

For better or for worse?

SCHOOL OF SOCIAL SCIENCES

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UNIVERSITY OF ICELAND

Stefanía Júlíusdóttir

School of Social Sciences, University of Iceland

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Facts on Iceland

- Iceland is an island in the North Atlantic Ocean
 - Presently the population is slightly over 320.000
 - It was settled around 670-874, by Nordic and Celtic people
 - There was oral administration, in worldly and religious matters
 - Christianity became state religion in 1000, it brought the Latin alphabet and recording of administrative material and literature
 - It came under the power of the Norwegian king in 1262
 - Joined Norway into a monarchy with Denmark and into the Kalmar Union in 1397-1523, got home rule in 1904, became sovereign in 1918 and gained full independence in 1944
 - Administrative and legal matters were formed by the traditions of the nations in power until independence



Publications in Iceland were white or black

- Traditionally there was access to printed matter in Iceland – Grey literature as well as market publications
 - Legal deposit stipulations have been in force since 1886
 - Bibliographic access was available in the Icelandic National Bibliography
 - Published 1887-2001 on paper by the National Library and since 1999 as a web publication (<http://utgafuskra.is/statistics.jsp>) also at the National and University Library of Iceland (NULI)
 - Physical access to the publications was available at the National Library of Iceland and in the Quarter Libraries
- Therefore GL, apart from publications not delivered to the National Library due to ignorance of producers, did not exist in Iceland during the era of paper-publishing

