

ACCESS TO ELECTRONIC SOURCES: THE OPERATIONAL
ORGANIZATION OF THE DIGITAL LIBRARY OF SLOVENIA
REGARDING THE NETWORK DEVELOPMENT OF ELECTRONIC
CONTENT ACCESS

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- COBISS Conference Paper -

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The digital library of Slovenia (<http://www.dlib.si>) is a network information portal for knowledge management, which offers free search and free access to digital content without any limitation. Its users can search the Library's rich content: magazines, books, manuscripts, maps, photographs, music and manuals. Searches are carried out by using bibliographic data such as the title, author and similar items. All content of the digital library is accessible in its full form. All books printed before 1945 which are not accessible through dLib.si, may be ordered in digital form via an international E-book service.

The digital library of Slovenia is part of the National and University Library of Ljubljana (Narodna in univerzna knjižnica - NUK). This project was presented to the public in 2005. It is also a part of the European library, a joint project of the National Libraries of Europe. It is intended for all users of the Internet, especially researchers and academic workers as it offers a large virtual collection covering different academic areas. In using the content of digital library via dLib.si copyright and other related provisions must be obeyed.

The existence of this digital library is very important as it offers

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the opportunity for all collections of up-to-date information and places of Slovenian cultural heritage, which are archived in NUK and other Slovenian libraries, to be searched through in one place. This project has been financed by the Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Technology and Government of Norway and has contributed to the visibility of Slovenian language, culture, science and art. The objectives of the digital library are to improve information accessibility, increase the presence of Slovenian as a language and increase the amount information sources that are used in libraries and other culture and education institutions, develop cooperation with other libraries and to hold Slovenian cultural heritage in permanent preservation (Slovenike).

At the end of 2009, the results of establishing a digital library became rather apparent. The organization of the project passed through three phases: the lending of material, archiving said material and distributing it. The Digital Library of Slovenia was organized under the intention of collecting original material and thereafter transforming it into its digital form, as well as managing originally digital material. A digital archive was developed for archiving the entire content of the digital collection of *Slovenika*. Distribution of the Library's content is carried out via the network portal which is used in accordance with the guidelines for e-accessibility. The portal's technology solutions are based on the implementation of an *Open Archive Initiative (OAI)* protocol, automatic data download from a local COBISS database and metadata in the model of a Dublin Core.

The Advantages of Digital Libraries are:

1. simple and prompt access to professional and scientific literature
2. a greater visibility for papers made by Slovenian scientists and researchers
3. semantic relation among different content

4. accessibility to original scientific content which would otherwise be hard to reach and which represents a rich cultural and scientific heritage

5. finding documents in a networked environment

6. matching the needs of scientific and research workers

The Digital Library of Slovenia includes:

1. A Slovenian Bibliography

A printed Slovenian bibliography had been used from 1945 up to a few years ago. A version on CD-ROM also existed, however one had to visit the premises of the library in order to use it. The situation is now different as it can be accessed on the Internet at any time. It includes 70,000 works issued by Slovenian publishers, which are in Slovenian or are of Slovenian origin.

2. A Slovenian Retrospective Bibliography of Articles

This database allows for the use of early Slovenian periodicals. This article bibliography includes bibliographic records for all articles published in the first Slovenian newspaper, *Lublanske novice* (1797-1800), as well as in other papers that were printed until the end of World War Two. The bibliography includes 300,000 articles from what is modern day Slovenia territory which were written from 1797 to 1945.

3. Old Maps of Slovenian Territory

This collection includes maps dated from the XVI – XIX century and they are of great importance for Slovenia's national identity and cultural heritage. The collection contains 50 maps of Slovenian territory from 1548 to 1924, and also has 15 plans of the capital Ljubljana from 1800 to 1950.

4. A Collection of Portraits of Famous Slovenians

This collection includes more than 900 portraits, post cards and drawings of famous Slo-

venian authors, artists, scientists and painters, among which are Ivan Cankar, Oton Župančič, France Prešern and others.

5. A Collection of Kopitar

This collection contains over 13,300 of scanned pages from 34 medieval manuscripts, in Old Slavonic, Glagolitic and Cyrillic. This collection includes 22 Serbian Cyrillic manuscripts from the XIII to XV century, 1 Cyrillic manuscript from the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia dated from the XIII century, 5 Bulgarian Cyrillic manuscripts from the XIII to XV century, 1 Manuscript in Croatian Glagolitic from the XIII century, as well as many others.

6. Records of Old Slovenian Music

This collection includes a 100 sound recording of solo singers and bands from the period of World War Two. They are mainly of traditional music and partially have some humorous scenes where singing is involved.

7. Current Daily Newspapers – To Be Launched

The digitalization of daily newspapers in their full form has still yet to be launched. This database would enter into use in three different ways:

as browsing from cover to cover, to be read in full form and to be searched (entire texts and bibliographic data).

8. Licensed Databases

For years, NUK has offered a different access to data from licensed databases via the web address: <http://nuk.uni-lj.si/nuk/mreznik.html>. All sources are today available via the unified portal: dLIB. si.

Digital libraries remain an intermediary covering open access to digital content; more and more they become a key factor in the democratization of society and a basis of its progress.

