

This Site I Like

Hrčak: The portal for Croatian scientific journals

<http://hrcak.srce.hr/>

Journal publishing is one of the top priority activities in Croatia, and the existence of Hrčak, a hub for a large number of exemplary periodicals, is suggestive of how Croatians value their scientific production.

Hrčak means “hamster” in Croatian (have a look at the nice favicon associated with its website!). It is a free platform for Croatian open-access scholarly journals. The project, developed by the Croatian Information and Documentation Society and supported by the Ministry of Science, Education and Sports, aims to improve the accessibility and visibility of Croatian journals. There are currently 356 journals indexed on the Hrčak, with more than 111,000 articles being listed, including 105,873 full-text items for open access. The number of indexed journals is constantly increasing. Topics covered by the portal range from biomedicine and natural sciences to humanities and social sciences.

The main webpage of the portal presents the list of the currently indexed journals. The readers and authors can easily find links to the journals and articles of interest by searching in alphabetical order or by scientific area. Hrčak also allows to search within the journal papers by author, title, and keywords. The user can register to the website to receive email notifications on newly indexed journals and updates on selected journals.

Each journal has its own webpage on the portal, where indexing information, such as the website address, contacts, mission, and frequency of publication, are presented. The links to full-texts of journal articles and whole issues are also provided.

Hrčak services are useful not only for readers, but also for authors, who can search for target journals suitable for submission of their best papers. The portal informs the authors about the journals' main characteristics along with contact and submission details.

The Hrčak website contains information about open access, and particularly a description of the notorious Budapest Initiative, a definition of open-access journals, and a Croatian translation of the Berlin Declaration on Open Access to Scientific Knowledge.

For editors, the website can be of interest for the two main reasons. First of all, it can help them promote their journals and increase the visibility. Journals with their own website, which contains electronic edition of the contents and the articles' full-texts, can be automatically added to the list on the portal with a link to the original website and journal issues. The listing on the portal facilitates the integration of the journals into the search engines and other domestic and international network services. Also, Hrčak is especially helpful for small journals that do not have an original website. In that case, the portal provides the editors with the tools to create an electronic edition of their journals. The editors have simply to upload the journal information and bibliographic data of the current and past issues and link issues to the portal. Importantly, the entire journal archive of back issues, if available in the PDF format, can be uploaded too.

Secondly, the portal calculates detailed statistics for indexed journals, which is updated at the beginning of each month. Statistics cover journals webpage visits (home page, issues, single article, and bibliographic records) and full-text (PDF) downloads.

And, last but not least, Hrčak is free both for the users and for editors who wish to add list their journals on the portal and to increase their visibility.

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The screenshot shows the Hrčak website interface. At the top, there is a hamster logo and the text "Hrcak Portal of scientific journals of Croatia". The page is divided into several sections:

- Navigation:** Home, Journals alphabetically, Journals by scientific areas (Natural sciences, Technical sciences, Biomedicine and health, Biotechnical sciences, Social sciences, Humanities), Journal editors, Visit statistics, Authors, Paper submission.
- About Hrčak:** Hrčak is the central portal of Croatian scientific journals. Hrčak offers the access to the journals following the Open Access Initiative (more about Hrčak in Croatian only). About Hrčak (in Croatian only) * for end users.
- Hrčak stat:** Journals: 356, Published issues: 8.819, Published articles: 111.673, Published articles with full text: 105.935.
- Support:** This portal is supported by the Ministry of Science Education and Sports, developed and maintained by the University Computing Centre and was initiated by the Croatian Information and Documentation Society.
- Security:** The Hrčak project team is responsible for the portal's overall design and functionality as well as data security. Responsibility for the journals content and the accuracy of data therein lies with the respective journal editors.
- Technical Support:** For all technical questions concerning the Hrčak portal please contact the hrcak team. Questions concerning a journal or its editors should be directed to the journal directly. For contact information, please refer to the respective journal's web page.
- Search:** Article search, search, Advanced search, Search instructions.
- My profile:** Register, Username (email), Password, login, Lost password?