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Traffic

year	traffic (GB)
2006	116.48
2007	1259.89
2008	2307.23
2009	3733.34
2010	5589.74
2011	5953.98

PROVIDING A TOOL FOR JOURNAL MANAGEMENT

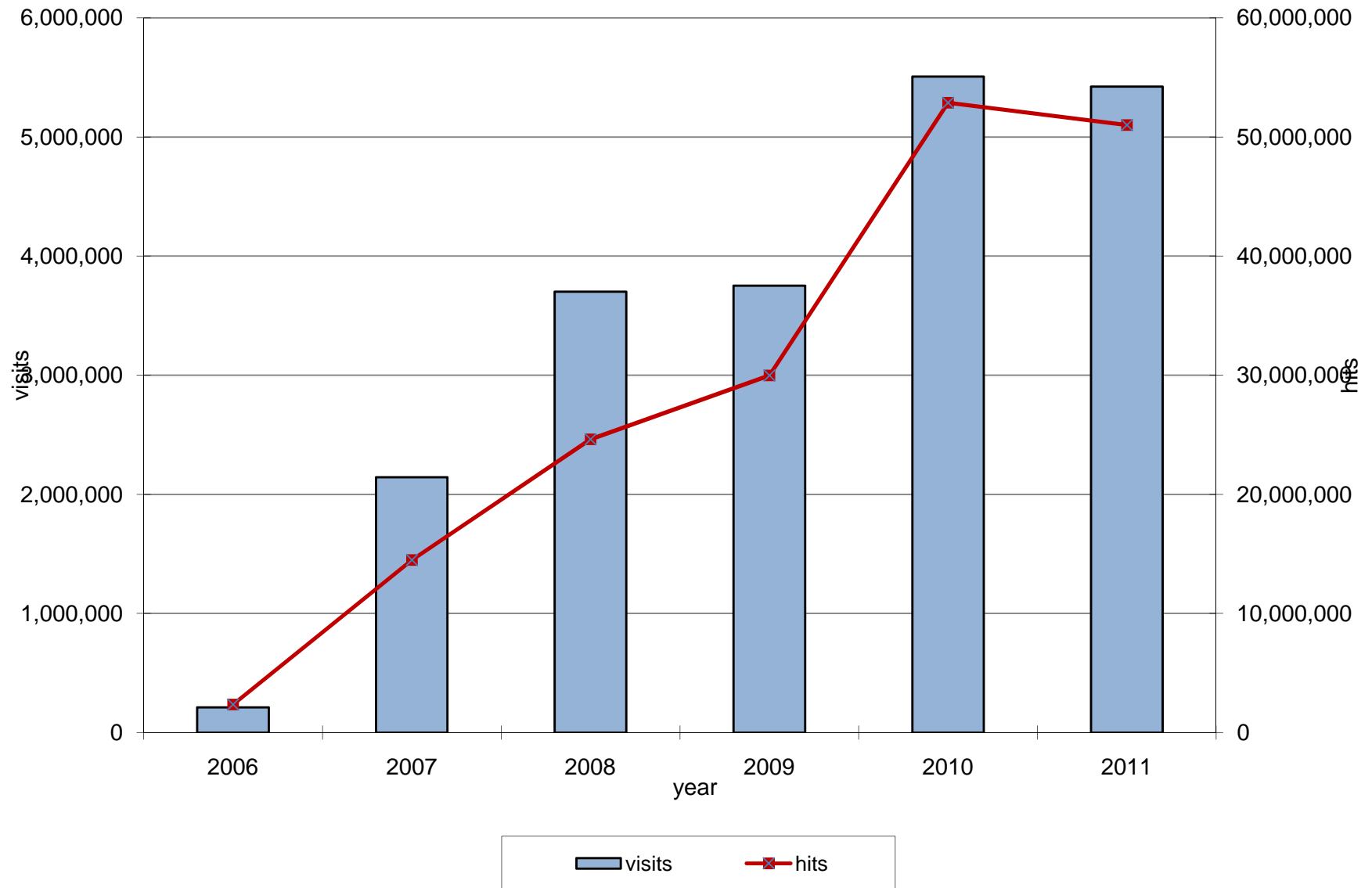
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Open Journal System

- Central installation
- Support for local installations
- Interface for data import into HRČAK (one click)
- Education
- 20 journals are using OJS
- 20 new journals are planning to use it

