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DIGITIZATION OF THE JOURNAL "POVELJA 1971–2020"

Abstract. The topic of this paper is the project fulfillment process of digitization of "Povelja" journal, issued by the Public Library "Stefan Prvovenčani" in Kraljevo. This, according to the public opinion in literature, is one of the most important domestic literature journals, which has constantly been issued since 1971. The project "Digitization of the journal Povelja 1971–2020" was implemented within the projects in the field of the cultural heritage and contemporary artwork digitization. It was supported and co-financed by the Ministry of Culture and Information of the Republic of Serbia. The content of the journal was converted from the paper copies to e-texts. All the issues of the journal were scanned chronologically, starting from the first publication in 1971. The given content, in electronic form, was submitted to the process of digitization, i.e. program processing which enables searching of the journal issues according to the specific references (the name of the author, year, notebook/number). This content is uploaded to the web site of the Public Library "Stefan Prvovencani" in order to be available for the broad readership. All the articles of the journal were analytically processed in the collaborative online bibliographic system and service – COBISS.
Keywords. Povelja, journal, digitization, digital humanities, the Public Library "Stefan Prvovenčani" Kraljevo

About the Journal

The first issue of "Povelja" journal appeared in the spring of 1971 in the publication of the Cultural and Educational Community Kraljevo. It was being published once in a three-month period. Its first editor-in-chief was Strahinja Vojinović. In 1975, the name of the journal was changed into "Povelja Oktobra" (editors Jovan Marković and Radovan Milović), and the journal was published under this name until 1985. Then the Public Library "Stefan Prvovenčani" started the publishing of the journal. By 1997, the journal was coming out once in three month period. During some period it was coming out as a double issue, and today it comes out regularly once in three months. When the Library started publishing it, thanks to the current editor-in-chief, Milan Dacović (1985/1988), the journal became more creative. Both "Povelja" and the Publishing Activity Department of the Library in Kraljevo gained new sparkle starting from 1997, since the poet and critic Dr Dragan Hamović became the editor. The journal was modernized, the concept of the articles was complemented and changed, and literary authors as well as authors already affirmed in their fields became editors. At first, younger local authors were published in "Povelja", then, other affirmed authors, from the whole region, started being published as well.

The journal was created with the aim to follow the domestic poetry and prose works and to provide critic reviews on current editions.

Figure 1. The first issue of the journal "Povelja" from 1971 and the last issue from 2021

With time, "Povelja" was gaining in power, holding its position stronger and more solid on Serbian cultural periodicals map. Each new issue contained the articles of significant authors from all the parts of the ex-Yugoslavia, and now it contains the articles of the authors from Serbia, the region and the whole world. The fact that authors such as Vasko Popa, Branko Ćopić, Ivan V. Lalić, Miodrag Pavlović, Dragan Velikić, Goran Petrović and many others had their works published in "Povelja" proves the undeniable importance of the journal itself.

Today, the journal publishes Serbian and foreign translated literature, the articles in the fields of fine arts, history, philosophy, film, music. The editorial board consists of Dejan Aleksić (editor-in-chief), Živorad Nedeljković and Ana Gvozdenović. Dragan Pešić, full-time professor at the Faculty of Philology and Art in Kragujevac, is responsible for the journal's visual design.

During fifty years of existing, we can say "Povelja" is one of those journals which " has more significance currently than in the moment of appearance".[1]

"The profiling of "Povelja", its aspiration to be open and different from other good journals in Serbian language, its ability to reach to some other disciplines, the ones evaded or skipped by other journals, makes this precious journal worthy of attention each time it appears."[2]

The publication of the journal is financially supported by the Ministry of Culture and Information of the Republic of Serbia, which also proves the publishing quality and the journal's significance as well.

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[1] Dragan Hamović: Full Circle of Povelja, Povelja: journal for literature, art and culture, year XLI No 3, (2011); p. 200.

[2] Vasa Pavkovicć Povelja Among Journals, Povelja: journal for literature, art and culture, year XLI No 3, (2011); p. 196.

The Importance of Digitization

The contemporary reception of literary periodicals is unimaginable without the reach to e-versions of the journals. "Povelja" needed to be modernized, particularly taken into consideration its worth in the aspects of literature, and generally, cultural background. In order to provide long duration for "Povelja", it was necessary to ensure greater e-visibility of the journal. In addition to visibility, it was important to make the journal easily searchable, since for half a century of continuous existence "Povelja" numbers tens of thousands of pages of important literary and scientific texts. The articles are not only related to the field of literature, but also other areas of artistic work, cultural life, cultural and social circumstances that marked the last decades of the last and the first decades of this century.

