

**Mojca Šorn**

Institute for Contemporary History  
Ljubljana, Republic of Slovenia

## **SISTORY<sup>1</sup> – INTERNET PORTAL OF SLOVENIAN HISTORIOGRAPHY**

**Abstract:** A research infrastructure related programme was initiated in 2006 at the Institute for Recent History, within which the Internet portal named Sistory is also being developed – that is, an educational and research portal of Slovenian historiography. The author in this text provides a report on the existing state of the Sistory portal's information base and in addition to the above also covers the different nuances of the short-term plan for the current year.

**Key words:** research infrastructure, Sistory – the portal of Slovenian historiography

Taking into account the investigation on the state of the digitalisation of the research infrastructure in humanism (included in the field of the digitalisation of cultural heritage as well as in the programme of research infrastructure), which was published by Nina Vodopivec, Ph.D., within the framework of an international project called Dariah,<sup>2</sup> the digitalisation in Slovenia is actually set up as a priority, however, the corresponding Ministries (Ministry for Culture, Higher Education, Science and Technology) and the Slovenian Research and Development Agency (SRDA) failed to form certain general solutions, which means that the interested parties do not hold the nationally harmonised programmes of digitalisation. In addition, an insufficient number of responsible people is thinking towards the direction where the main purpose is not the digitalisation of material and documents itself for their preservation in a relatively lasting form, which our children will be able to acquaint themselves with, but we should also see to disburdening still physically available documents and materials or their presentation to the interested public.<sup>3</sup>

In this text, on the basis of the example of the portal of Slovenian historiography called Sistory, it will be demonstrated that its authors from the Institute for Recent History in Ljubljana understand the term of digitalisation in a more complex scope, meaning that we also deal with forming modern Internet media and with the digitalisation of cultural heritage, as well as other materials and their publication – together with the issue of the nowadays already respected and recognised e-books – on-line.<sup>4</sup>

Since the text also deals with an institutional project or the portal Sistory let us mention in the introduction at least the project of the Slovenian National and University Library or its Digital Library of Slovenia.<sup>5</sup> We have decided for its brief presentation because this is an

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<sup>1</sup> Sistory: Zgodovina Slovenije, <http://www.sistory.si/>.

<sup>2</sup> Digital Research Infrastructure for the Arts and Humanities is included in the programme named European Strategy Forum on Research Infrastructure (ESFRI).

<sup>3</sup> On the deficiencies of the digitalisation process by Tedy Grbec: Digitalizacija kulturne dediščine povezuje preteklost s prihodnostjo, see: <http://www.finance.si/231946>, 25. 3. 2009.

<sup>4</sup> On information technology and historiography by Slobodan Mandić: Kompjuterizacija i istoriografija 1995-2005. Beograd 2008.

<sup>5</sup> Digital Internet Library (dLib.si), <http://www.dlib.si/dlib.asp>.

example of the single centrally coordinated portal, which is also intended for the researchers of humanism. The Internet Library dLib.si<sup>6</sup> is based on modern principles and is developing in cooperation with other European national libraries because it is in its desire – as part of a broad-based European plan – to be compatible in this area. DLib was the first Slovenian digital centre, which in the year 2006 created and published its strategic document<sup>7</sup> written on the basis of international ideals. This document could also become a role model for other developmental policies and strategies in Slovenia of this kind.

In addition to the Digital Library dLib., historians in our line of work also find certain other Internet portals very useful; however, these do not satisfy our very specific needs. The employees at the Institute for Recent History (IRH)<sup>8</sup> in Ljubljana came up with an idea about a database, which would primarily be intended for the researchers of Slovenian history. We have, therefore, in 2006 reported a project related to the research infrastructure. Otherwise, the goal was to form and structure the research Internet portal of digitalised historical and historiographic contents, which would initially take into account the needs of the historical and research community and which would at the same time also become a training centre by expanding the selection of the thematic contents. This initiative provided by the Institute was well accepted also because in addition to the needs of the researchers and the potential users, we were also led by the desire of transferring the old and modern historical as well as historiographic material into the new media and into technological form in order to see to the preservation of a part of the cultural heritage, as well as to expand and extend its relevance. This was in no way construed for the Institutional portal to compete with already existing projects but only to complete these projects in accordance with the interests of the historians of the community.

