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## **Scientific information on demand - the Croatian experience**

### Background

Nowadays academic, governmental, and industrial sources are generating data at much greater pace, volume, and diversity than ever. Scientific data are spread across different institutions, services, databases, publications and other resources. Although numerous free and commercial scientific information are available to the end user, it is rather difficult to find the right one. In Croatia we have about 150 academic and special libraries supporting Croatian research. Over 120 of them were tightly cooperating since 1994 as a part of the Croatian Scientific Information System project. After developing their own information services for years, libraries recognised the need for a single and interdisciplinary web portal which serves as an access point for end users.

### ZIND - Scientific information on demand

ZIND was created in 2004 to make the enormous amount of scientific information and scientific literature accessible to end users. Designed as a single access gateway, ZIND represents the sum of the Croatian information services and provides easy access to a multidisciplinary mixture of scientific information products and services. The base of ZIND is LibData (The University of Minnesota Libraries Web Management System), an open source library-oriented web-based application consisting of an integrated database architecture and authoring environment for the publication of subject pathfinders, course-related pages, and all-purpose web pages. LibData was built with open source components (Apache, MySQL, and PHP) and is being offered as open source to the library community under the GNU Public License. The system integrates easy-to-use web authoring tools with a large database of information resources and produces dynamically-generated library web pages.

Access to numerous resources, both licensed and freely available, is offered through ZIND interface. Already existing subscriptions to e-journals are managed through the EJOL database and their administrative interface for librarians, and then imported in ZIND. Besides e-journals ZIND includes library catalogues, databases, libraries and academic and research institutions, bibliographies, open archives, reference tools, search engines, etc.

### EJOL - Electronic journal online library

The initiatives for the information service which will make access to the e-journals easier started in 1997 when national licences with three big publishers (Elsevier, Springer, Wiley) were signed and access to the thousands of journals was provided. Beside managing access to commercial e-journals, EJOL is focusing on free e-journals (433 titles) and Croatian journals (70 titles). At the present time the database embraces 6832 journals, and the number is growing. 34 libraries participate in the project, and librarians are administrating accessibility level for their own institutions.

It is possible to browse through scientific fields distributed according to the UDC classification scheme and search by title, publisher, ISSN, Croatian and English keywords, title abbreviation, indexing and abstracting databases, level of accessibility. Since recently, full text search is possible for some major publishers.

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