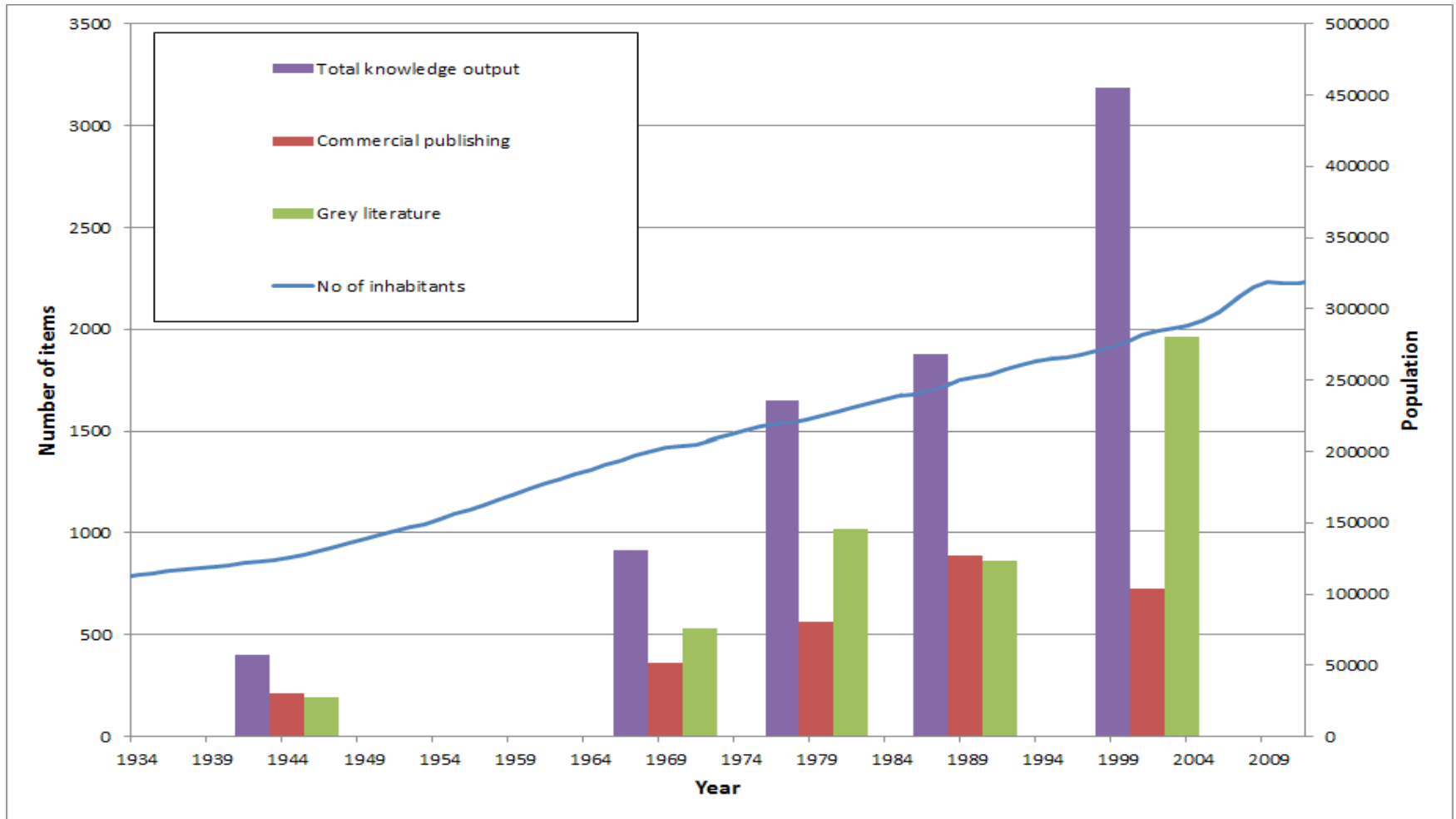


Ratio of GL versus market publications

- In 2002 I researched changes in knowledge output in Iceland, investigating the ratio of GL versus market publishing 1944-2001
 - Data from the *Icelandic National Bibliography* in e-format was received from NULI for 1944, 1969, 1979, 1989, and 2001
 - The author (having worked on cataloguing for the *Icelandic National Bibliography*) analysed the cataloguing records for the publications as being issued either by a market or GL publisher
 - Information on data on market publishing abroad of knowledge created in Iceland was sought in the Web of Science
 - Data on patent applications was received from the Patents Office and
 - Data on Icelandic standards from Icelandic Standards (IST)



Knowledge output in Iceland 1944-2001



Findings I

- Findings showed that the increase in knowledge output was greater than the increase in the population, and GL increased much more than market publications. This indicated that
 - Access to written knowledge was becoming ever more important for sustenance work of the nation, and moreover that
 - Knowledge creation was becoming an important way of sustenance in Iceland
- Producers are responsible for legal deposit deliveries to NULI
 - The findings also indicated that when GL publishers became technically able to produce their own publications in-house on paper (and electronically) the result was that
 - GL was not delivered properly to NULI because GL publishers did not know about the Legal Deposit Act



Findings II

- Prior to the 1st of January 2003 when the 2002 Act on Legal Deposit Act took force, there was no legal stipulation requiring the delivery of online publications to NULI
- This, along with the fact that the % of GL did not increase from 1979 to 2001, although there were increases in numbers in all categories gave rise to the suspicions
 - That a considerable amount of online GL had not been delivered to NULI, and
 - That the amount of GL was greater, possibly much greater than the findings indicated
- This was to be corrected with a stipulation in the 2002 Legal Deposit Act that covers publications on various media, amongst them online publications



Effects of the Legal Deposit Act 2002

- To find if the situation had improved following the enforcement of the 2002 Legal Deposit Act on the 1st of January 2003, a new research project was undertaken
- The hypothesis was that after the 1st of January 2003, there were no longer problems with access to online GL; it had become easy and quick for all to locate GL on the Internet
- Two Icelandic institutes were chosen for the investigation: the Institute of Economic Studies at the University of Iceland and the Marine Research Institute, both of which have assumed advisory roles for the Icelandic government
- Therefore it must be important both for members of the administration and the public to have complete access, both bibliographic and to the publications of these institutes



