

# Our »Collegium Antropologicum« Officially the Most Improved Social Science Journal in the World for mid-2002

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## ABSTRACT

Thomson ISI®'s bimonthly web-product *ISI Essential Science Indicators (ESI)* is an in-depth analytical tool that regularly reports quantitative analyses of research performance and science trends, covering about 8,500 scientific journals from the entire world. In each issue *ESI* lists the scientists, institutions, countries and journals that are most improved from one update to the next, i.e. that show the largest percentage increase in total citations. In its edition of January 2003, it reported that our »Collegium Antropologicum« was the most improved journal in the field of Social Sciences during the period from July 2002 to September 2002. The field of Social Sciences is one of 22 categories of science regularly analyzed by *ESI*. It includes anthropology, public health, sociology, social work and policy, political science, law, education, communication, library and information sciences, environmental studies and rehabilitation. Due to journal's success, which is based on publications of predominantly Croatian scientists within the past seven post-war years, Croatia was also officially the most improved among more than 200 countries, and University of Zagreb was the most improved in the field of Social Science among thousands of other institutions. We hope that this is an early sign of revival of the scientific activity in our country after the War in Croatia (1991–1995).

**Key words:** library and information sciences, social sciences, citations, scientific journals, *Collegium Antropologicum*, Croatia

As we celebrate the 27<sup>th</sup> volume in as many years of existence, we are happy to inform the members of our Editorial Board, Editorial Council, Consulting Editors, reviewers and entire readership that our journal has been officially announced the most improved Social Science journal in the world for the period between July and September 2002 according to Thomson ISI<sup>®</sup>'s bimonthly web-product »ISI Essential Science Indicators«.

»Collegium Antropologicum« was founded on the occasion of the First Congress of European Anthropologists held in Zagreb in 1977. Throughout the journal's lifetime, the founders and co-editors Hubert Maver and Pavao Rudan struggled to preserve journal's highly multidisciplinary orientation and to welcome holistic approaches in analyses of new problems and challenges during the period of an unprecedented advancement of the world science and its disciplines. This editorial policy did not follow the widespread emergence of narrowly specialized journals throughout the same period, thus occasionally leading to some scepticism and criticism within the local scientific community.

The war in Croatia (1991–1995) faced the editors with even bigger challenge of trying to ensure the mere survival of the journal. Even during those years, we are happy to say that we were never short of good quality contributions submitted for publication by both local and international scientists, as the manifestation of their friendship and support to us during those very hard and dangerous times. Also, regardless of the difficulties, even in those times we tried to remain more interested in content than in the form of the submissions, flexibly allowing wide range of publication formats and placing little restrictions on products of authors' original creative drive.

After the war, two very young and enthusiastic secretaries (Igor Rudan and

Tatjana Škarić-Jurić) took up the task of managing the formal technicalities needed to regularly publish the journal. They were always supported by large experience of editors-in-chief Hubert Maver and Pavao Rudan and greatly helped by extremely efficient LaserPlus Ltd publishers led by Mr Branko Cindro. Together, they all managed to steadily increase the number of quality submissions, decrease response time and ensure timely publication of journal's issues with nearly flawless text editing. This all contributed to the fact that today, seven years after the war, our journal is announced the most improved in the world in its field of science ([http://www.in-cites.com/most\\_imp/january2003.html](http://www.in-cites.com/most_imp/january2003.html)). To us, this is the first sign that we managed to survive the hardship brought to us by war and scientific isolation. Hopefully, we should now begin to look ahead with a degree of optimism.

And now, several facts about what this achievement really means. For the past 45 years, Thomson ISI<sup>®</sup> (founded as the Institute for Scientific Information<sup>®</sup>) has been the principal institution that recorded and analyzed the work of over seven million researchers in the world, making their results accessible to themselves and to the public. Founded by Dr Eugene Garfield, it is presently headquartered in the Philadelphia's University. The organization currently employs more than 850 persons worldwide. It is owned and governed by The Thomson Corporation, a global leader in providing integrated information solutions to business and professional customers. Thomson ISI<sup>®</sup>'s bimonthly web-product ISI Essential Science Indicators (ESI) is an in-depth analytical tool that regularly reports quantitative analyses of research performance and science trends, covering about 8,500 scientific journals from the entire world and publishing their official impact factors.