The initiators of the project did not consider only the content but also the form of the portal. They wanted to present the digitalised material classified into four sets and several subsets to the visitors in as simple and understandable way as possible, as well as to provide prompt access to the desired contributions. It is also possible to browse through the leaves of every single document as well as to examine these documents according to the contents, alphabetical order or key words. This way the digitalised material, which is in PDF A-form, is processed with an OCR programme but is locked (for now) meaning that the user has no possibility of copying and modifying the text.

As already mentioned above, the registration of the research infrastructure related programme, which was designed by the team at the IRH, was accepted at the SRDA tender in 2006. The result of the two-year work was presented to the public at the end of 2008 – the portal Sistory was fully functional.<sup>9</sup> Upon the expiry of the two-year programme we tendered

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<sup>6</sup> More on the subject by Nina Vodopivec, Žarko Lazarević: Sistory : digitalizacija istorijskih sadržaja. In: Pregled Nacionalnog centra za digitalizaciju. [Spletna izd.], 2007, No. 11, pp. 31-36.

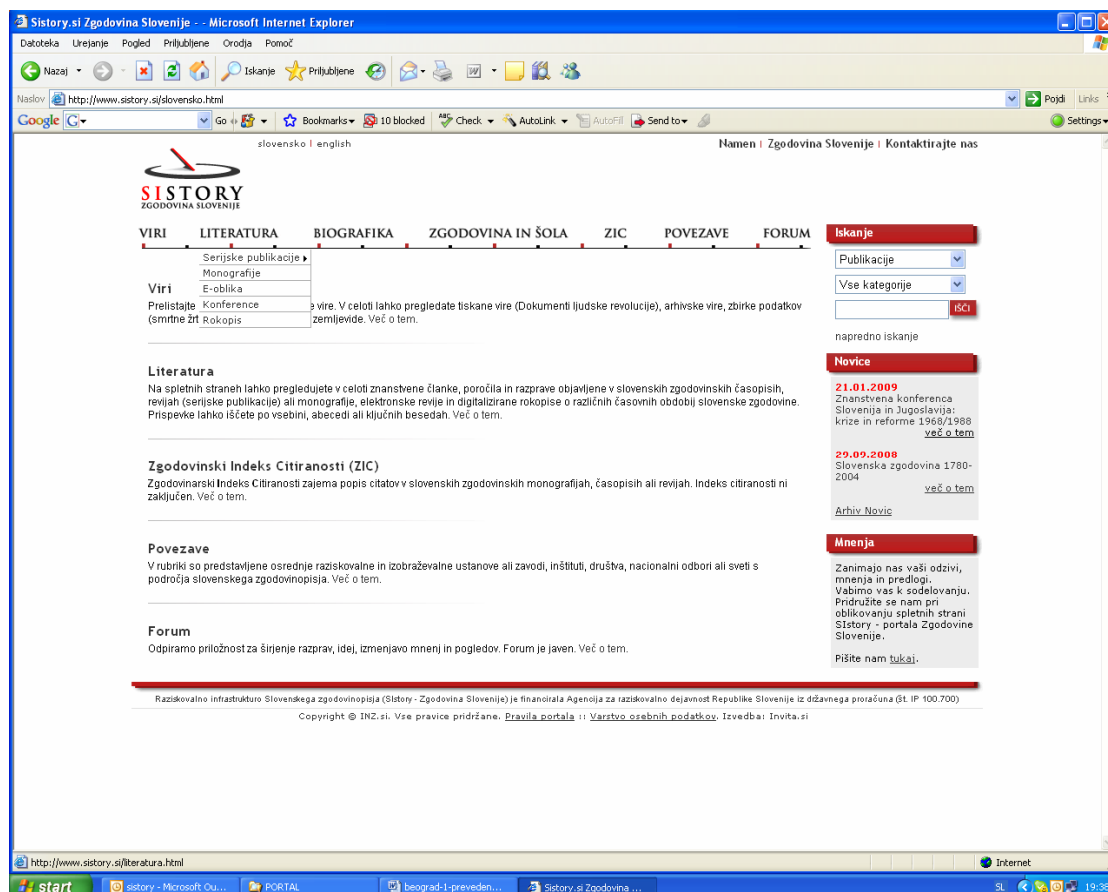
<sup>7</sup> Strategija razvoja digitalne knjižnice Slovenije dLib.si 2007-2010, Ljubljana: Narodna in univerzitetna knjižnica. [http://www.dlib.si/documents/2007/Strategija\\_Dlib.pdf](http://www.dlib.si/documents/2007/Strategija_Dlib.pdf), 21. 4. 2009.