HRČAK VISIBILITY

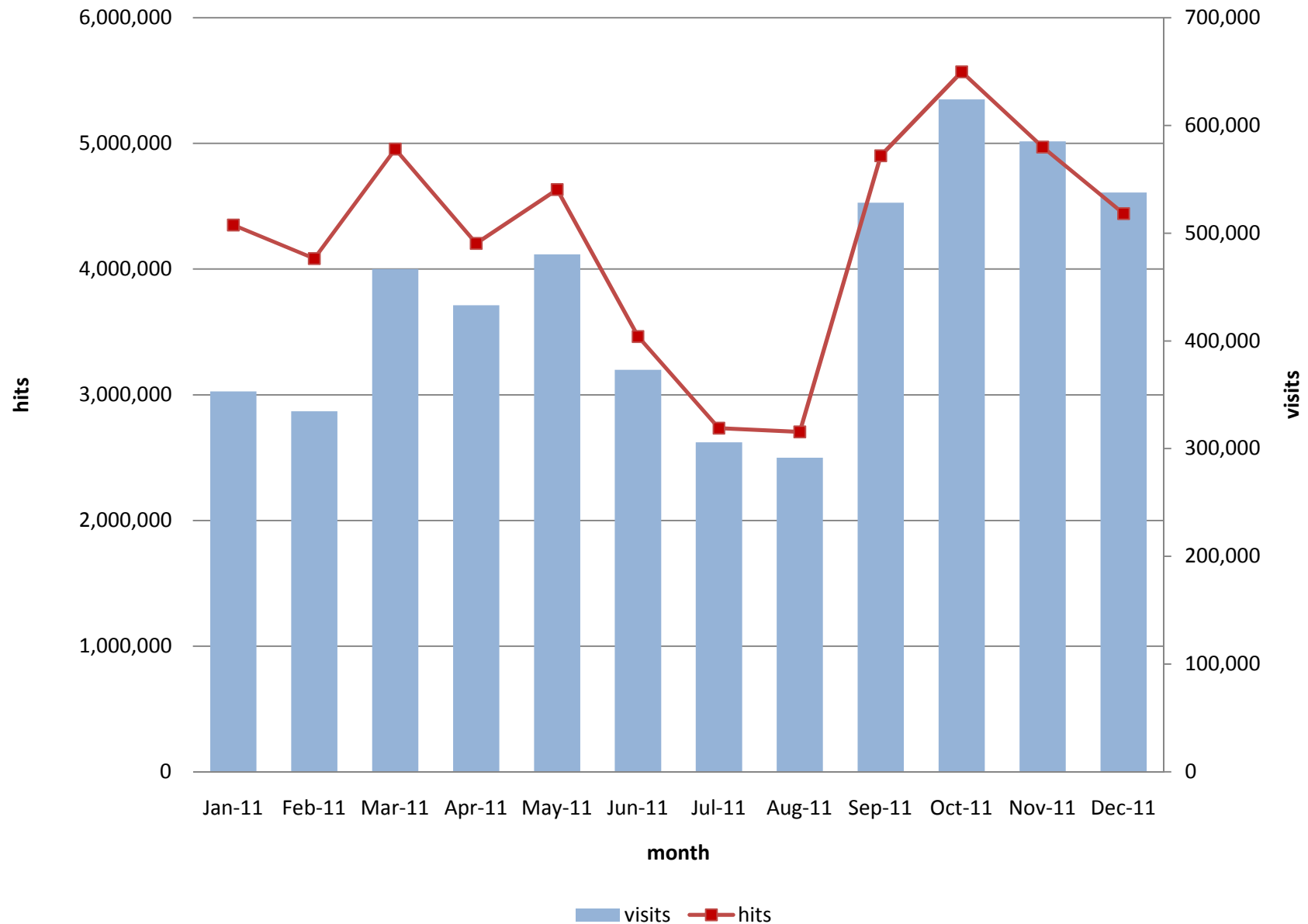
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Visits and hits by year (2006-2011)

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Harvesters
are excluded



Visits and hits in 2011

average of **451.767 visits per month**, where visit is defined as any number of requests from the same IP address processed during a period of 30 minutes

Data harvesting

- OAI-PMH protocol
- [OAIster](#)
- [BASE](#)
- [Google Scholar](#)
- ...

