EDITORIAL NOTE

Over the last few years we have made a small but important progress, or so we hope. This sixty-year-old has undergone an aesthetic overhaul, made itself accessible to a greater international audience through Versita and HRČAK online publishing and repository services, increased the referee pool (see the thank-you note for 2010 on page A1), and increased the coverage by A&I services. This year *Archives* will get its first impact factor in Thomson Reuters *Journal of Citation Reports*.

In addition, we are proud to have joined the select community of journals that have been using CrossCheck. To quote from CrossRef.org: "CrossCheck […] is an initiative started by CrossRef to help its members actively engage in efforts to prevent scholarly and professional plagiarism"[1]. It consists of an engine powered by iThenticate, a plagiarism detection tool designed by iParadigms, and a vast database of full-text articles, books, and conference proceedings made accessible for screening by over 129 CrossRef members, including all the world's major publishers. Figures are impressive: the database includes over 54,000 titles with tens of millions of items to screen against. The initiative started in 2007 with a pilot in response to an allegedly increasing trend of plagiarism in scholarly and scientific writing. The pilot went well and the service officially started in 2008. In 2009, 20,000 new submissions were screened against the database, and in 2010, this figure grew to no less than 100,000 manuscripts!

Archives has been among the early birds to join the initiative in February 2009. At first, we would screen articles suspected of duplicate or salami publication, but these were few and far between. What we found instead was that most of the "plagiarised" text was in fact an attempt of non-native English speakers to overcome their own insecurity in producing a text by borrowing someone else's wording. While this is not an acceptable academic behaviour, we believe that it deserves an affirmative approach that would encourage authors to use their own words. As someone said at a MET meeting workshop last year[2], it all comes down to good writing.

This is where CrossCheck fits in our own editorial policy; it helps us recognise some weak points in the presentation of research by non-native as well as native English speakers, though we have much fewer of those. We have therefore decided to screen every single submission to *Archives*, starting with the manuscripts included in this volume. All of them are marked as CrossChecked, as you will see. As many of the article authors can testify, their manuscripts have undergone some substantial (copy)editing to address these weak points, and it is for you, our reader, to judge the final result of our joint efforts.

Archives has long been committed to help authors, offering value-added manuscript editing services to non-native English speaking authors, and this is perhaps one major benefit that sets us apart from a myriad of similar scientific journals. One way to tell that this has been appreciated is the rate at which authors return to us with new submissions. With a few exceptions, they all highly acclaim this kind of joint venture to make the most of their research.

CrossCheck is a logical and valuable addition to our services and a sign of continued commitment to excellence in scientific writing. With this volume come updated Instructions to Authors to reflect this new addition. We have set sail and would appreciate your thoughts, which might help us steer *Archives* in the right direction.

Zagreb, 22 February 2011

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[1] http://www.crossref.org/crosscheck.html

[2] MET, abbreviated for Mediterranean Editors and Translators, is an association or, as its web page says, "a forum for translators and editors who work mainly into or with English [to] exchange views and experiences on promising practices and keep up with relevant research" (see http://www.metmeetings.org). We refer to last year's workshop by Marije de Jager and Dado Čakalo entitled "Handling plagiarism: an interactive workshop for manuscript editors". More information is available at http://www.metmeetings.org/index.php?page=metm10_workshop_handling_plagiarism.