

6th CARNet Users Conference

**In search of new models  
of scientific  
communication in  
electronic environment:  
case of scientists in the  
field of social sciences in  
Croatia**

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# Introduction

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- Science – dynamical system – constant interaction of its components
- Scientists in Croatia more dependent on IT for daily work than ever
- Improvement of scientific communication by use of IT
- Shift of scientific communication paradigm – from communication based on printed publications towards communication based on electronic publications
- Evidence of improvement? Research!
  - Details about user needs, behavior in electronic environment and preferences necessary for the development of tools and services (e.g. in digital libraries)

# Science and modern inf. resources



- Digital material scientists use in various forms
  - ...represents knowledge which production is heavily dependent on the use of information and communication technologies in the process of research
  - ...is dependent on sources of data and information that are accessed through the use of this information and communication technology



# Research

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- 5 Croatian universities (Zagreb, Rijeka, Split, Zadar, Osijek), 16 faculties in the field of social sciences in Croatia
- Research and teaching staff (all academic positions)
- Geographically scattered sample
  - different availability of resources
  - different use of IT
  - different information needs...

# Research



- Survey
  - 35 questions
  - Divided in three parts:
    - Scientific communication and new technologies
    - Information resources for research and teaching
    - Publishing + scientists' attitudes and expectations about the future of their work and use of electronic information resources in general (and (future) digital libraries – implicitly)



# **Results** **(a selection of)**

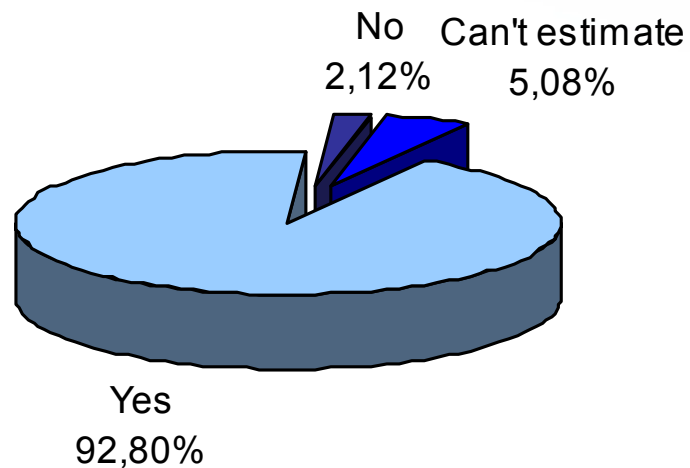




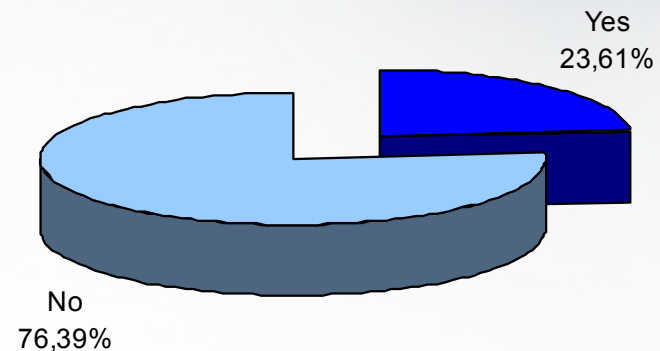
# Electronic communication

-> 96,19% of the respondents communicate with their colleagues in Croatia and abroad by e-mail

**Has communication technology improved your communication with colleagues?**



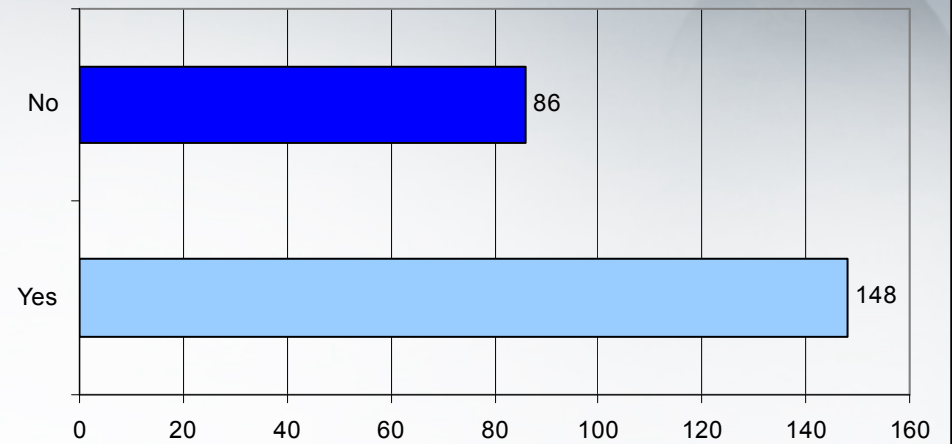
**Did electronic communication with your colleagues take you extra time?**



