KNOWLEDGE, HABITS AND PROSPECTS OF THE USE OF WEB ARCHIVES AMONG THE ACADEMIC COMMUNITY IN CROATIA

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CROATIAN WEB ARCHIVE (HAW)

• Croatian Web Archive of the National and University Library is a collection of archived web resources

• It was established in 2004 and this year celebrates its 15th anniversary

• The objective of Croatian Web Archive is “to collect and permanently preserve web resources as part of the Croatian cultural heritage.”

• In November 2017 the size of the archive was 12.2 TB

• Croatian Web Archive represents a great collection for researchers of diverse interest
National domain harvesting

• Since 2011 National and University Library has conducted 8 annual .hr domain harvestings
• Seed list of URLs of .hr domain is provided by Croatian DNS Service CARNet


Thematic harvesting

• Since 2011 Croatian Web Archive has been building thematic collections of important events in Croatia
• In total 10 thematic harvestings
International research of the academic use of web archives, has showed:

- “limited scholarly use of web archives” (Hockx-Yu, 2014)
- “large lack of awareness of web archiving amongst the majority of researchers in New Zealand“ (Riley and Crookston, 2015: 31)
- “limited awareness in the humanities and social sciences research communities of the possibilities of using web archives as a scholarly source” (Costea, 2018: 4).

In Croatia the use of web archives has not been in the focus of scientific research, even though the diversity of data could be of potential interest for a great number of users – from academic users (researchers and students) to the public in general.
RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

• **The goal** of this research was to question the academic community in Croatia in order to gain insight into their knowledge and use of Croatian Web Archive

• The research **used convenience sample** of university staff, researchers in research institutions and students – members of the National and University Library, Faculty of Political Science and via online questionnaire (e-mail addresses available to the authors)

• **The sample** was selected within the identified academic fields (disciplines) that have potentially large interest in studying web archives: history, journalism and mass media, sociology, political science, information science, computer science and linguistics

• In the survey 18 open and close-ended questions were used

• In total 182 surveys were completed
RESEARCH QUESTIONS

1. Does the academic community in Croatia have the knowledge of Croatian Web Archive?

2. Has the academic community in Croatia used Croatian Web Archive in their research?

3. Is there a difference in the knowledge of and the use of Croatian Web Archive between researchers/university staff and students?

4. How does the academic community feel about archiving web and social media content?
RESULTS
Status in the academic community

- No answer: 1
- Prentice: 3
- Independent researcher: 7
- Other: 9
- Teacher: 3
- Scientist/researcher: 5
- Full professor: 3
- Associate professor: 5
- Assistent professor: 7
- Student (all levels): 135
- Assistant/postdoc: 4
Field of interest

- Economy and management: 8
- Law: 10
- Public relations: 9
- Sport, nutrition, tourism: 5
- Architecture and art: 8
- Electrical Engineering, Computing, Telecommunication, Mechanical Engineering, Mathematics, Construction: 21
- Political science, politics, geography: 8
- Journalism, media and communication: 43
- Other (social sciences, humanities - sociology, psychology, linguistics): 12
- Not defined: 10
- Information sciences - archives, libraries, lexicography: 25
- Biology, biochemistry, biomedicine, medicine: 11
- History: 12
Are you familiar with Croatian Web Archive?

- Yes: 63%
- No: 37%

Have you ever used Croatian Web Archive?

(Among those who are familiar with HAW, percentage of those who have used it)

- Yes: 34%
- No: 66%
The difference between the knowledge of Croatian Web Archive among students and faculty members/researchers is statistically significant ($\chi^2=8.81, p=.012$).
The difference between the use of Croatian Web Archive among students and faculty members/researchers is statistically significant ($\chi^2=17.034$, $p=.0002$)
Would you like to learn more about Croatian web archive?

- Yes: 84%
- No: 16%

Would you attend a workshop on Croatian web archive?

- Yes: 42%
- No: 58%
CONCLUSION

- In total 63% of all respondents have no knowledge of Croatian Web Archive.
- There is a statistically significant difference between the knowledge of and the use of Croatian Web Archive among students and faculty members/researchers.
- Majority of respondents feel that the web (41%; 38% thinks it should depend on the content) and social media content (47%) should be archived.

- The overall conclusion is that the knowledge of and the use of Croatian Web Archive is very low among the entire academic community in Croatia.
- The next research should include a more diverse sample and a survey with a larger number of questions that could provide answers how to improve the use of web archives.
Thank you!