Fulfillment of the Project and the Procedure of Digitization

The digitization project of the magazine "Povelja" included coordinated work between employees of the Public Library "Stefan Prvovenčani" Kraljevo, IT assistant of this institution, Ivan Spasojević, editors in the Publishing Activity Department, Dejan Aleksić and Ana Gvozdenović, and the Periodicals Department co-workers, Vesna Andrijasević and Ivana Hrenko. The project was being developed in several phases.

The first phase was acquiring all the necessary equipment (computers and network data-saving devices). Hard discs in QNAP are connected in RAID regime (parallel data-saving regime), because of the data-preserving safety and in case any disc is out of work.

The second phase was creating the web application located on the subdomain povelja.kv-biblio.org.rs., and the connection to the official site is through the section E-Povelja. The application was formed in Wordpress. In the mask, whose purpose is to enter data, it is necessary to specify the title of the article, year, notebook number, approximate date of issuing because of chronological synchronization, author, type of the content, language, physical range, UDC and COBISS number. Finally, a document that has already been uploaded to hosting is added.

The third phase was converting the content of the magazine from physical copies into electronic text forms. The work was done chronologically, every issue starting from the first edition in 1971 was scanned. Each page is scanned at a resolution of 300 dots per inch, in JPEG format. All the pages of scanned articles, along with "Povelja" issues that already existed in electronic form (2005-2021), were converted to PDF format and uploaded to the planned hosting to perform further processing. One of the difficulties in the process was the size of the texts obtained in the PDF form. Texts exported from the break programme were of acceptable sizes, from 10-150 kilobytes, but the texts obtained by scanning were too large. The size of these articles was from 10 megabytes, and above, while the whole magazine in total was about 200 megabytes. For articles that are opened online, this figure is too large, because the speed of loading a particular article is one of the important factors in order to keep the reader on the site. The program that gave the best quality-to-size ratio is Abby Fine Reader. With this programme, we obtained texts of about 100 KB in size, while the whole magazine in total was 4-5 MB, which is 50 times less than the previous size. By reducing the size, the speed of opening the articles, connected with those on the host where the site is placed, was better. The content which is obtained was

subjected to programme processing that enables ability to search issues by subject references (author's name, year of publication, number/workbook).
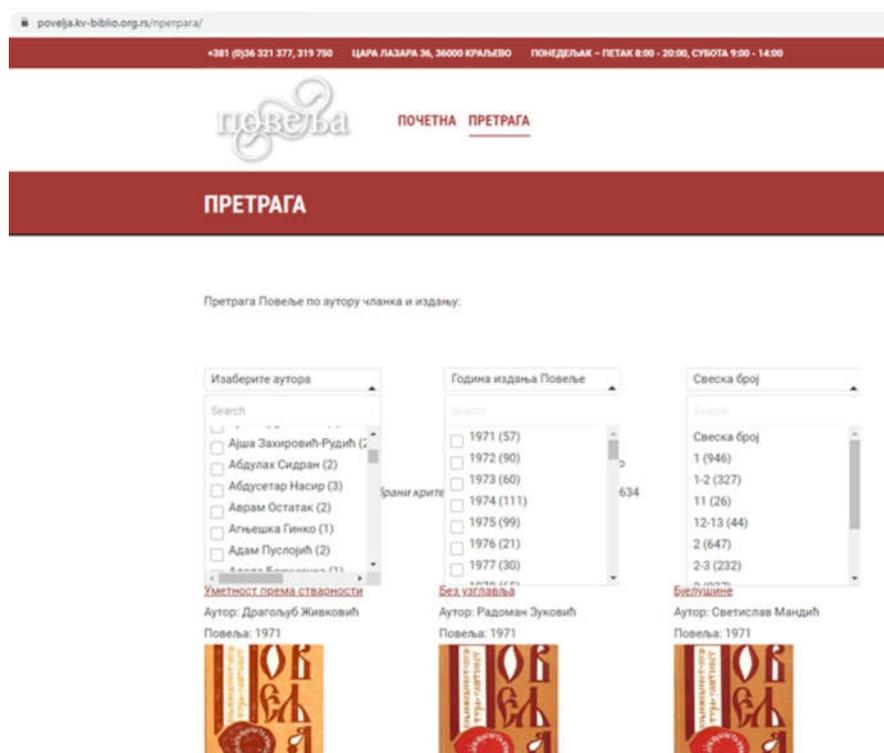

Figure 2. Articles are searchable by subject references (author's name, year of publication, number / workbook)

Analytical Processing

It has always been a challenge for librarians to bring closer the abundance of knowledge, information and useful data, hidden in the journals, newspapers or books, to the users. The way the texts and articles are "presented" to the users in librarianship is called analytical processing[3].

