



SVEUČILIŠTE U ZADRU

Universitas Studiorum Jadertina



# **LIS students reading habits analysis:**

**Croatia, Slovenia and Austria**

Luka Bratović

Ivan Miočić

Toni Tadić

Nikica Gardijan

Srećko Jelušić, PhD

Department of Library and Information  
Science

University of Zadar

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# Introduction

- One of the most important factors in education is capability to read, understand and critically apprehend the text
- Reading habits are a vital part of lifelong learning concept

# Introduction (Cont.)

- It is often believed that LIS students should be the first ones with highly developed reading habits
- Our opinion is not so optimistic, and that is the main reason for conducting this research

# Focus of the study

- The main intention of this study is to explore reading habits of LIS students between Croatia, Slovenia and Austria
- Our main hypothesis is: **LIS student's reading habits are not sufficiently developed. Teachers and teaching assistants are not taking the necessary steps to improve their student's reading habits but also, students don't put enough effort to improve their reading habits by them selves**

# Introduction (Cont.)

- Emergence of new technologies
- Concept of lifelong learning

# Two basic questions

- When students come to University, do they have enough developed reading habits?
- Is there enough effort from professors and teaching assistants to improve students reading habits?

# Methodology

- Research was conducted:
- 3 countries: Austria, Croatia, Slovenia
- 4 universities
- Cultural differences, education policies
- Focus groups for students
- Interview for professors
- Focus groups because of possibility of encourage discussion between students



# Methodology (Cont.)

- Total number of students - 41
- Total number of professors - 7
- All students were asked same 12 questions
- We had also 8 same questions for all professors

# Results - students

- Everyday reading
- Printed material (Ljubljana, Zadar) vs. electronic material (Eisenstadt, Osijek)
- Motives: hunger for knowledge, relaxation, practical sides of reading (reading as a tool for gaining useful information)
- Professional literature: obligation to pass tests

# Results – students (Cont.)

- Slovenian and Austrian students see reading as a help - individuals with better reading habits gain better results on exams and in their personal life
- “Students who have efficiently developed reading skills read much faster; understand text better and they are capable to critically apprehend text.”

# Results – students (Cont.)

- Croatia students have different opinion about reading impact on success - **reading isn't a vital part of learning process**, curriculum should be based on practical case studies and examples
- “If someone has very good reading habits it doesn't necessarily means that he will use them to gain better results.”

# Results – students (Cont.)

- Teachers and professors did not put enough effort in developing student's reading habits
- Bad ways of encouraging students to read
- Practical work as crucial part of learning process
- Only literature and language professors tried to develop student's reading habits

# Results – students (Cont.)

- Croatia - daily readings in order to discuss about literature in class
- Reading groups
- Literature written in English presents a problem
- Numerous professional expressions - frustration

# Results – students (Cont.)

- Private book collections - minimum effect on academic success
- Croatia - it is much more important to use resources from home libraries than just own home libraries
- Multimedia, especially the use of Internet has become a vital part of their life
- A book or a movie?

# Results – students (Cont.)

- **!!! No one mentioned library !!!**



# Results - professors

- Students don't have enough developed reading habits
- Students should come on university already prepared to read every day and critically apprehend text
- Students don't understand the point of text, they cannot make difference between relevant and irrelevant

# Results – professors (Cont.)

- “... Students should read everything, not just professional literature. Our life is reading life; you cannot be LIS expert without reading.”
- “... Meaning of the word study is to critically think about something that we read or heard. Students with good reading habits developed in their early childhood, have certain advantage towards student without reading habits.”

# Results – professors (Cont.)

- Bologna declaration and two main problems - large students groups and small number of teaching personnel:
- “Our student groups are up to 40 students and they should be up to 15. We don’t have enough computers, staff and space to work with students. One of possible solutions is e-learning. We should look up to Scandinavian countries and their way of conducting Bologna Declaration.”

# Results – professors (Cont.)

- Multimedia improves teaching process
- Written materials still have advantage in comparison with multimedia
- “Every student’s literature survey starts and ends with Internet.”

# Conclusion

- **LIS student's reading habits are not sufficiently developed. Teachers and teaching assistants are not taking the necessary steps to improve their student's reading habits but also, students don't put enough effort to improve their reading habits by themselves**

# Conclusion (Cont.)

- LIS student's reading habits are not sufficiently developed
- Reading can improve success
- Students find daily reading boring and obligating
- Students want more multimedia in teaching process

# Conclusion (Cont.)

- Professors aren't satisfied with students reading habits
- Bad conditions to work; lack of teaching staff, infrastructure problems
- New mass-media can have a bad influence on reading habits

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# Contact

- Luka Bratović [lbratovic@student.unizd.hr](mailto:lbratovic@student.unizd.hr)
- Ivan Miočić [imiocic@student.unizd.hr](mailto:imiocic@student.unizd.hr)

Thank you !!!