<sup>8</sup> IRH represents a central Slovenian scientific institution for examining the recent and modern history of the Slovenes from the second half of the 19th century and until the 1990s. More about IRH available at: <http://www.inz.si/documents/index.html>, 8. 9. 2009.

<sup>9</sup> The portal is based on the Apache and PHP structure as well as on the MySQL base. The server capacity is 2 TB (5 disks in Raid5) with external hard disks and one support unit for the purposes of archiving (up to 800 GB). The speed of the Internet connection is 10 MB, see: Nina Vodopivec: Sistory.si: ideas, problems and questions. In: Pregled Nacionalnog centra za digitalizaciju. [Spletna izd.], 2008, 13, pp. 57-64. We shall soon need a server with an operating system Windows 2008 and MS SQL server because of different, more demanding contents. Due to the increase of the digital archive a connection of additional network drives (NAS) will be necessary in order to protect the safety and smooth operation of the system.

again and obtained a new/extended five-year programme (2009-2013). Today's players<sup>10</sup> within the framework of this programme follow the initial plans of the founders of this historiographic portal and determine the work together with the portal's council, which remains unchanged; its members are also researchers from the institutions and universities of origin as well as professors, musicologists and archivists. Our priorities remain unchanged.

As far as the processing and publication of material is concerned we prefer serial publications and less accessible material (especially printed resources and older but still relevant monographs and similar).<sup>11</sup> At this point we must emphasise that we shall not deal only with intensifying the digitalisation of already existing analogue contents but shall also encourage everyone who will want to participate with their contributions in creating the portal Sistory to archive and use modern contents in digital form. Here, we are also referring to different historical institutions and to individuals who we have already encouraged and still plan to encourage to take part. Our work and our concern will not only be dedicated to the digitalisation and presentation of the material but we shall also continually encourage the work on the History Citation Index, which, taking into account the nature and the result of the work, presents a sort of a second part of the portal. But, we shall address this issue a little later.

