

Background of ERIH PLUS: The Concept of ERIH

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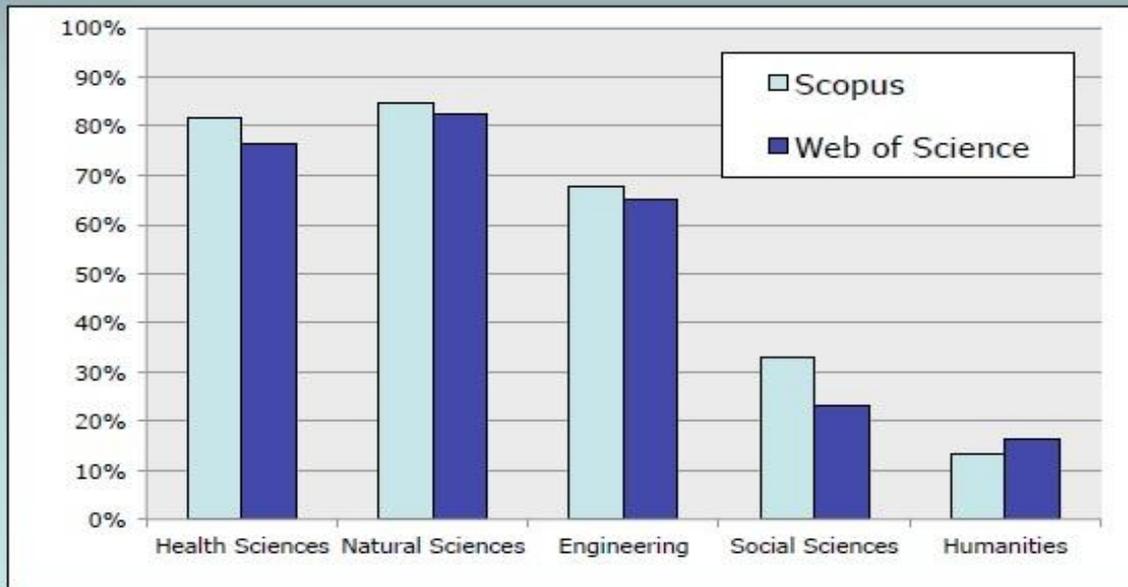
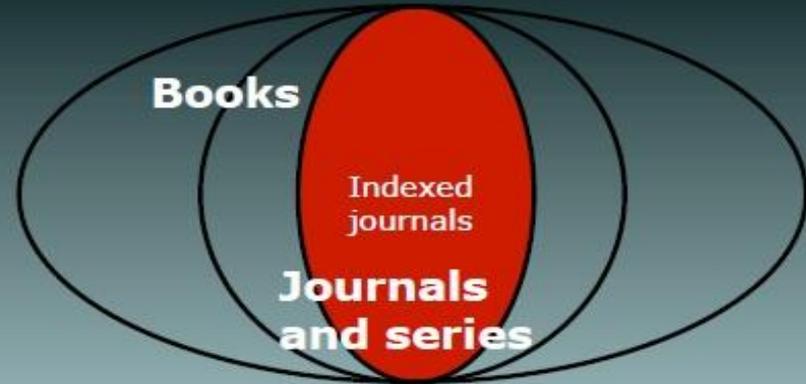
**Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts,
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The Challenge of **Visibility** and **Evaluation** in the Humanities and Social Sciences

- during the last decades lively discussion on two interlinked issues:
- how to enhance the **visibility** of research outputs in the Humanities
 - how to set up **evaluation systems** for the Humanities – systems which would reflect the specific nature of their research outputs

- attempts to deal with these issues in Humanities research on basis of databases, such as WoS, SCOPUS, etc. found lacking because of the specific nature of research in the Humanities reflected in specific outputs



- specific nature of Humanities research reflected in a number of characteristics
 - publication of articles, books, etc. in **national languages**
 - importance of **monographs**, chapters in monographs, etc.
 - necessity to include “**collections**” such as revised editions, collections of data, etc.

