

Resource Sharing Policy and Practice in Slovenia

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Abstract

In the paper different practices with regard to the resource sharing policy in Slovenia are described from historical and descriptive perspective, based on the survey carried out among participating libraries. Though basic tools for implementing resource sharing practices in Slovenia go back in time even before the inception of the paper edition of the Union Catalogue of Serial Titles in Slovenian Libraries in the late 1970s (a central union catalogue of foreign book and serial titles in Slovenian libraries in the form of a card catalogue has been in care of the National and University Library in Ljubljana since 1960s), the real development, and consequently a great leap forward, begins with the decision (late 1980s) for the computerized collaborative union catalogue of Slovenian libraries and the set of services that support it, called COBISS (**C**o-operative **O**nline **B**ibliographic **S**ystem and **S**ervices). COBISS platform represents an organizational model of joining libraries into a national library information system with shared cataloguing, the COBIB union bibliographic/catalogue database and local bibliographic databases of participating libraries, the COLIB database on libraries, and with a number of other local functions, such as COBISS OPAC, Interlibrary Loan etc. The catalogue and all other modules get upgraded continuously which enables libraries to develop an efficient and completely coordinated and standardized automated system of inter-library loan processing, while the document delivery is still handled by each participating library in possession of requested material. A certain step forward and change in the organizing and executing ILL and document delivery happens with the gradual appearance of Slovenian library consortia (late 1990s) to handle and manage electronic contents offered by aggregators of e-journals and e-books (Elsevier, Springer, Kluwer, Wiley-Blackwell, Thomson-Reuters, etc.). The first direct services (Get it button) for sharing resources are introduced in 2012.