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## NEWSPAPERS IN THE NATIONAL AND UNIVERSITY LIBRARY IN SLOVENIA – ACCESS MODEL

**Abstract:** This paper is focusing on access model for historical and contemporary newspapers in the Serials Collection of the National and University Library in Slovenia (NUL). It shortly discusses the history of microfilming of newspapers in the NUL, its advantages in the 1980s and its disadvantages in the digital 21<sup>st</sup> century. The paper summarises the beginnings of the digitisation of the newspapers, too. A qualitative analysis of the microfilmed material is made and, in addition analysis of copies for end users, made from both media. The paper suggests the possibilities of improvements of the current state and recommends changes of the existing access model with the purpose to meet the digital demands of the current and future reader. A partnership between the NUL and publishers is suggested in order to enable ingest all editions of a publisher's newspapers via digital copies, and to make them available on a page level, read-only basis in the Serials Collection reading-room.

**Keywords:** Serials, contemporary newspapers, historical newspapers, microfilming, digital copies, access model

### 1. Introduction

The Serials Collection of the National and University Library of Slovenia holds the largest, most comprehensive national collection of newspapers dating back as early as the very beginning of journalism in Slovenia (*Laibacher Zeitung*—since 1788, *Lublanske novize*—since 1797, *Kmetijske in rokodelske novice*—since 1843) to present times. The Serials Collection acquires serials in print and non-print form, provides access to users and protects and preserves the collection for future generations.<sup>1</sup>

Within this paper the main focus will be on access model<sup>2</sup> for historical and contemporary newspapers<sup>3</sup> in the NUL. For the purposes of this paper the titles of newspapers were selected by the following criteria: it has to be in the Slovene language and published in present Slovenian geographical territory. Within these criteria they were divided into two groups: historical print

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.nuk.uni-lj.si/nuk7.asp?id=26495302>

<sup>2</sup> According to Fleming and Spence (2008) an access means “a method by which the readers access the collection, either by the provision of print or surrogate”.

<sup>3</sup> International Organization for standardization (ISO) has defined a newspaper as “a serial publication which contains news on current events of special or general interest. The individual parts are listed chronologically or numerically and appear frequently, usually at least once a week but sometimes fortnightly or monthly. Traditionally newspapers are printed on newsprint paper; usually appear without a cover, folded rather than bound together, with a masthead, and normally larger than 297 mm x 420 mm in size.” ([http://www.itsmarc.com/crs/mergedprojects/conser/conser/module\\_33.1.\\_what\\_is\\_a\\_newspaper.htm](http://www.itsmarc.com/crs/mergedprojects/conser/conser/module_33.1._what_is_a_newspaper.htm)).

newspapers, where digitisation already replaced microfilming, and contemporary print newspapers, where the decision to stop microfilming in order to enable ingest editions of newspapers via digital copies has been made only recently.

## 2. The historical print newspapers (1797–1920)

The first group of the newspapers are historical print newspapers, comprising 129 titles or 1.076 bounded and unbounded newspapers dating back from 1797 (*Lublanske novize*) to 1920 (*Jutro*). From the beginning until 1899, there were thirty-three titles published and from 1900 to 1920 ninety-six titles. 75% of the newspapers are printed on ground wood paper, only 25% on chemical pulp paper of good quality. 89% of the newspapers are bounded (Rapuš, 2003, 66).

Due to their frequent use, a low-grade paper (visible by yellowing) and a large folio format (up to 45 cm) difficult to handle, newspapers are often placed in the category of the most fragile materials. These are also the main causes of their deterioration and our main reasons for transferring the newspapers content into the other media, such as microfilm or digital copies.

**2.1 The historical print newspapers on microfilm copy.** Microform had established itself since the Second World War as the preferred surrogacy medium for preservation purposes, and it became widely used in libraries. The history of microfilming programmes in libraries could be characterised as a record of success. Nevertheless, many negative critics could be found, such as quoted in a book by Nicholson Baker called *Double Fold: Libraries and the Assault on Paper*.<sup>4</sup> By the mid-1990s, however, the shortcomings of microfilm as a medium were becoming more apparent as digital technologies began to emerge. Libraries began to investigate the potential of the digital medium (Jefcoate, 2003).