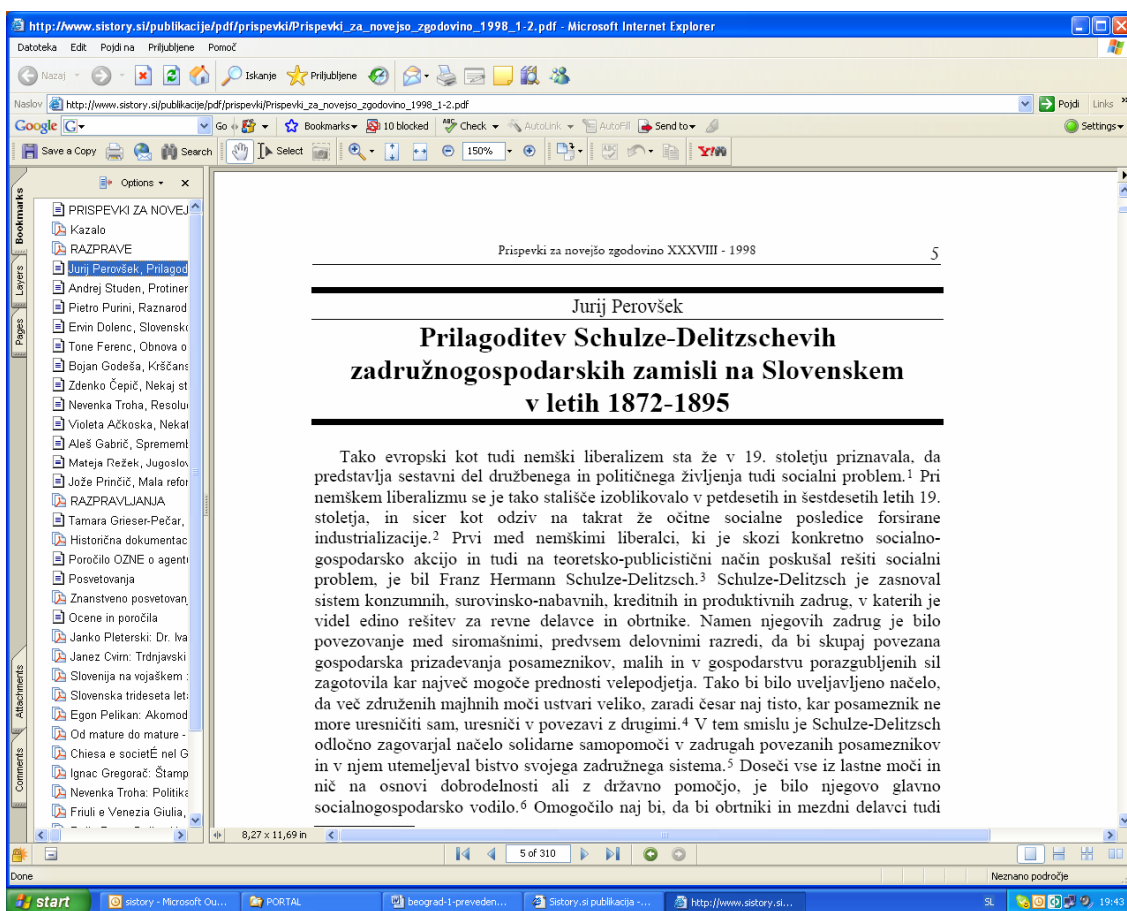


<sup>10</sup> The financier SRDA assigned the programme in the first and the second tender one FTE, which means a gainful employment for one researcher while other co-workers are external ones and paid from material costs.

<sup>11</sup> In the long-term plan, which depends on the allocation of material resources, we also wish to begin with the processing and publishing of the archival resources.

Let us begin by presenting the situation in the field of the digitalisation<sup>12</sup> and presentation of the historical and historiographic material on the Sistory portal by individual sets.

**I. Literature.** 1. Within the Serial publication subset there are currently published all years or numbers of two of the leading Slovenian publications: "Zgodovinski časopis" (Historical Newspaper) (since 1947), the publication of which was allowed by the Faculty of Arts, University of Ljubljana, and "Prispevki za novejšo zgodovino" (Contributions for Recent History) (since 1957), which is published by the IRH. Another serial publication is also available named "Zgodovina za vse" (History for Everyone), that is, a magazine of the Historical Society of Celje.



The following magazines are in the stage of digitalisation; the magazine "Borec" (The Combatant), which is published by Društvo za proučevanje zgodovine, antropologije in književnost (Association for examining history, anthropology and literature) as well as "Časopis za zgodovino in narodopisje" (Review for History and Ethnography), a publication by the University Library of Maribor (since 1904!) and because of the successful establishment of contacts and productive cooperation in the following weeks on the Sistory portal a place shall also be found, together with the already mentioned publications, for publications named "Arhivi" (Archives) and "Viri" (Resources), magazines, which are published by the Archival Association of Slovenia and a few journals, the publication of which was allowed by

<sup>12</sup> The material shall be scanned when necessary, taking into account the original, in black-and-white technique, in grey shades or in colour. All the scanned material is recorded on microfilms.

