



Report of collection of
practices within
PR2A1

ABSTRACT

This document presents the report of collection of practices within PR2A1

Citizen-enhanced Open Science
Southeastern Europe



Erasmus+

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CONSORTIUM		
Organization	Country	Author
Stichting LIBER	The Netherlands	Project Coordinator
Syddansk Universitet	Denmark	Partner
Università degli Studi di Torino	Italy	Partner
Panepistimio Patron	Greece	Partner
University of Cyprus	Cyprus	Partner
Univerzitetska Biblioteka Svetozar Markovic	Serbia	Partner
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PR2A1. COLLECTION OF PRACTICES OF UNIVERSITY AND PUBLIC LIBRARIES' COLLABORATION IN SE EUROPE TO MAINSTREAM CEOS

Introduction

The aim of the first activity of PR2 is to leverage collaboration and engagement between academic and public libraries for Citizen-enhanced Open Science (CeOS). It should consider: a) successful collaboration practices between academic and public libraries in Europe, and b) the unique model structure of the National and University Library Zagreb (NSK), where an academic library and a public library belong to the same organization. A collection of practices was identified in a survey that was conducted. Criteria were identified and applied to a first round of examples. A second round of selection should have resulted in at least 10 examples that were showcased in a publicly available collection. The aim of this activity was threefold; first, to raise awareness on the scope of the CeOS_SE project and activities in the southernmost part of Europe, thus to have a bigger impact on target groups. Second, to collect examples feeding into the collection of practices that CeOS_SE partners may not be aware of. Third, to urge university libraries to work together with public libraries to find common ground in practicing CeOS.

Identifying cases of good practice

The cases of good practice were identified via an online survey that was conducted in partnership with the University Library of Southern Denmark, CeOS_SE project partner and leader of the first project package (PR1). PR1 developed a survey to map the uptake of Open and Citizen Science in higher education institutes across Europe. The decision was made to conduct a joint survey because the target respondents were the same – European university and higher education libraries.

The main research question investigated was about cooperation and partnership in conducting citizen science activities, with an added section focusing on partnership with public libraries.

Barriers

The most common barriers identified were lack of resources and financial barriers and lack of awareness and knowledge of citizen science. This is also the main reason why ten cases of good practice weren't identified. There was one more project identified in the survey from Finland, but, unfortunately, we couldn't find out details about the Finnish project because our emails for the interview were never answered.

Eight examples of good practice were identified, where university libraries cooperated with public libraries:

Country	Denmark – University of Southern Denmark
Interview date	9-6-2022
Projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Narrative medicine ● Nature – up close and personal ● Find the lake
Description: Narrative medicine	Narrative medicine is a project where the whole island is included. SDU partnered with a media partner. The aim was to have doctors discuss their view on a certain set of literary texts. We called the public through the media and libraries to discuss the same set of texts. They were put together for a discussion group which was facilitated by the Public Library and it was broadcasted on television. The Public Library has a lot of followers and people that are coming to the library. So, the project was promoted and the citizens recruited through existing literature clubs and reading groups.
Description: Nature – up close and personal	The same public library infrastructure was used for project Nature up close and personal. Because it's really needed for the citizens to monitor and engage, and to take an actual standpoint in nature, being up close and green and sustainable and carbon neutral. Citizens are needed to react. Because, if we all don't react, the planet will be burned in forty years. The target audience in Nature up close is every citizen from age 7 up to 100 in the municipality.
Description: Find the lake	<p>Find a lake is a spin-off project. It's a part of a much bigger project, and the target group are young adults between 7 and 18 years of age that want to do science in their spare time. Several things are collected: water samples from lakes all over the region and all over Denmark. It couldn't be done without involvement of public libraries. "Do it yourself science kits" are prepared, which are suitcases that you can borrow from a public library. So, everyone who wants to experiment or be part of science, they can check in with us or check in with your local library and borrow a "do it yourself science kits", and return it and report your results to an interface, an application and a website that was created.</p> <p>Also, every single year for 10 weeks, a serial water sampling trial has been done. Water bottles are collected at every library. A participant goes out to the lake, takes a water sample and uploads the results via our app. The water samples are collected at the local libraries that are taking part in the project. Before local libraries participated in the project only 50 samples were collected. In cooperation with local libraries it has already done twice and</p>