A microfilm is a medium known for its long lifespan (500 hundred years). However, conservators say that it is also susceptible to light, pollution and other environmental impacts (Hisanaga, 2012).

Microfilm copies in the NUL were made in two generations. Archival or master copies ([Figure 1](#)) are kept in storage in a controlled climate environment, and user copies ([Figure 2](#)) held in the collection storage near the collection reading room. The quality of the copies varies ([Figure 3](#), [Figure 4](#)) and depends on the quality of the original and which copy generation is used for the reproduction. Archival copy is untouchable, while the user copy is intended for readers.

In the NUL, the project of retrospective microfilming of historical newspapers started in 1991. 21% of historical newspapers have been microfilmed. The project of microfilming stopped at the beginning of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, mostly because of the development of digital technologies.

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<sup>4</sup> He mentions non-persistent chemical composition of microfilms, user-hostile reading of foggy microfilm copies, and in some libraries, also falling apart of originals when their content was transferred to microfilm. Originals were also damaged during tests of double folding (folding down the corner of a page of a book or newspaper, then folding it back in the opposite direction). If the paper broke, it was considered to be endangered, so it was chosen to be transferred to microfilm.



Figure 1: Slovenski narod – microfilm (master copy)



Figure 2: Slovenski narod – microfilm (user copy)

Glede volilne reforme se koaliranci iz vsega začetka niso mogli in niso hoteli zjediniti, ker so vsi želeli, da bi se sploh ne premenil sedanji volilni red. Zavlačevali so jo torej kolikor dlje mogoče, proračuna se niso upali lotiti in zagledelj silili z drugimi reformami na dan.

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Figures 3 and 4: The quality of copies varies

**2.2 The historical print newspapers on digital copy – dLib.si.** At the beginning of the first decade of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, the first attempts of mass digitisation of newspapers began in the NUL. At first, the NUL digitised only material in analogue form (paper), but a growing part of digitised newspapers includes also a digitisation from microfilm.

There are several steps of the digitisation process (Šavnik, Musek and Božidar, 2011):

- a selection of newspapers for digitisation which consists of various criteria concerning image quality, intellectual content, to identify potential end users and their needs;
- a preparation of print newspaper material includes: an overview of physical status, to check the language of publications, font and the number of text columns, to prepare bibliographic metadata, to inspect prepared newspapers to determine exact handling of material for digitisation process (the Conservation and Preservation centre);
- a preparation of microfilm for digitisation includes: a reviewing of each microfilm on the microfilm reader (bibliographic metadata is the same as for printed material).

After the process of digitisation and quality assessment of digitised material, historical newspapers are published on the portal of the Digital Library of Slovenia ([Figure 5](#)) and safely stored in the digital archive. Digital copies of newspapers – currently that are app. 570 titles of newspapers (i.e. approximately 530.000 objects)<sup>5</sup> – are now widely available online on the portal of the Digital library of Slovenia – dlib.si without any restriction ([Figure 6](#)), ([Figure 7](#)) and ([Figure 8](#)). Digitisation is continuing; every year new titles of historical newspapers are added. Our goal is to transfer all relevant and important historical newspapers to digital copy and to finish the systematic digitisation of historical newspapers.

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<sup>5</sup> The statistic was made in April 2014.