Well-known European attempt in enhancing the
visibility of

Humanities research is the
**European Reference Index
for the Humanities – ERIH**

- in order to deal with diverse nature of Humanities research, the ESF, namely Standing Committee for the Humanities (SCH) in 2001 launches ERIH – **European Reference Index for the Humanities**
- main aim of ERIH – to enhance the **global visibility** of high-quality research in the Humanities published in academic journals **in various European languages across all of Europe**

Initial Lists 2007/2008

Anthropology, Archeology, Art and Art History,
Classical Studies, Gender Studies, History and
Philosophy of Science, Linguistics, Literature,
Musicology, Oriental and African Studies,
Pedagogical and Educational Research, Philosophy,
Psychology, Religious Studies and Theology

Major changes in ERIH

Namely, the Initial Lists published in 2007/2008 categorized journals into **A, B, C** according to the following “definitions”:

Category A: high-ranking international journals with high visibility that are regularly cited all over the world and have a very strong reputation among researchers in different countries

Category B: standard international journals with significant visibility and influence in the various research domains in different countries

Category C: high-ranking national or regional journals with recognized scholarly significance

The ERIH Steering Committee considered feedback on the **A, B, C** Category names, which were primarily perceived as **a ranking**, and in order to avoid **misuses** introduced new category names as well as giving national journals major prominence.

The definitions, whose main purpose was to clarify issues, are:

- **National Journals – NAT**: European publications with a recognized scholarly significance among researchers in the respective research domains in a particular (mostly linguistically circumscribed) readership in Europe.
- **International Journals – INT1** and **INT2**: both European and non-European publications with an internationally recognized scholarly significance among researchers in the respective research domains, and which are regularly cited worldwide

Revised Lists published in 2011 and 2012 with warning:

„More specifically it **is not intended as bibliometric information** for use in assessment processes of individual candidates, be it for positions, promotions, research grant awards, etc.”

(<https://www2.esf.org/asp/ERIH/Foreword/index.asp>)

The Future of ERIH

On March 31, **2010** a meeting was held in Brussels on the Future of ERIH

- representatives of 26 Member Organizations
- Chairs of SCH and SCSS
- Marc Heppener, ESF's Director of Science and Strategy Development

As conclusion of the meeting, it was decided to set up a small working group to provide a short report with recommendations on the **larger issues:**

Istvan Kenesei (Hungary), Pascal Perrin (Belgium), Nigel Vincent (UK), Gunnar Siversten (Norway – Chair), Sir Roderick Floud (Chair of SCSS), Milena Žic Fuchs (Chair of SCH), Marc Heppener (Director of Science and Strategy Development), Nina Kancewicz-Hoffman (Head of Humanities Unit of ESF), Balazs Kiss (Head of Social Sciences Unit of ESF)

**“Towards comprehensive bibliographic
coverage of the scholarly literatures in the
Humanities and Social Sciences”
Report from a working group**

Build a European *bibliographic* database in order to increase the visibility of Humanities (and Social Sciences) research outputs

- build an all-encompassing database which would reflect the true diversity and richness of European SSH research
 - **visibility of European SSH research**
- go from national databases to a European-level database
 - synchronization of existing databases and setting standards for „new” ones
 - creation of a central coordination of national organizations for the establishment of standardized rules to ensure full comparability of nationally provided data
 - central coordination ↔ national databases

Why a bibliographic approach?

- produce new synergy in research, connect scholars within disciplines and across disciplines throughout Europe
- give insights to researchers from different domains, open up avenues for collaboration between domains, and pave the way for multi- and transdisciplinarity, especially connected to the so-called Grand Challenges
- make visible European research at global level, especially necessary for addressing major issues within SSH disciplines themselves, but also issues pertaining to wider topics

- With the winding down of the ESF the future of ERIH became a primary concern
- Future maintenance of ERIH and its development has been taken over by the NSD (*Norwegian Social Science Data Services*) in Bergen, Norway
- Science Review Group for the Humanities on April 5th, 2013 takes decision that all categories in ERIH be discontinued
 - aim to ensure ERIH as a **visibility** mechanism

- On the basis of this ‘history’
ERIH PLUS was born



THANK YOU!