

Journals from the Field of Dental Medicine in available Databases with Full-text: Uniform Content and Technology

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Summary

Electronic journals have become an indispensable source of scientific information. Their advantage compared to the printed journals is that they are available to all interested users at the same time, before the printed version, and are not necessarily tied to the location of the library. As one of the fundamental roles of the librarian during the process of dissemination of scientific and professional information is to guarantee users the information they need and when they need it, librarians endeavour to inform users of available electronic sources. The aim of this study was to systematise journals from the field of dental medicine by a review of the journals accessible to the Croatian academic community in databases of articles in full-text in the National and University Library, and the libraries of scientific institutions and faculties, which are incorporated in sub-systems of the System of Scientific Information. Twenty-six journals were selected from the field of dental medicine in aggregated databases of EBSCO Publishing, and the following chosen from the databases of the publisher: 7 titles of Kluwer Academic Publishing, 15 of Elsevier Science, 12 of Springer Verlag and 2 of John Wiley & Sons.

Key words: journals from the field of dental medicine, databases with full articles

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Introduction

Dental medicine is developing as a science and profession at increasing speed, and libraries must follow this change and enable faster and better access to the latest research results.

The question of the acquisition of scientific journals for such a relatively small scientific group as in Croatia is more complicated than in large

groups, as the criteria for acquisition of a journal are not the needs and right of scientists to scientific information, but are the criteria of acquisition dependent on the level of the budget. The purchase of printed journals frequently leads to the "privilege" that the institution which receives the printed title also has the right to its electronic version. Such facts prompted coordinated acquisition and the formation of consortiums (a group

of several libraries which work together to solve mutual problems; http://knjiznica.irb.hr/hrv/o_ecasopisima.html) with the object acquiring journals in printed form and consortium versions of electronic journals, for available budget resources, while taking into consideration the economic situation in Croatia. Thus enabling access to scientific information, through the library, for all scientists under the same conditions (1).

There are various types of consortiums for electronic sources in the world. In America for example there are more than 100 large consortiums, which incorporate university libraries (particularly in the last five years) (2).

The term electronic journal is understood to mean a journal which is available through the Internet, regardless of whether it is only published in digital form or is an electronic version of the printed journal. The advantages of electronic journals are: availability, regardless of the time and place, speed of publishing studies, link between citation in the article and original studies in full-text and communication between scientists.

The format of the presented texts of electronic journals are in HTML (Hyper Text Markup Language) - which enables cross connecting of articles in the list of literature with source texts and PDF (Portable Document Format).

Over the last few years there has been increase in the use of electronic journals. Access to electronic journals with full articles is enabled in aggregated databases (databases with journals of several publishers) and the databases of publishers who only offer online access to their own journals.

Publishers of electronic journals endeavour to be distinguishable by the collection of journals and method of presentation of articles which they offer the scientific community, and also according to the functionality of the tools for article searching. However, users of libraries search for all journals on a particular theme regardless of the publisher (1). This problem can be solved by utilising so-called "linking tools" (SourceLink, Link Solver, Link Finder etc.) which ensure link between bibliographic data bases (e.g. MED-

LINE) and e-journals with articles in full-text, and in this way enable uniformity of content and technology.

Following CrossRef, which links the cited articles in a list of literature with source articles, publishers developed a software solution which links bibliographic databases with collections of articles with full-text. This "service" is accessible to the Croatian academic community on EBSCO platform. LinkSource links the results of searching MEDLINE (bibliographic units) with source articles in collections of electronic journals for which the right of use exists.

Electronic sources have become an indispensable source of scientific information, and librarians are therefore attempting to systematise them in order to ensure simple and safe access to these sources for their users.

Users of the National and University Library (3) and the libraries of scientific institutions and faculties, which are included in the sub-systems of the System of Scientific Information (4) have free access to journals with full articles in the databases analysed in this study, in accordance with licence agreements (http://knjiznica.irb.hr/hrv/o_ecasopisima.html).

The study was carried out at the beginning of 2004 in the databases of four publishers (Elsevier Science, Springer Verlag, J. Wiley & Sons and Kluwer), and databases of EBSCO Publishing, whose subscription was covered by the Ministry of Science and Technology during 2001 - 2003.