	samples collected numbered 500 samples. So, the infrastructure at the public libraries available to promote the project is very valuable.
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Country	Portugal - University of Beira Interior
Interview date	8-6-2022
Project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project Abeirar
Description	<p>The name of the project is a word game, name of the region Beira and 'abri'r which means open. Cooperation among libraries was never a problem because in each region there is a network of all types of libraries that are cooperating all the time.</p> <p>The major barrier was the financing of the activity because the support was given by the University of Beira Interior. There were about 10 organizers who donated their personal time and weekends. Cooperation among colleagues was never a problem because in each region in Portugal there is a library network where all types of libraries cooperate together. The organizers met in their free time, as their region is large, they used their own vehicles. Activities were organized during the weekend and in the evening. Despite everything, the results of the activity were great and the activity was well covered by the media, all local and national media reported on the activity. It was featured on national television as the best program for culture.</p> <p>The second Abeirar activity was planned for September this year and the financing is secured based on the success of the first activity.</p> <p>As for prior knowledge in the organization of citizen science activities, only I and my colleague were familiar with open science.</p>

Country	Serbia - University Library Svetozar Marković (UBSM)
Interview date	8-6-2022
Projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wiki Marathon • Workshop of democratization of digitization • Transcribathon • Language laboratory

<p>Description:</p> <p>Wiki Marathon</p>	<p>Wiki Marathon is a cooperation project with Wikimedia Serbia.</p> <p>Wikimedia Serbia trained UBSM librarians on how to create articles, and the aim is to increase visibility of UBSM material.</p> <p>Wiki Marathons have been held every year since 2016 in the field of article writing and bibliographic references marathon to supplement articles. Activities are carried out with public libraries and citizens. Additional training for the preparation of articles is also available within the Center for Continuous Professional Development of Librarians Serbia, and both higher education and public librarians participate in it. Only citizens participate in Wiki Marathons and work for a period of 3 days, and the most successful participant receives a prize (Wikimedia of Serbia – eg. getting a voucher to buy a book).</p> <p>Usually people who have completed an accredited seminar, librarians who have already attended wiki training are usually joined, and an invitation to participate in a wiki marathon is sent. There are also students, pupils and pensioners.</p> <p>Article types: It is mainly about historical figures. Participants write about something that is close to them. There are no restrictions or indications of what is needed. They mostly choose to write articles about a person they are interested in.</p> <p>Also, writing wiki articles is an integral part of practice for librarianship and informatics students, and they need to write a certain number of articles. They are first trained and then independently write articles that are reviewed by the librarians of the University Library. Very good cooperation with that department; it entered the curriculum.</p>
<p>Description:</p> <p>Workshop of democratization of digitization</p>	<p>UBSM is part of the European project READ; a large European project that deals with the reading of manuscript material. The Library is an associated partner in that project, and a special tool was developed within the framework of the Transcribus platform; a special software solution has been developed within the platform for the tool to read someone's handwriting. As part of the project, we cleared manuscripts written in Serbian Cyrillic; colleagues worked on clarifying texts in German, English and Dutch, so that later the initiative was extended to a large number of European languages. We based ourselves on the Serbian Cyrillic script, considering that it was originally the least represented of the scripts from which the translation was made.</p> <p>As a byproduct of the READ project is the creation of new technologies that would enable fast, simple and efficient scanning for very little money invested. For this purpose, an application was developed on a mobile phone that, with the help of a small device called a tent, places publications that</p>