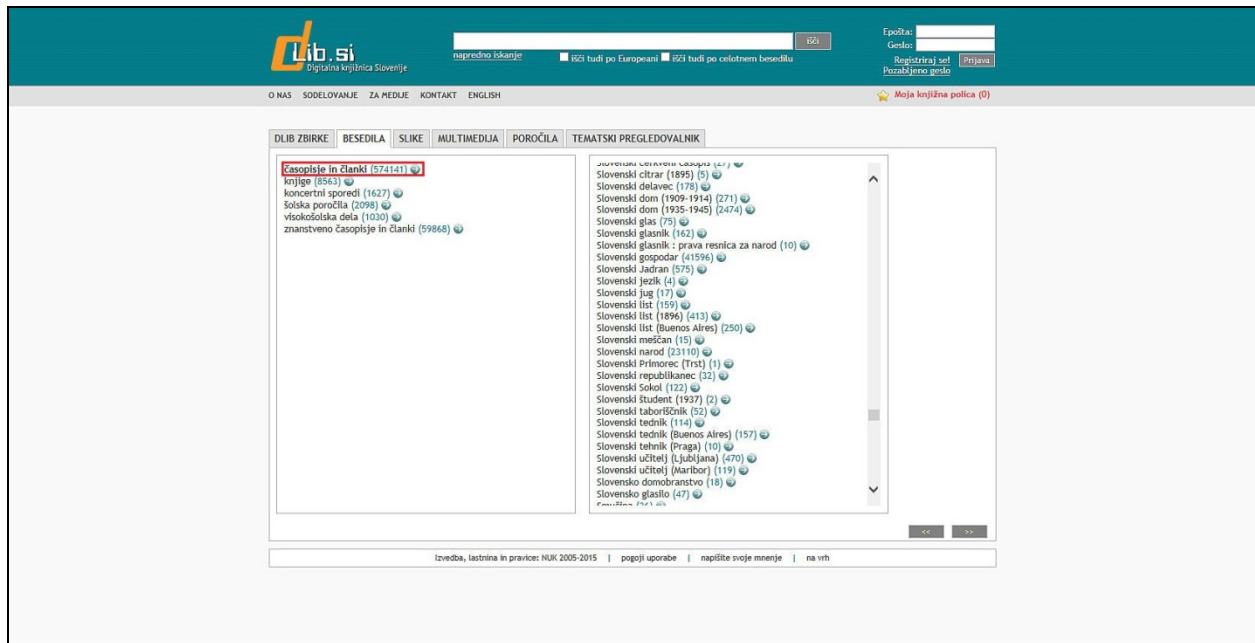


Figure 5: The historical print newspapers on digital copy – dLib.si