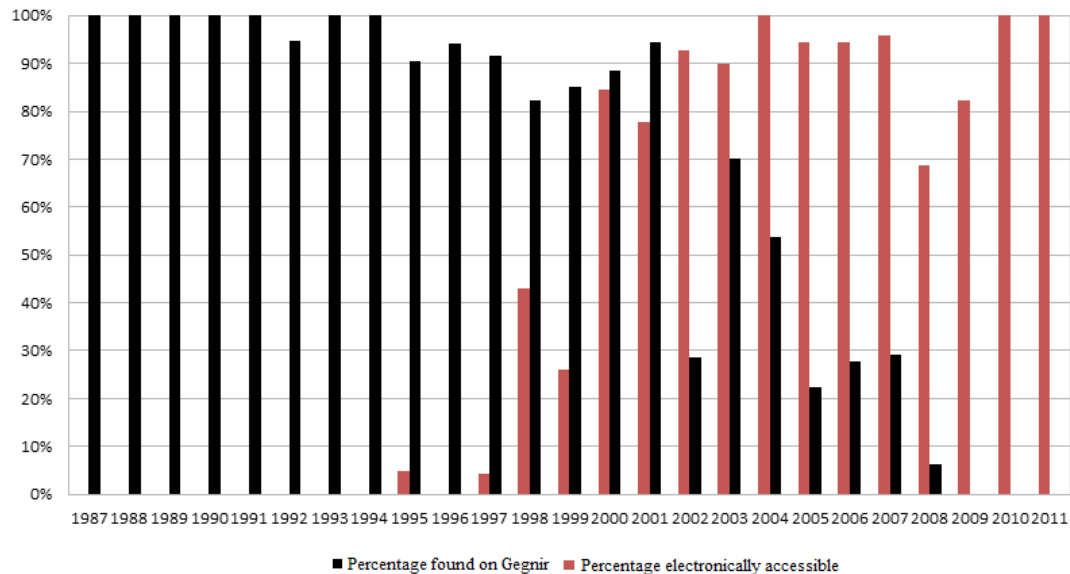
Method

- Access, both bibliographic and to the actual publications of the two chosen institutes was investigated by
- Searching for items on publication lists found on the homepages of the institutes in Gegnir.is (the national union catalogue of Icelandic libraries) to establish the bibliographic access as well as access to the publications themselves
- Neither of the institutes used Gegnir as their library system, thus they did not catalogue their publications in Gegnir themselves
- Both had published under the Legal Deposit Acts no. 43/1977 and no. 20/2002 (and one of them also under the 1949 act)
- Moreover, items were searched for directly on the Internet using Google to establish if claims on the importance of bibliographic access for precise retrieval were true



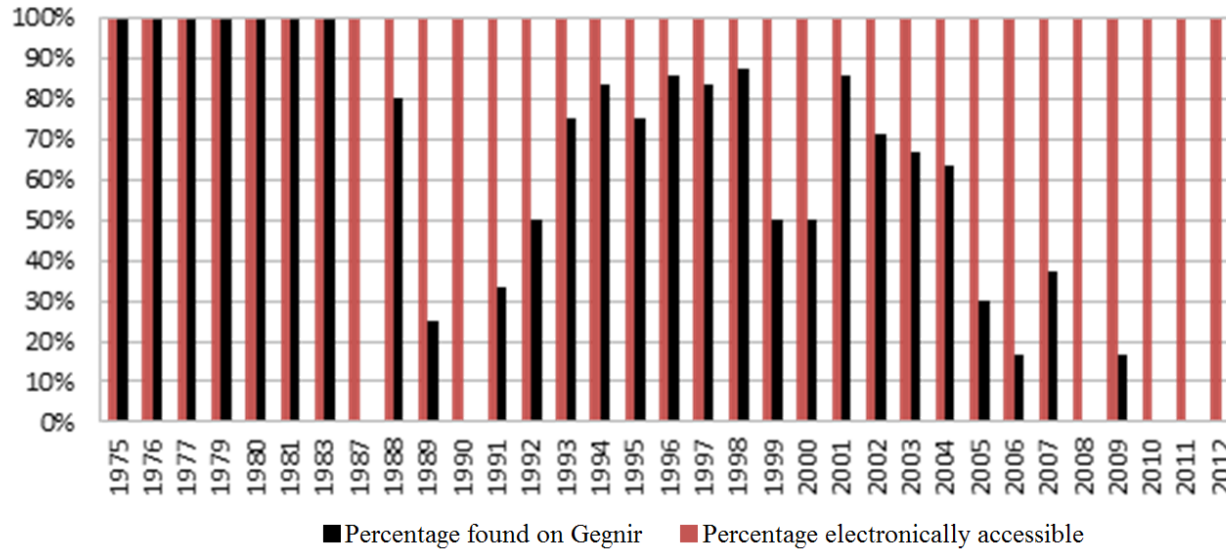
Institute of Economic Studies - total

Percentage found on Gagnir and percentage accessible electronically from the Institute for economic research's website - n = 405



Marine Research Institute

Percentage found on Gegnir and percentage accessible electronically from the Marine research institute's website - n = 164



Results

- The findings do not support the hypothesis. Access to GL issued by the two institutes investigated did not improve after the 1st of January 2003. Among the reasons was that their staff was not aware of their legal duty to deliver their publications to NULI
- Google search proved imprecise and even useless in some cases, for example when the search terms did not appear in the titles of the items searched for
- Bibliographic cataloguing is therefore necessary to ensure precision in retrieval, and in some cases to receive the sought for items at all



Thank you