	<p>need to be scanned, and on top of that tent (Scan Tent) there is an opening where a mobile phone camera can be placed; the application is DocScan. This whole application and scanning represent the democratization of digitization for scanning without practically investing money and enabling the broad masses, i.e. users of the service, especially users of public libraries, to come and scan without some powerful complicated scanners.</p> <p>So, a Scan Tent was placed in the library to help users so that they can quickly, easily and simply scan the material on their own. Then workshops were held in the Library in which this service was promoted and the provided opportunities, in cooperation with public libraries. We are accredited as seminars for the professional training of librarians. We also present this to a large number of public libraries. And then, through them, we reached a large number of volunteers, that is, their users, who helped us clear the material. And the students of history, students of the Faculty of Philology helped the project to be carried out.</p> <p>In order to train the tool, it is necessary to type 25 pages of basic text from one manuscript, in order for the tool to learn to recognize that manuscript. The participants of the workshop sorted it out, and we controlled the sorted documents, that is, their typed text. Activities overlap; digitization and transcribus. One project combined those two activities.</p> <p>This first part is more related to the workshops with the public library of Novi Sad and the involvement of their users; they also had their own project related to the Capital of Culture, so they had the opportunity to improve something like a library, and since the overall process is a kind of democratization of society, then digitization also fits here, workshops are not only organized in public libraries, but also in the smallest places in RS - That application had built-in OCR and everything that is scanned is sent to an email and the cleared text is printed. We sent over 200 librarians to such a workshop and they also contacted us for additional lessons.</p>
<p>Description: Transcribathon</p>	<p>During the READ project, UBSM was involved in 2016, and we are active until 2017, in order to clear up texts written in the Serbian Cyrillic script.</p> <p>We had workshops for librarians and citizens to get them involved and for the tool to learn to recognize language and script. In order for the whole thing to be feasible, it is necessary for one volunteer to type 20-25 pages of manuscript text and then the librarian passes that text through a tool that understands and clears the text. I created the so-called TRM model Text recognition model. After that, it is considered that the tool has learned to recognize someone's handwriting and then we can automatically let it recognize the entire corpus of someone's handwriting, which today is not usable because it has a large number of errors, because it is fed with text.</p>

	<p>Every time the tool creates a new model for a new type of handwriting, it has the language in the background, and in this way, it recognizes the language itself better. With this project, we tried to make the Serbian language more widely used - the more people participate, the more text is entered, the better the HTR model will be and the better it will recognize the Cyrillic alphabet and the Serbian language in the future.</p> <p>We don't have much to do, and in addition to these activities, we also deal with other things.</p>
<p>Description: Language laboratory</p>	<p>The project was initiated by a colleague who came from Wikimedia Serbia; he got a job with us, he is a programmer and he had this awareness of something socially broader, that is, socially open knowledge. At that moment, we were also establishing a searchable digital library.</p> <p>The group for language technology at the University of Belgrade has all the dictionaries of the Serbian language, all the morphological forms, everything as it should be, however, in formats that are not very suitable for a digital library, nor were they, as a group from the Faculty of Mathematics, in the mood to just leave it to their decades-old work. We thought that we needed the digital library to be searchable, and then our colleague Nikola said that we could do something like this, and that's how we started the Language Laboratory.</p> <p>You get a random noun; you voluntarily enter its forms by case, meaning declension, and that's what you did for the Noun Language Laboratory. Then it's incorporated into the digital library and it's searchable by any case, any term you put in. You can change one word or a hundred words, so as many as you want. And when we popularized this action, we said "it can take you 5 minutes, or 50 minutes, depending on how much time you have."</p> <p>We always have on the page who are the most active users, who entered how many word forms. Pensioners actually work the most, they lead the way. The project was also carried out with some high schools from the interior, because the teachers of Serbian language and literature heard that it was a good thing and then motivated their students to participate in it.</p> <p>You always rely on people who want to listen to you and who are open-minded enough to understand that this is a socially beneficial thing to do.</p> <p>That language lab is growing and of course it's there; terms from Wiki articles are gathered here. The program offers words from wiki articles and to begin with they are only nouns. We are still only on nouns. Each user needs to change that noun according to the cases. If the word library or</p>

	<p>library is entered, the user gets everything related to the library, regardless of the case in which it is in the text.</p> <p>and the analysis of the questions asked in the searches proved that these are most often terms that contain a noun or that contain a phrase consisting of two nouns. That is also one of the reasons why we decided to use nouns for the digital library and thus the language laboratory.</p> <p>We have the idea to extend it to other morphological forms, verb forms, but there are so many nouns that we can work on them for several years. If you come across a noun that you are not sure how to decline correctly, you can skip it, so that is also a possibility and it is a convenience for the user.</p>
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Detailed survey analysis is written in an article *Citizen Science in Europe - challenges in conducting Citizen Science activities in cooperation of university and public libraries* that Alisa Martek, Dorja Mučnjak and Dolores Mumelaš submitted for publication in the journal *Publications*.