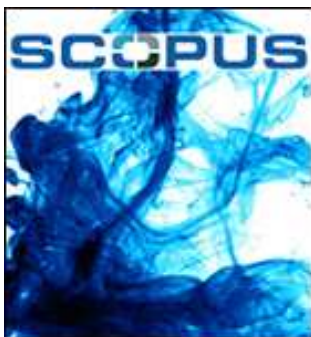
Harvesters visited HRČAK on average:

- 2508 times per month in 2011
- 3543 times per month during the first four months in 2012



Cooperation with commercial database publishers

- Elsevier/Scopus – 105 Croatian journals (90 HRČAK)
- ThomsonReuters/WoS – 60 Croatian journals (54 HRČAK)
- Google Scholar – all HRČAK content
- citation impact



Web 2.0 applications

Kemija u industriji, Vol.59 No.4 Travanj 2010.

Stručni rad



From Our Libraries:

Danko Škare (ed.)

Metrics of Scientific Journalism - Truths, Myths and Misconceptions

J. Stojanovski; University of Zadar, Zadar, Hrvatska; Ruđer Bošković Institute, Zagreb, Hrvatska

[Puni tekst \(Hrvatski\) Str. 179 - 186 \(pdf, 1.09 MB\) downloads: 482](#)

Sažetak

The evolution of the digital age has led to the development of so-called abstracting/indexing printed publications in online databases. A short survey of the four most popular databases in Croatia has been done, as Current Contents, Web of Science, Scopus and Google Scholar, with short history, coverage (included Croatian titles), features and possibilities of citation analysis. We discuss their strengths and weaknesses, and the importance of the efficient usage and appropriate interpretation of the data. The journal impact factor and other bibliometric measures are frequently misused to estimate the influence of individual papers and authors. Explaining potential benefits and limitations of bibliometric indicators, this article may help policymakers, librarians, administrators, and individual researchers to use the data provided by different databases more carefully and wisely in the evaluation of research.

Ključne riječi

metrics: scientific journalism; citation analysis; online databases; impact factor

[\[Hrvatski\]](#)

Posjeta: 1031 (od 01.01.2007.)

FUTURE DEVELOPMENT

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Support for editorial teams

- high-quality, searchable PDF documents with metadata
- DOI, eISSN
- quality editorial standards
- development of journals (???), implementation of new features (multimedia content, data sets provision, (social) scholarly publishing networks, pre-peer-review, post-peer-review, etc.)

Criteria for inclusion

- present criteria are very flexible
- impact to credibility?
- precise definition of inclusion criteria
 - open access
 - frequency regularity
 - title, abstract and keywords in English language
 - bibliographical standards
 - peer review
 - ...

Design

- new design
- new functionalities
- News from scholarly publishing world - awareness
- new issues, new articles...
- readers' feedback
- most popular journals, issues, articles...
- “search engine friendly” URL (replacement of abstract parameters with words from article title etc.)

Searching and browsing

- improved searching possibilities, advanced search with more focused search strategies
- improved browsing possibilities, related papers according different criteria, facets
 - related papers according text similarities

Administration

- improved administrative interface
- possibility of display adaptation (HTML tags)
- normative tables
(author, affiliation, institution...)
- online first / ASAP papers
- constraints – eligibility for publishing the content (not complete issues, full-text not available...)

Statistics

- statistical reports for editorial teams, readers, MSES, HRČAK team

Harvesting

- continuous monitoring
- adaptations for different harvesters (Google Scholar)
- improved collaboration with database producers and publishers (Thomson Reuters, Elsevier, EBSCO etc.)
- OAI module optimization
- portal registration
- HRČAK as harvester?

Other desirable features

- send e-mail to friend
- comments
- MyHRČAK customization options
- OpenURL implementation
- expansion of coverage – conference proceedings, other countries

Reasons for success

- readers are more likely to access scholarly content through single portal;
- free infrastructure and support from HRČAK team encourage many Croatian publishers;
- trustworthy relationship between Croatian publishers and HRČAK team;
- MSES shared the main HRČAK goals such as online environment, open access, increased visibility, user-centred approach, and **advancements in editorial work;**

Reasons for success

- Importance of data about repository growth, number of visits, data traffic, etc. in HRČAK promotion
- HRČAK platform is used for collaboration and cooperation, establishing a dialog and empowering small publishers' position;

Thank you!

Questions? Suggestions?

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