Slovenian museums and associations.<sup>13</sup> The so-called super-connections are also in the preparation stage, which in our case means even easier and faster access. Namely, the user will not be obliged to open the texts of a single publication but will be able to select the desired article already in the index standing next to the name, year and the number of the single publication.

2. In the E-forms subset it is necessary to expose the digital version of the monograph or the historical analyses from the Middle Ages until today, which was published in the Slovenian and English language (*Zgodovina Slovenije/History of Slovenia*) by three authors, acknowledged Slovenian professors (Prof. Vasko Simoniti, Ph.D., Prof. Peter Štih, Ph.D., and Prof. Peter Vodopivec, Ph.D.).

3. In the future the users shall be able to also read monographs and digitalised manuscripts (diploma thesis, doctoral dissertations and similar) on different periods of Slovenian history.

**II. Sources.** 1. In the Issued Resources subset the following material is available for users: official documents between 1918 and 1955,<sup>14</sup> a collection named "Dokumenti ljudske revolucije v Sloveniji" (Documents of the People's Revolution in Slovenia) (seven books issued by the Institute between 1962 and 1989),<sup>15</sup> in which were published the most significant documents of the Communist Party of Slovenia, the Liberation Front of the Slovenian people and other organisations as well as institutions of the Resistance and the revolution from March 1941 until July 1943, "Krajevni repertoriji" (Local Repertories) (for the Kranjska and Štajerska region), which were released in the individual countries of Austria-Hungary and based on the population census provided information on the population of cities as well as "Krajevni leksikon Dravske banovine" (Local Lexicon of the Drava Banovina) from the year 1937.

2. In the Oral history subset the visitor may use the available link for becoming acquainted with the European resistance archive (ERA), namely, its co-workers are also the researchers of our Institute. ERA clearly reveals the Resistance Movement from different national perspectives, while enabling the comparison of single national specificities at the same time. The Archive was established based on the video interviews and testimonials of the active players of the Resistance Movement from different European geographical areas.

3. In the Sources subset visitors may also find access to the list of names or the database named Number of fatalities in the population of the Republic of Slovenia during the Second World War in the period immediately after its end. The basis for establishing and updating this database is represented by a list, which is being generated at the IRH within the framework of scientifically based historiographic research ever since 1997 especially devoted to delivering the mail to casualties and includes 95,000 individuals who lost their lives in different circumstances during the Second World War or in the period immediately after its end (April 1941-January 1946).<sup>16</sup> The present on-line list in this text currently contains a little