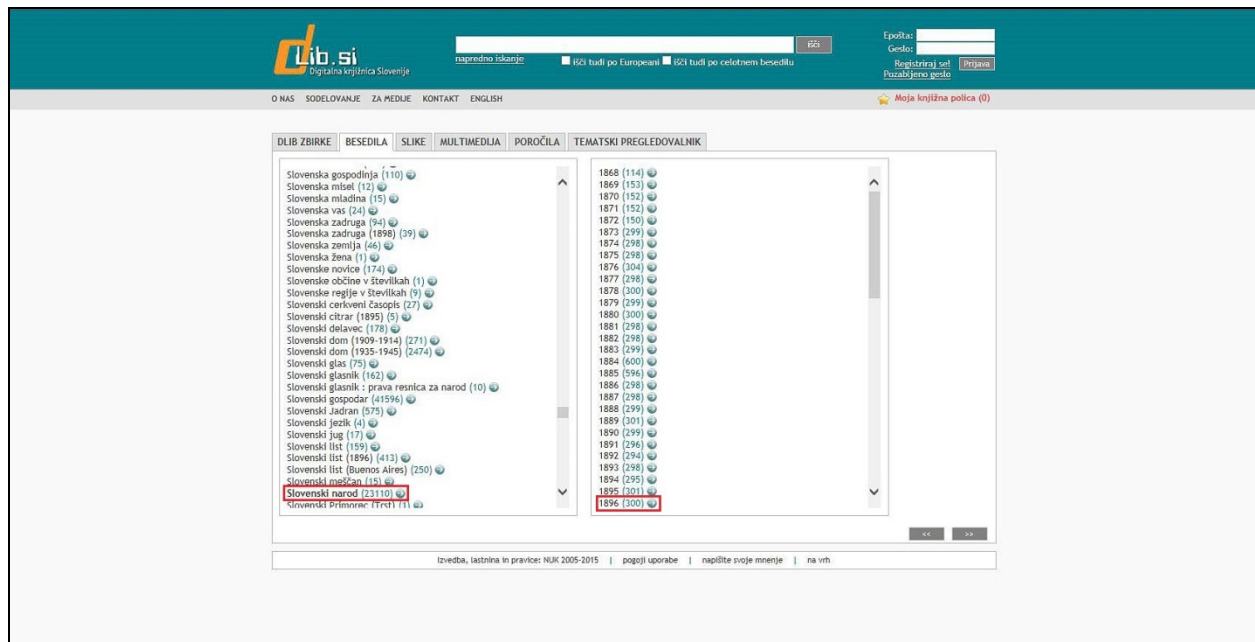
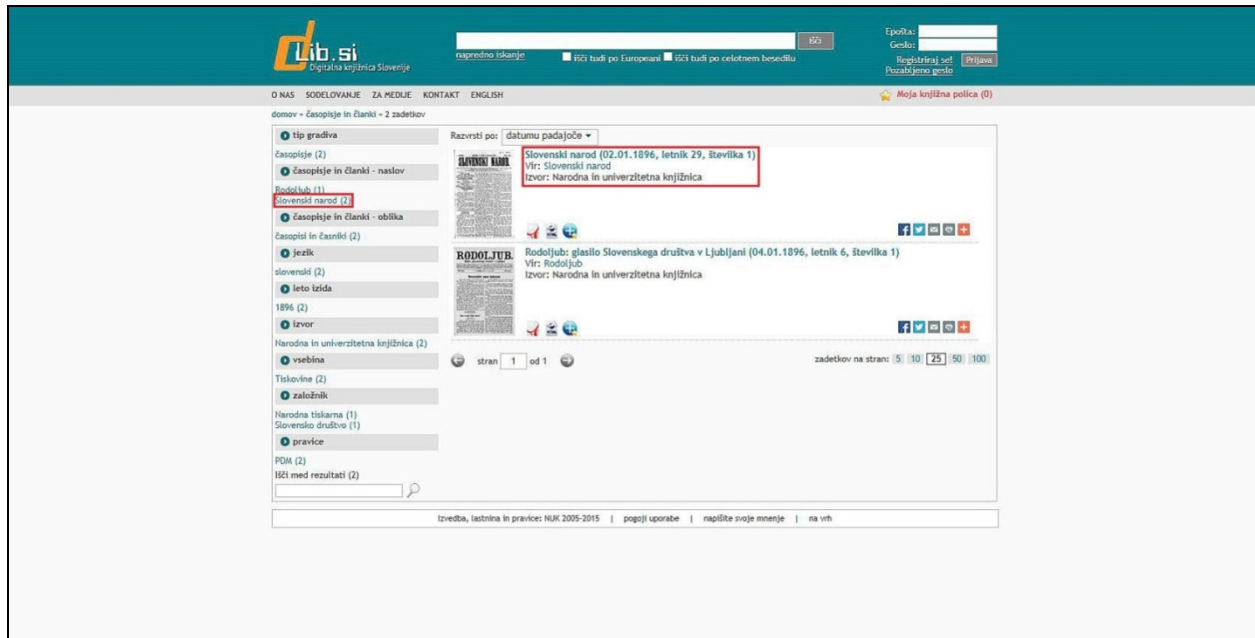
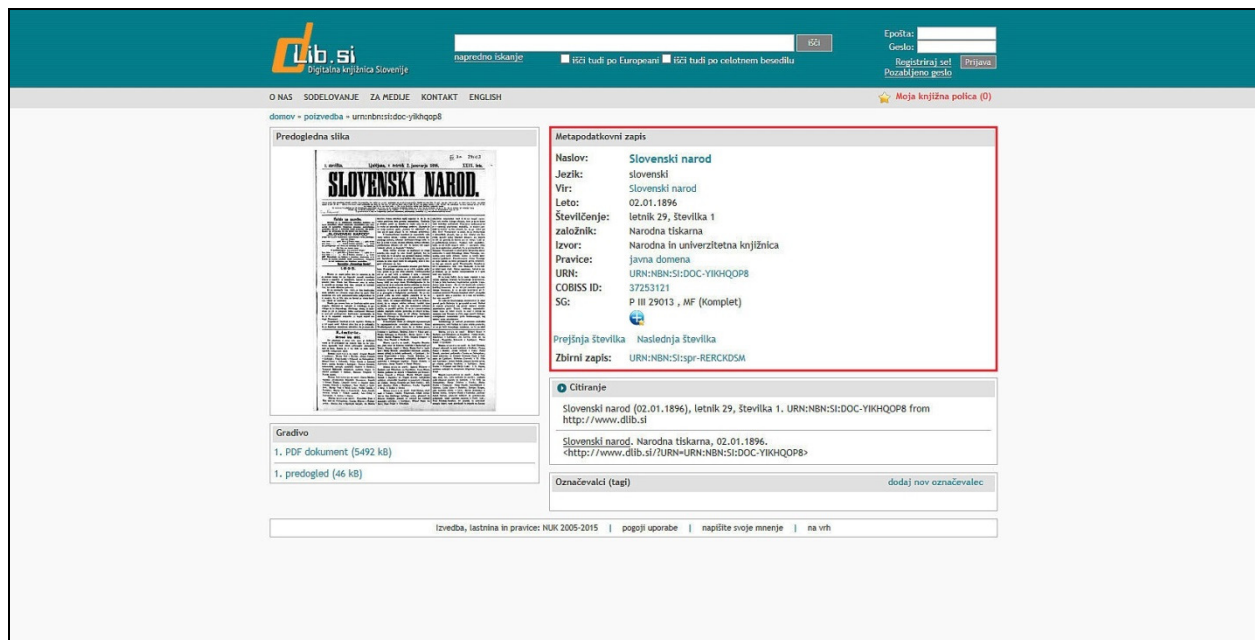