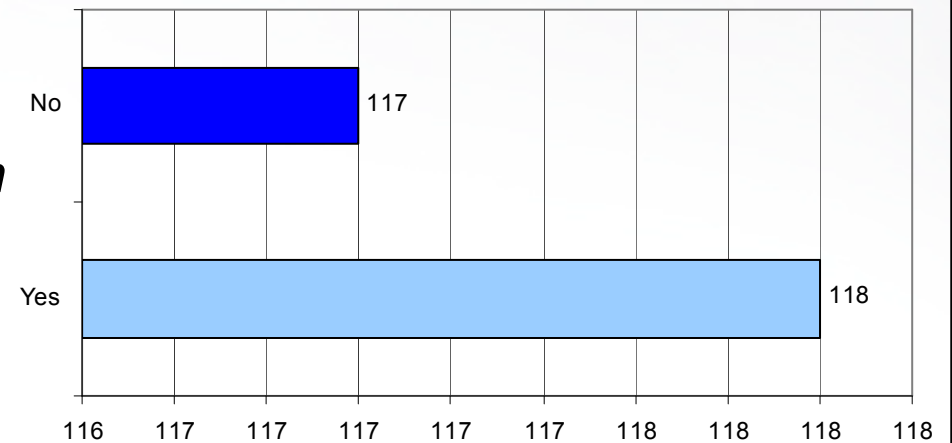


# Interaction with other scientists

*Sending already published papers to colleagues in Croatia and abroad by email*



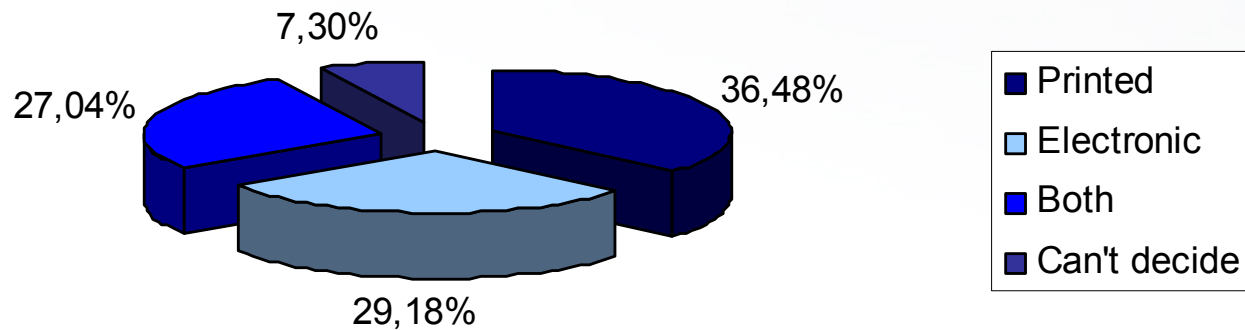
*Sending draft papers to colleagues in Croatia and abroad by email*



# Preferred type of journals (reading)



What type of journal would you prefer to read (if both available)?