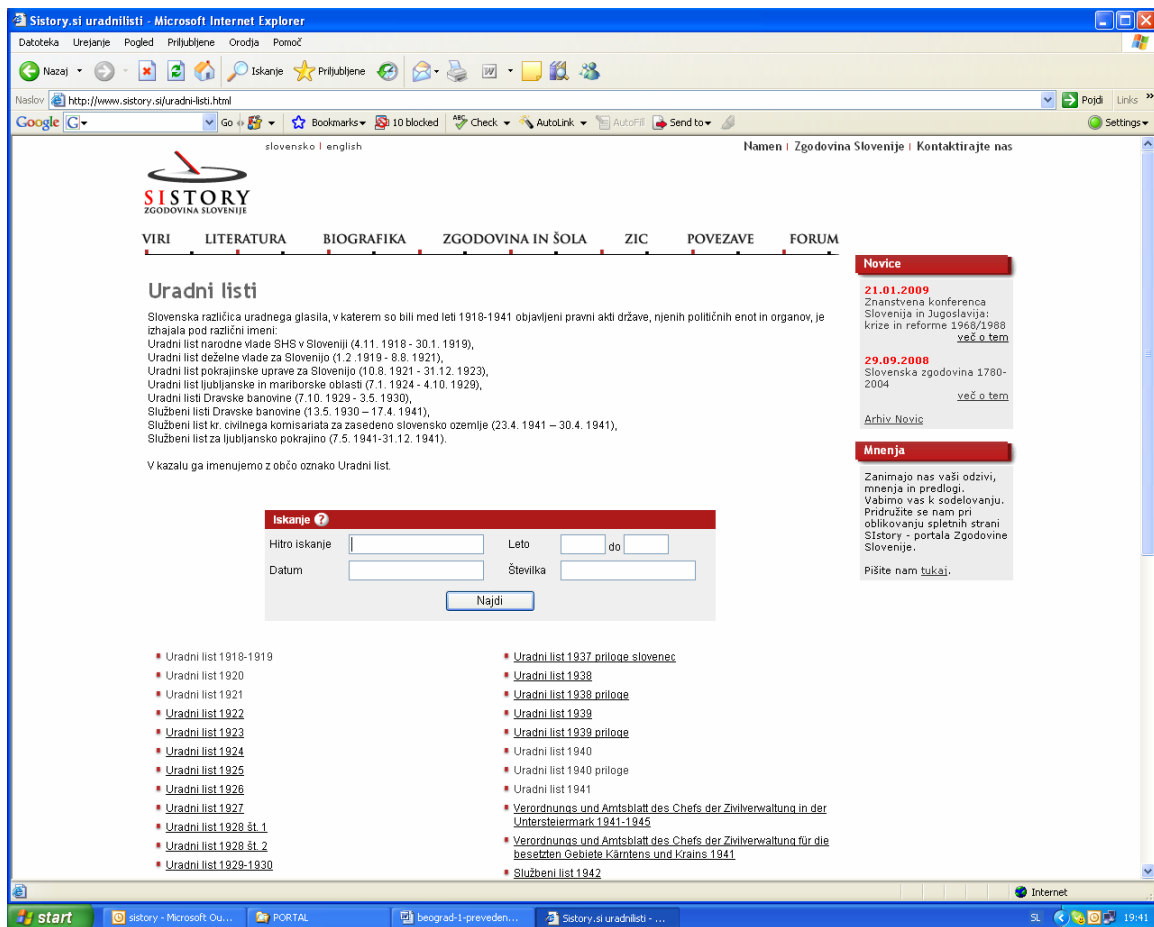
<sup>13</sup> Individual institutions addressed the IRH, which not only agree with the digitalisation and the publication of their material on the SIStory portal but are even grateful to us for that (Archives of the Republic of Slovenia, Institute for Slovenian Emigration Studies and others) so that we intend to continue with all phases of work as soon as SRDA approves the material costs.

<sup>14</sup> This area indicates cooperation with the Österreichische Nationalbibliothek, more specifically the ALEX - Historische Rechts- und Gesetzestexte Online.

<sup>15</sup> Since 2001 these have been issued by the Archives of the Republic of Slovenia under the title "Dokumenti organov in organizacij narodnoosvobodilnega gibanja v Sloveniji" (Documents of Constituent Bodies and Organisations of the National Liberation Movement in Slovenia). The permit for digitalisation and publication has already been obtained.

<sup>16</sup> The list is geographically limited to the area of the Republic of Slovenia and is taking into account persons having the right to a place of living in this area in the Second World War.

more than 16,000 individuals<sup>17</sup> because it includes only persons, whose data were double-checked in official records before their transfer from the central database.



At end of the 1980s and especially in the beginning of the 1990s there was an interest present in Slovenia in the critical scientific processing of the issue of the Second World War fatalities and postwar killings.<sup>18</sup> A publicly available database, which was actually created according to scientific criteria, represents a contribution for the scientific evaluation of the Second World War in our country. At the same time this is also a list containing a moral and ethical meaning: the entitlement of an individual to a grave, which is interesting for a broader public, after all, individuals do have the possibility of getting to know the relatives of their relatives.