Method

In order to determine which electronic journals with full articles from the field of dental medicine are accessible to the Croatian academic community their identification and selection was done in the following databases: EBSCO Publishing (base Academic Search Premier and Health Source: Nursing/Academic Edition), Kluwer Journals, ScienceDirect, Springer Link and Wiley InterScience.

Journals on interesting fields for the dentist were identified and selected in each of the above

databases, with verification of the beginning of the accessibility of the whole text. Criteria for the selection were journals with articles on the narrower or wider field of the dental profession.

Control of the selected journals according to the fields and publishers was carried out in Ulrich's Periodical Directory (5).

Results

EBSCO Publishing

In the collections of EBSCO electronic journals (6-7) journals on dental medicine are located in the bases of Academic Search Premier (ASP) (covers more than 4000 "full-text" primary journals from all fields of science) and Health Source: Nursing/Academic Edition (HSN) (covers more than 600 "full-text" primary journals from the field of biomedicine). EBSCO Publishing is an aggregated database which contains journals of a larger number of publishers. Data on the selected journals from the field of dental medicine of EBSCO Publishing are presented in Table 1. The publisher and period of accessibility of full articles is marked beside each journal. The last column gives the publisher's "embargo", which shows how much each publisher has restricted use of full articles. Access is usually restricted to a period of 12 months. EBSCO Publishing informs users of all changes which indicate new titles or changes in conditions of use.

Twenty-six journals with full articles were selected in databases ASP and HSN EBSCO Publishing. For 21 titles there is an embargo on access to articles published during the last 12 months. The period of accessibility of selected full articles ranges from 1998.

Kluwer Journals

Kluwer's journals are accessible through OVID platforms (8) and number over 700 journals from all scientific fields. Published articles are presented in PDF format, which is a drawback compared to the collections of other publishers,

where there is the possibility of choice of format: HTML or PDF. Seven journals were selected with the possibility of access to full texts from 1997, 1998 or from 2000 until today (Table 2).

ScienceDirect

Science Direct is a database of electronic journals of all (impresuma??) publishers Elsevier Science, and contains over 1800 titles of primary journals in electronic form from all scientific fields, although the majority are from the field of natural and applied sciences (9-10). The Croatian academic community has access to full articles from 1500 titles with the start of use from 1997 (licence conditions).

ScienceDirect enables registered users an interesting and useful personalisation of access and service. After selecting articles from the field of interest in articles or journal, a continuous supply of information on the contents of the selected group of journals are sent. This collection is particularly interesting because of the follow-up of the citation of articles of selected authors or own articles. Selected journals accessible through ScienceDirect are listed in Table 3.

Springer Link

The database of electronic journals of the publisher Springer Verlag (Springer Link) contains over 480 journals from all scientific fields, the majority from natural and applied scientific groups. Access to full texts of the published articles is not restricted to particular years (11). They enable rapid access to sources, as the base is located on three servers (two in Berlin and one in New York). The service Online First enables accessibility to articles before the journal is printed. The service "Alerts" sends information in articles in print e-mail to registered users. Selected journals from the field of dental medicine Springer Link are shown in Table 4.

Wiley InterScience

Wiley InterScience (12) offers articles in more than 300 leading scientific journals. Access to full articles is only enabled for titles for which

libraries have paid subscriptions in the printed form (licence conditions) and two journals are selected which publish themes from the field of interest for dental medicine: American Journal of Medical Genetics, Part A (ISSN 0148-7299) of 1996, and Journal of Biomedical Materials Research Part A (ISSN 1097-4636) of 2003.

By the method of identification and selection of journals from dental medicine and related fields a list of 62 titles was obtained which are accessible in available databases with full texts in Croatia. Among them are 15 printed journals renewed by the library of the School of Dental

Medicine in Zagreb (http://www.szi.hr/casopisi/98_99.htm).

The majority of the journals are available through EBSCO Publishing, followed by ScienceDirect, Springer Link 12, Kluwer 7 and Wiley InterScience 2 titles.

The aim of this study was to “acquaint” users with electronic journals from the field of dental medicine and related fields. Librarians and users of these services anticipate continuity of the service and maintenance of the quality of available sources (14).