# Preferred types of journals: reasons

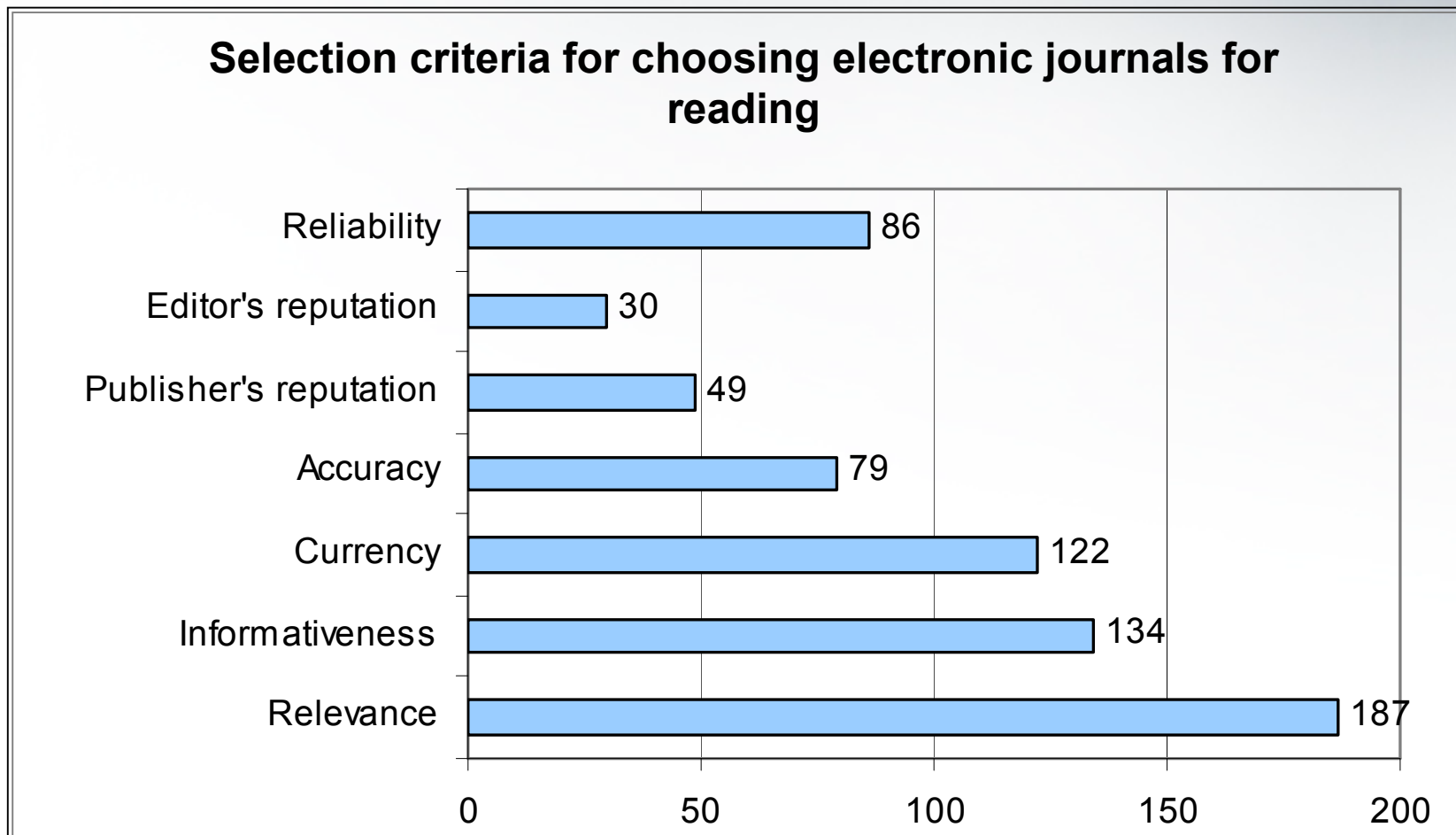


- Printed:  
reading habit, reading on any location, reliability (unchangeable), ability to underline, cheaper, appropriate for citing, computer unrelated
- Electronic:  
practical use, larger quantity of quality journals, ability to search, availability, cheaper than printed journals, easy storage (in computer), less storage space

# El. journals selection criteria



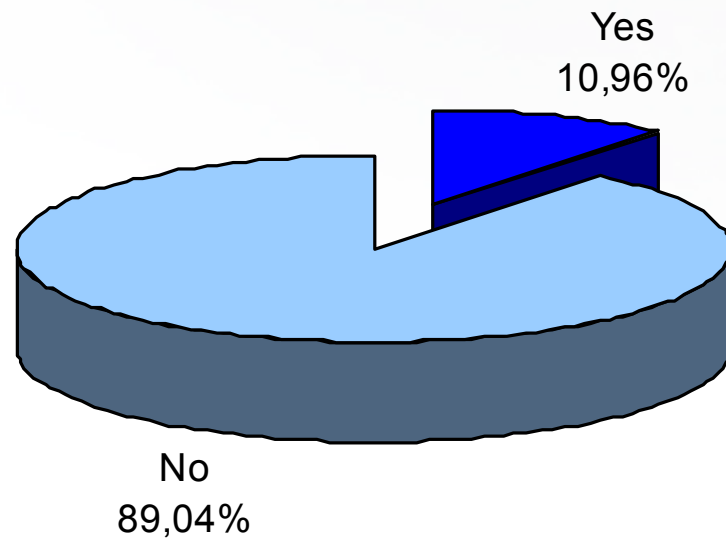
-> 54,78% of the respondents estimate that using electronic resources saved them time significantly



