

PAPER

Book publishing practices of Croats in Australia: Contribution to the research of Croatian emigrant heritage

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Introduction

The Project Croatian emigrant press has been conducting at the Department of Information and Communication Sciences of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Zagreb since 2018. The main goal of the project is ambitiously planned and implies long-term and continuous researching of the Croatian emigrant press field. The starting point of the project is the compilation of online retrievable bibliographies of all publications of Croatian emigrants at project's publicly accessible web site.

Theoretical framework

The geographical area of Australia and New Zealand was chosen as the starting area for several reasons. Although it is a part of the world very far from Croatia, which creates certain difficulties considering on site research, there were established contacts with scientists from that part of the world, especially from the Macquarie University in Sydney and the Victoria University in Wellington. Furthermore, it was documented in numerous sources (Čizmić 1981; Holjevac 1968; Šutalo 2004; Tkalčević 1992) that these countries have Croatian communities with long tradition, even with the sixth generation of people of Croatian origin. It was extremely important to conduct at least one part of the research within the Croatian community as soon as possible, because there is a justified fear that with the passage of time there will be fewer and fewer Croatian speakers in Australia and New Zealand, and thus fewer and fewer opportunities to "discover" publications which can be included in bibliographies, and which are not stored in libraries or archives, either in Croatia, or in Australia or New Zealand. For this reason, an extremely important part of the project is the establishment and constant cooperation with Croatian emigrants in Australia and New Zealand. Without such cooperation, the work on the project, including creation of bibliographies and digitization, would not be possible. The project is planned to contribute to the research in the field of social sciences and humanities, as well as to the interests of the general public. Bibliographies and digitized publications, can serve as a kind of infrastructure starting point for further studies of Croatian emigration, i.e. getting to know the history, linguistic features, traditions, information needs and other past and current circumstances of Croatian emigrants in different parts of the world. In addition, as part of the project itself, various researches are carried out, especially on publishing practices (Hebrang Grgić and Barbarić 2021) and communication models (Hebrang Grgić and Barbarić 2020) of Croatian emigrant communities in Australia and New Zealand. In this paper the publishing practices of selected book publishers will be presented.

Research questions

A bibliography of books by Australian Croats was made as part of the Project Croatian emigrant press. The paper brings an analysis of the books listed in the bibliography according to different parameters. It will be determined where the books listed in the bibliography are available. Are

they available in libraries or archives in Australia? How many of them are available in Croatia, especially in the Croatica Collection in the National and University Library in Zagreb? How many are in private collections of Australian Croats, and how many are in collections of the Croatian Catholic Centers in Australia? Types of publishers will be analysed and a phenomenon of self-publishing will be presented and explained. For the self-published books, features such as language of publication, place of publication, year of publication, number of authors or editors, and type of work or genre will be analysed.

Methodology

A bibliometric analysis will be conducted based on the bibliography of books. The bibliography is produced and can be searched in the Koha library software. A statistical method will be used on the MARC 21 format fields.

Conclusion

Based on the analysis, the features of one segment of the publishing activities of Croatian emigrants will be pointed out. Concern for the Croatian emigrant press, from acquisition, storage, preservation to ensuring access to publications, is an important task of Croatian heritage institutions, especially libraries. As there are numerous obstacles in achieving this task, the paper will end with a brief overview of the results of the Project Croatian emigrant press. The project contributes to the welfare of the Croatian emigrant community by cataloguing, ensuring availability and studying emigrant publications.

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