The e-uncatalogued of the Library in Kraljevo is a part of the unique library-information system of Serbia, i.e. unique database of COBISS.SR. The librarians Vesna Andrijasević and Ivana Hrenko, by analytically processing all the articles in the journal "Povelja", enriched this database with hundreds of specific-field-related and diverse information, subject references: thematic, personal, geographical, and those leading the user to the content characteristics of the article. The subject references are very important for searching the e-catalogues, and due to them the topics are easily searchable by keywords.

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[3] Kata Mirić: Analytical Processing of Periodicals in The Library of Matica Srpska, The Library Annual of Matica Srpska, 2005, p. 128.
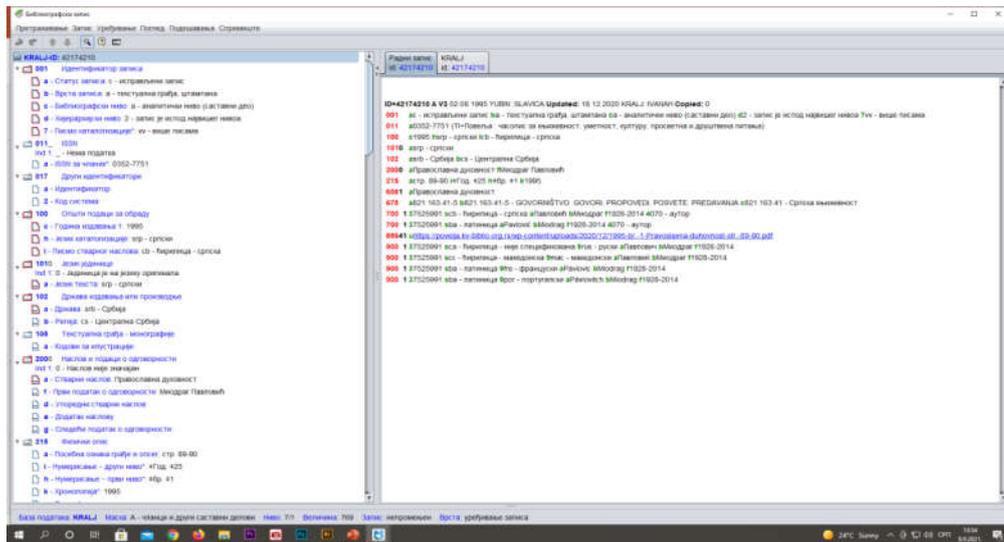
Figure 3. All articles of the magazine "Povelja" are analytically processed in COBISS.SR

In COBISS.SR in each processed "Povelja" article there is a link that directly opens the requested article on the website of the Library in Kraljevo. We created this having in mind that potential users will, above all, search the mutual database in the quest for a requested information And, on the library's website in the e-Povelja section, with each article there is COBISS.SR-ID, which refers to the location of that article in the mutual database. In this way, a parallel processing of articles was conducted and a full circle of possible searches was made. By linking, the texts are available for a broad readership, in both COBISS and the web application

Conclusion

In total, 147 notebooks, 161 issues, 3634 articles were processed in the project "Digitization of the journal Povelja 1971-2020", which sums up approximately 22,000 pages available for search on the website of the Library in Kraljevo, in the e-"Povelja" section.

By digitization of the journal, we have undoubtedly increased the number of visitors to our site. As direct users of this project we refer to all the authors of "Povelja", literary creators, the critics, literary researchers, chroniclers and historians, students, etc. Indirect users include the entire academic public, as well as broad readership. Being digitized "Povelja" becomes available to all of the users and has the ability to be searchable, no matter one has a paper copy or not.

In the Public Library "Stefan Prvovencani" Kraljevo, the process of digitization is to be continued, after this project. All the publications of the Library in Kraljevo will be digitized. Some publications, mostly the most comprehensive ones ("Contemporary Poetry", "Poetry, Today", "Preobraženje", "Izbor", "Essay") have already been scanned. The existing web application needs to be slightly customized, which is already being done, in order that the content could be uploaded, processed and searchable.

Figure 4. All the publications of the Library in Kraljevo will be digitized

Reference

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