# Publishing on Web



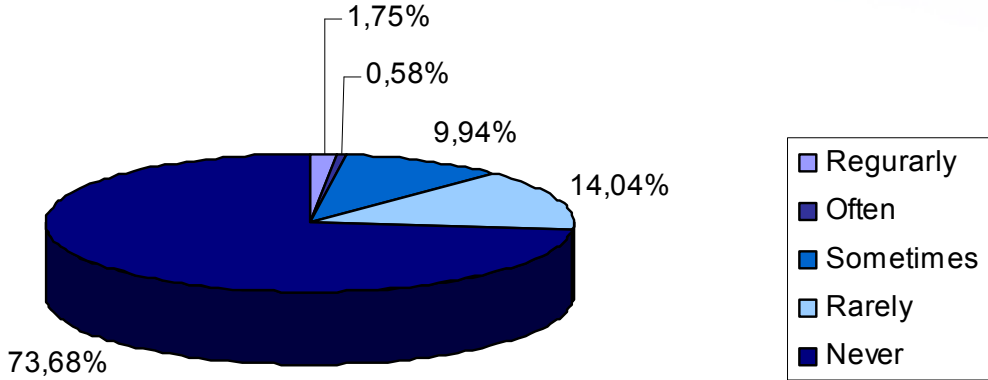
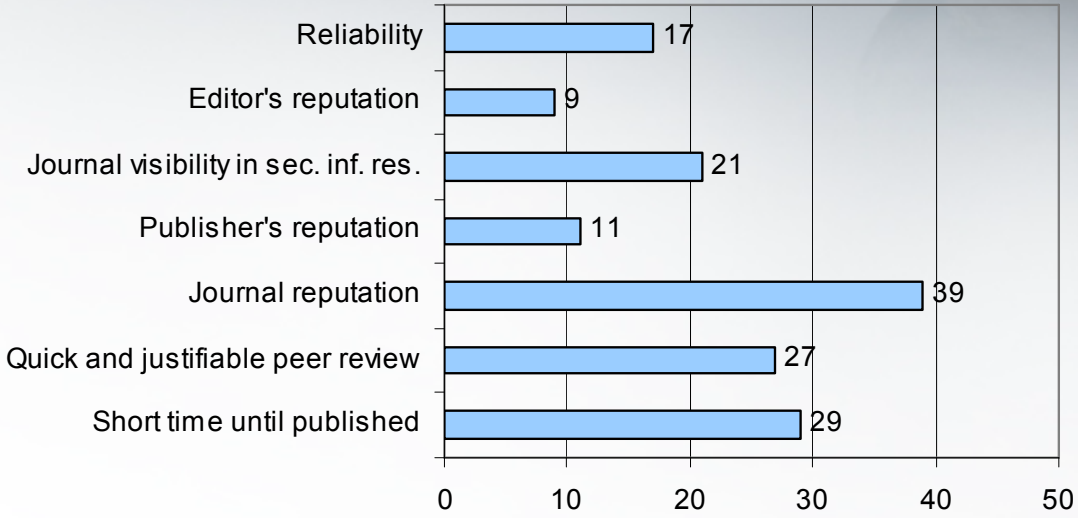
Do you publish your papers on your personal Web site?





# Publishing in electronic journals

## Selection criteria for choosing electronic journal for paper publication

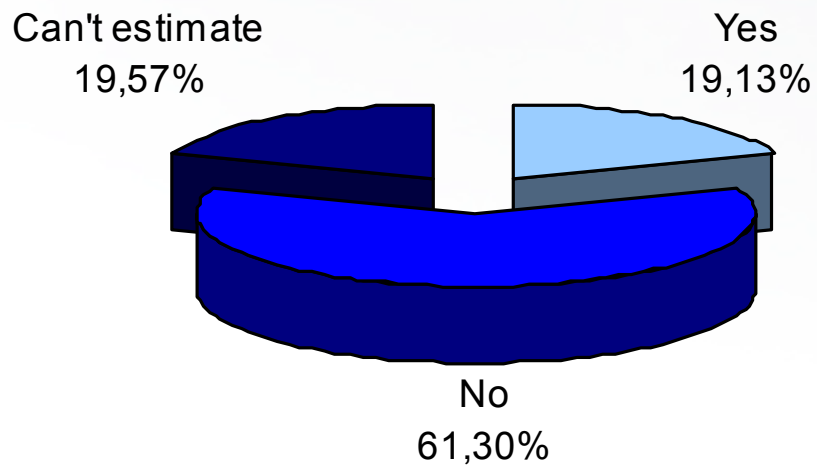


## How often do you publish your papers in electronic journals?

# Future



**In your opinion,  
can electronic resources replace printed resources in next 5 years?**







# Conclusion

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- Scientists in the field of social sciences use electronic environment for interaction with other colleagues for exchange of ideas, presentation of research data, opinions, draft papers etc.
- Preparations for the communication paradigm shift
- New world initiatives: Open Archive Initiative, digital libraries of scientific works etc.
- Motives for use of electronic resources?

# Conclusion



- IT – cause and means for change
- Need for more published papers in electronic publications – a critical mass for true paradigm shift + criteria for evaluation of electronic resources
- Hesitation towards publishing in electronic form

# Conclusion



- Now: Pre-conditions for larger dissemination of information in electronic form
- Understanding user needs and preferences necessary for development of future digital libraries in Croatia
- More research needed – good basis for new projects