**III.** "Primorski slovenski biografski leksikon (Slovenian biographic lexicon of the Primorska region) (all 20 notebooks) is the one currently available in the **Biography** set, which in all the units presents all the deserving persons from the Primorska region. The mentioned units were generated according to the following key: the life and the work of the person as well as the literature containing records on this person.

<sup>17</sup> It includes the opinion of an information commissioner (based on the Personal Data Protection Act and the Information Commissioner Act).

<sup>18</sup> Tadeja Tominšek Rihtar: Imenski seznam žrtev druge svetovne vojne in neposredno po njej (1941-1946). In: Hitlerjeva dolga senca. Nacionalsocialistično državnoterroristično in rasistično preganjanje prebivalcev Slovenije in njegove posledice v Titovi Jugoslaviji. Celovec 2007, pp. 161-173, here 161.

**Sistory.si** zrtve - Microsoft Internet Explorer

http://www.sistory.si/modules.php?name=Publikacije&action=display&op=zrtve&id=2606

stovensko | english

Namen | Zgodovina Slovenije | Kontaktirajte nas

VIRI LITERATURA BIOGRAFIKA ZGODOVINA IN ŠOLA ZIC POVEZAVE FORUM

### Smrtne žrtve med prebivalstvom na območju Republike Slovenije med drugo svetovno vojno in neposredno po njej

PODATKI O OSEBI		PODATKI O SMRTI	
Ime in priimek	Franc Hribar	Datum smrti / izginotja	11.4.1944
Oče	Franc	Kraj smrti / izginotja	Ledine pri Žireh
Mati	Marija	Kraj pokopa	Ledine
Priimek matere	Kosec	Država pokopa	Slovenija
Po domače			
Datum rojstva	2.9.1903	»V zvezi z zbirko podatkov Smrtne žrtve med prebivalstvom na območju Republike Slovenije med drugo svetovno vojno in neposredno po njej nam pišite <a href="#">tukaj</a> «	
Kraj rojstva	Koseze		
Kraj bivanja	Koseze		
Stara občina	Vodice		
Nova občina	Vodice		
Pokrajina	Gorenjska		
Zakonski stan	poročen		
Poklic (soc. status)	tesar		
Narodnost	Slovenec		
Spol	Moški		

**Novice**

**21.01.2009**  
Znanstvena konferenca Slovenija in Jugoslavija: krize in reforme 1969/1988 [več o tem](#)

**29.09.2008**  
Slovenska zgodovina 1780-2004 [več o tem](#)

[Arhiv Novic](#)

**Mnenja**

Zanimajo nas vaši odzivi, mnenja in predlogi. Vabimo vas k sodelovanju. Pridružite se nam pri oblikovanju spletnih strani Sistory - portala Zgodovine Slovenije.

Pišite nam [tukaj](#).

Raziskovalno infrastrukturo Slovenskega zgodovinopisja (Sistory - Zgodovina Slovenije) je financirala Agencija za raziskovalno dejavnost Republike Slovenije iz državnega proračuna (št. IP 100.700)

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**IV.** The set named **History and school** currently contains only an active page named School textbooks, which offers 46 historical textbooks and atlases. We also expect to activate a web page, which is primarily intended for the pupils of primary school (the homepage, made in the form of an interactive illustration, was already generated) in the beginning of the following school year.

The pupils and students will be able to use individual thematic subsets (post, telephone, footwear, nutrition etc.) for getting to know the recent history or the everyday life of their parents and their ancestors and doing so they will be able to expand the perception of history or more specifically the historical memory. They will be able to check their knowledge by solving interactive crossword puzzles and tasks and the corresponding instructions at three different levels, which shall help them in the implementation of their own seminar papers, shall be able to lead these pupils into the world of »young researchers«. One of our ideas was to use the principle of transferring the knowledge and the experience for bringing the work of the peers closer to the pupils, especially to those pleased and interested in history, which is also why we have acquired the right for the digitalisation and the publication of historical compositions written by pupils every year on different subjects, and are represented under the sponsorship of the Slovenian Association of Friends of Youth.

