



**Grey Literature
produced and made
available by Universities
- Helping future Scholars
or Copycats?**

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Universities

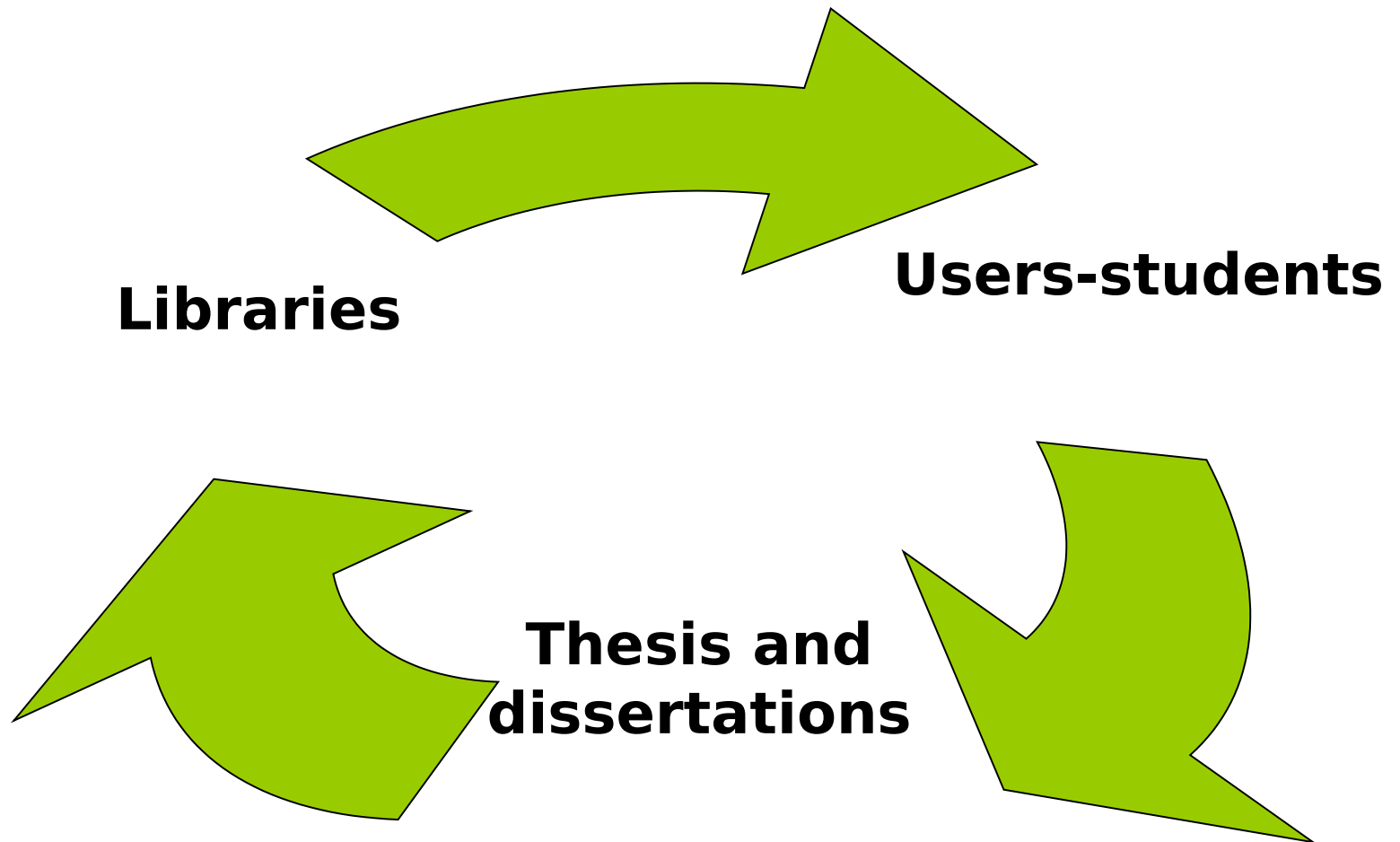
and other institutions of higher education are important producers of Grey literature. The education is usually finished by some sort of written dissertation (graduation work, diploma) that shows that a graduate is capable of research work and has a proper knowledge of the field.



Availability

Traditionally this material was available through academic libraries. WWW has helped to solve it and relieve academic librarians from trivial and routine tasks. It has also made it easier for all potential users, often students themselves, to find and use it.

Information circle





Submission and use process

- Thesis (dissertation) production;
 - Submission; and
 - Preservation.
-
- Availability
 - Use



Why they are important?

- Thesis and dissertations are often the result of research. Part of it find its' way to other publication (journal articles, congress papers and books), but not all of it.
- In small countries they serve also as research information dissemination in local community (language).

Academic GL in Library system of Slovenia

COBISS shows in the period 1998-2008

104568	Graduation theses
1458	Specialist theses
9680	Masters theses
6625	PhD dissertations*
(3442	in Slovenian language)

Pre-Bologna system



Actually quite a lot!

Institutions of Higher education (March 2008)

Four Universities with 53 Schools (Faculties) and numerous departments.

12 other institutions of higher education.

There are three university libraries and almost every School (Faculty) has it's own library. Some new higher institutions and new Schools have no library.



Methodology

- All academic institutions have been surveyed.
- 63 libraries chosen for further survey.
- 11 librarians interviewed.

- Fall 2008

Results 1

- All libraries use National Union Catalogue.
- Only a few (9) have their own digital library - repository with thesis and dissertations (no coordination).
- Many libraries allow the use of thesis and dissertations in the library premises.
- Some of them request authors' permission.

Results 2

- All librarians regard thesis and dissertations as an important part of their library collections.
- Plagiarism is important only for some of the libraries.
- Only few librarians are directly involved in helping students with their thesis and dissertations.

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Challenges for the future

Building national digital library with electronic theses and dissertations.

National Union Catalogue, COBISS, is a good starting point.

Decentralization of academic libraries is the greatest obstacle.

Library service should be organised for all higher education institutions.

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Electronic submission

Next step should be electronic submission of thesis and automatically building of repositories.

Plagiarism will be less likely when all thesis will be equally accessible in digital form.



Future tasks

for electronic thesis program

- Finding technical solutions and
- Practical procedures
- Without placing any additional burden on students, professors or librarians.

Future

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graph TD; A[Electronic submission] --> B[Reviewing/grading system]; A --> C[Digital repository];
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Electronic submission

Reviewing/grading
system

Digital repository



Digital library University of Ljubljana

Portal DiKUL is available
<http://dikul.uni-lj.si>