Figure 6: Slovenski narod on dLib.si



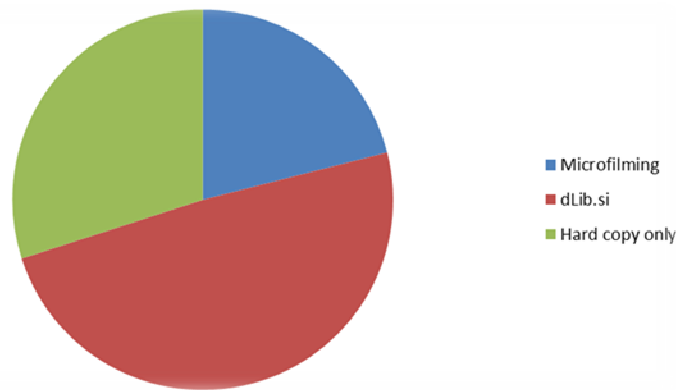
**Figure 7:** Newspaper *Slovenski narod* on dLib.si



**Figure 8:** Newspaper *Slovenski narod* with metadata on dLib.si

The current state<sup>6</sup> of transferring the historical newspapers is as follows: 21% of the titles are on microfilm, 49% on digital copy and 30% only print newspapers. 15% of the historical newspapers are on both copies: digital and microfilm (Table 1).

<sup>6</sup> The statistic was made in April 2014.



**Table 1:** Historical newspapers on different copies (April 2014)

### 3. Contemporary print newspapers – automatic ingest of PDF copies

The second group of print newspapers are contemporary print newspapers. It's the group of five most important national and regional daily newspapers (*Delo*, *Dnevnik*, *Večer*, *Primorske novice*, *Primorski dnevnik*), which have been microfilmed until 2012.

During the last years, the digital technology has enabled newspaper publishers to transform production processes. National and regional daily newspapers are produced digitally with an output in different formats (for example in PDF format). This, together with the growth in colour presses has enabled newspapers to increase the number of pages that they offer (Fleming, 2011).

These facts are the reason to start thinking in different direction. Instead of microfilming printed issues of contemporary newspapers, rather accept the model of an automatic ingestion of digital copies of contemporary newspapers directly from publishers. This step could be achieved first by voluntary agreements between both parties, and later with enlarged provisions of the Legal Deposit legislation according to which an automatic ingestion of digital copies of contemporary newspapers would be required.