The material, which shall be published in this set, is very distinctive and that is why we have decided to generate a photo-gallery with the presentation of the image material, gathered from all the compositions. This page shall also be enriched with audio records and film material (short films, sections from single films and advertisements) that we have selected in the Slovenian Film Archives of the Archives of the Republic of Slovenia. In addition to the

above, we are currently negotiating with the Slovenian Film Archives for acquiring the copyrights for its publication on the Internet.

V. The following set, which is available on the Sistory portal, is the so-called **History Citation Index (ZIC)**. ZIC represents an attempt to establish a citation base, which is adapted to humanism because it covers the list of citations from all Slovenian scientific historical publications: from newspapers, magazines and journals, as well as from scientific monographs.<sup>19</sup> Initially, we entered only citations of researchers from the institute of origin into the ZIC and since we are open to suggestions and cooperation, we are currently doing this also for researchers from other institutions who show an interest.

ZIC enables the conducting of research on two different levels. In the case of a basic research we can select the searched for request of the examined terms in the index: we can search according to the author of the work, title of the work, author of the cited work, title of the cited work and according to the title of the source, where the work was published.

More complex or more advanced research provides for a combined search according to the more searched for requests and, furthermore, it also offers additional possibilities for limiting the search results (the year of issue, self-citation and similar).

<sup>19</sup> Namely, the existing system of citation has some deficiencies. It excludes monographs or does not take into account the number of citations in them and by that fails to reveal the real state of historical and humanist research.



To conclude, let us briefly mention the **Links** and **Forum** sets. The first set represents links to the main research and education institutions and institutes, associations, national committees or boards in the field of Slovenian historiography. The purpose of the Forum was to create the already mentioned plan of interactivating the portal or providing an opportunity for the participation of all users – participation in creating the web page. The users shall be informed on all the news on the Sistory portal as well as on different important events via News.

The Sistory portal, which was designed in a Slovenian and English version,<sup>20</sup> is practically still in its infancy, however, in addition to that it already represents a relatively wide variety of contents. The desire of the creators of this portal is to make this portal the central information service on Slovenian history and historiography in the future. We hope that the verified contents, which are and will be available at the portal, will be publicly available to all who wish to get to know the historical and historiographic material via an adequate analytical system and the corresponding scientific apparatus and that it shall also attract research and educational staff in different disciplines, both domestic and foreign and at the same time also challenge the interest of the lay public.

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<sup>20</sup> Currently, in the English version of the portal there is available only the English translation, located in the appendix of the already mentioned monograph "Zgodovina Slovenije" (The History of Slovenia) (which includes almost 1000 pages), but soon we shall also make a step forward in the sense of the internationalisation of the web page. We shall also manually copy all the summaries in the foreign language from all the (on the portal already published) texts and publish them in the English version of the page.

**Moјca Šorn**

Институт за новејшо згодино  
Љубљана, Словенија

**SISTORY – ИНТЕРНЕТ ПОРТАЛ  
СЛОВЕНАЧКЕ ИСТОРИОГРАФИЈЕ**

На Институту за новију историју у Љубљани од 2006. године покренут је програм истраживачке инфраструктуре, у склопу којег се развија и портал Sistory – образовни и истраживачки портал словеначке историографије који је за јавност отворен крајем 2008. године. Преносом старије – па и модерне историјске и историографске грађе – у нов медијски и технолошки облик, намеравамо да се побринемо за очување културне баштине, чији део је и поменута грађа, а истовремено желимо раширити и продужити њену релевантност. Портал, који има широк избор садржаја, омогућава употребу и историчарима при њиховом истраживачком раду, и истраживачима других дисциплина односно заинтересованој јавности, како на локалном и националном, тако и на међународном нивоу.

[mojca.sorn@inz.si](mailto:mojca.sorn@inz.si)