In each issue ESI lists the scientists, institutions, countries and journals that

mostly improved from one update to the next, i.e. that show the largest percentage increase in total citations. In its edition of January 2003, it reported that our »Collegium Antropologicum« was the most improved journal in the world in the category of Social Sciences during the period from July 2002 to September 2002 ([http://www.in-cites.com/most\\_imp/january2003.html](http://www.in-cites.com/most_imp/january2003.html)). The category of Social Sciences is one of 22 categories of science regularly covered by ISI/ESI. Other 21 fields include Agricultural Sciences, Biology and Biochemistry, Chemistry, Clinical Medicine, Computer Science, Economics and Business, Engineering, Environment/Ecology, Geosciences, Immunology, Materials Science, Mathematics, Microbiology, Molecular Biology and Genetics, Multidisciplinary, Neuroscience and Behavior, Pharmacology and Toxicology, Physics, Plant and Animal Science and Psychiatry/Psychology. The category of Social Sciences is defined as including Anthropology, Public Health, Sociology, Social Work and Policy, Political Science, Law, Education, Communication, Library and Information Sci-

ences, Environmental Studies and Rehabilitation.

Due to journal's success, which is based on publications of predominantly Croatian scientists within the past seven post-war years, Croatia was also officially the most improved country among more than 200 world countries in the respective category and time period. Similarly, the University of Zagreb was officially the most improved institution in the category of Social Science among thousands of institutions. We also want to point out that within the past two years Croatia has already been reported the most improved country in the world in the category of Computer Science (for the period April–June 2001), then Neuroscience and Behavior (October–December 2001), Materials Science (February–April 2002) and Psychiatry/Psychology (October–December 2002). We remain hopeful that these are all early signs of revival of the scientific activity in our country in wider context, and that it will soon be followed with similar results by Croatian scientists in other categories of science.

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**NAŠ »COLLEGIUM ANTROPOLOGICUM« SLUŽBENO  
NAJUZNAPREDOVALJI ZNANSTVENI ČASOPIS NA SVIJETU  
U KATEGORIJI DRUŠTVENIH ZNANOSTI ZA RAZDOBLJE  
SREDINE 2002. GODINE**

**S A Ž E T A K**

Thomson ISI®-jev dvomjesečni internet proizvod »ISI Essential Science Indicators (ESI)« je temeljito analitičko sredstvo koje redovito provodi kvantitativne analize uspješnosti i odjeka znanstvenog rada te znanstvenih trendova, pokrivajući pritom oko

8.500 znanstvenih časopisa iz čitavog svijeta. U svakom izdanju ESI navodi rang-liste znanstvenika, institucija, država i časopisa koji su najviše napredovali u razdobljima između izvještaja, tj. koji pokazuju najveći relativni (postotni) porast u ukupnom broju citata. U svojem izdanju od siječnja 2003., ESI je proglasio naš »Collegium Antropologicum« najviše uznapredovalim znanstvenim časopisom u kategoriji društvenih znanosti za razdoblje od srpnja do rujna 2002. godine. Kategorija društvenih znanosti je jedna od 22 područja znanosti koje ESI redovito analizira. Kategorija uključuje sljedeća znanstvena polja: antropologiju, javno zdravstvo, sociologiju, socijalni rad i politiku, političke znanosti, pravo, izobrazbu, komunikologiju, knjižničke i informacijske znanosti, istraživanja okoliša i rehabilitaciju. Zahvaljujući uspjehu časopisa, koji se temelji na objavljenim radovima pretežito hrvatskih znanstvenika tijekom proteklih sedam poslijeratnih godina, Republika Hrvatska je također službeno proglašena najuznapredovalijom među više od 200 država, a Sveučilište u Zagrebu najuznapredovalijim među više tisuća institucija u području socijalnih znanosti. Nadamo se kako je ovo jedan od ranih znakova oživljavanja znanstvene aktivnosti u Republici Hrvatskoj nakon stagnacije tijekom nametnutog rata (1991–1995).