In 2014, the NUL signed the agreement with the largest Slovenian newspaper publishing house – DELO d.d. Since September 2014, the Library has been receiving, on daily basis, through FTP server, all digital copies of print editions of published newspapers, to make them available on a page level, read only basis in the collection's reading room (Figure 9). We would like to reach a similar agreement with other four publishing houses and later, when the legislation is adopted, with publishers of all print editions produced digitally. According to the *Slovenian guidelines for ingest, preservation, and access to digital cultural heritage*<sup>7</sup>, the Library users would have better possibilities to access newspapers.

<sup>7</sup> [http://www.nuk.uni-](http://www.nuk.uni-lj.si/dokumenti/2014/Smernice_za_zajem_dolgotrajno_ohranjanje_in_dostop_do_kulturne_dediscine_v_digitalni_obliki.pdf)

[lj.si/dokumenti/2014/Smernice\\_za\\_zajem\\_dolgotrajno\\_ohranjanje\\_in\\_dostop\\_do\\_kulturne\\_dediscine\\_v\\_digitalni\\_obliki.pdf](http://www.nuk.uni-lj.si/dokumenti/2014/Smernice_za_zajem_dolgotrajno_ohranjanje_in_dostop_do_kulturne_dediscine_v_digitalni_obliki.pdf)



**Festival Mati domovina**  
 Priloga Lidija Pavlovič  
 Pogovor z ministrom za gospodarstvo Radovanom Žerjavom  
 Joke Mencinger  
 O slabih banki



**Reforma javnih naročil čez eno leto**

**Spremembe Gospodarstvo zadovojno z novoletno zakonom, a pričakuje nove ukrepe**  
**Ljubljana** - Reforma sistema javnega naročanja bo konec prihodnjega leta in za letošnje leto 2012. Spremembe javnega naročanja bodo uvedene s pravnomočnim zakonom, ki bo veljal od 1. januarja 2013. Spremembe bodo uvedene s pravnomočnim zakonom, ki bo veljal od 1. januarja 2013. Spremembe bodo uvedene s pravnomočnim zakonom, ki bo veljal od 1. januarja 2013.

**Poziv svetnikom in županom: Odstopite do 20. decembra!**  
 A. mariborska veja Škod, ki se je pridružila obliki javno prenovljenih mestnih svetov, se v obliki povelj zaprosi župane, da se odločijo o odstopu do 20. decembra. Če ne bodo odstopili, bodo njihovi mandati prenehalni 20. decembra.

**lesnina**  
 Najbolje in najceneje  
 pravega vrste papirja!  
 Najbolje in najceneje pravega vrste papirja!

**Velika nagradna križanka**  
 časopisa DELO in družbe MORO  
**Danes, 15. decembra, preizkusite svoje znanje in osvojite bogate nagrade.**

**Janša še zaostri retoriko**  
 Na pogovoru pri komjarju -Slovenske ekvivalente nikoli ne pripadajo tuji Evropski  
 Brankič - Slovenski pravi...  
 Brankič - Slovenski pravi...  
 Brankič - Slovenski pravi...

**Herbis**  
 15% na celoten nakup  
 celoten nakup  
 celoten nakup

**MORO**  
 ZLATO, NALOŽBA ŽIVLJENJA  
 MORO & SINOTI d.o.o.  
 Trgovski in finančni sistem za dolgoletno prihodnost

**DOBRO JUTRO**  
 Glasba moje duše  
 Glasba moje duše  
 Glasba moje duše

Figure 9: Delo –digital copy

4. Conclusion

In order to achieve an important goal of the Library Serials Collection - to enable the user to access and at the same time protect the most fragile material held by the library -, it is necessary to transfer the content to another medium.

Until 2012, the medium for transferring the contents, both historical and contemporary newspapers, was a microfilm, while today it is a digital medium. Therefore, in the Library pursues the following objectives: to finish the systematic digitisation of historical newspapers and to achieve an automatic ingest of digital copies of contemporary newspapers directly from the publishers.



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