

# Kako smo pretraživali literaturu u predinternetsko doba

## */ How We Searched Literature in the Pre-Internet Era*

Ninoslav Mimica<sup>1,2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Klinika za psihijatriju Vrapče, Zagreb i <sup>2</sup>Sveučilište u Zagrebu, Medicinski fakultet, Zagreb, Hrvatska

<sup>1</sup> *University Psychiatric Hospital Vrapče, Zagreb* and <sup>2</sup> *University of Zagreb, School of Medicine, Zagreb, Croatia*

U vrijeme kada internet nije bio u svakom kućanstvu, kada nije bilo pametnih telefona, mobilnih aplikacija i kada svi nisu bili povezani preko društvenih mreža, pretraživanje literature i prikupljanje relevantnih članaka objavljenih u međunarodnim časopisima bilo je otežano i na to se pretraživanje trošilo znatno vrijeme unutar svakog znanstvenog istraživanja. Sekundarna publikacija *Current Contents*, koja je tada izlazila u obliku tiskanog časopisa svaki tjedan donosila je sadržaje brojnih časopisa s adresama istraživača, te na taj način omogućavala osobno kontaktiranje autora koji su u pravilu odgovarali na pismenu zamolbu i kolegijalno, besplatno dostavljali separate svojih radova. U tu svrhu mnogi su izrađivali svoje osobne dopisnice, a u ovom članku se na to prisjećamo i prikazujemo ga kako bi se osvijestio današnji napredak u segmentu pretraživanja literature, bitnom za svako istraživanje.

*/ In times when the Internet was not part of every household, when there were no smartphones and mobile applications and when not everyone was connected via social networks, searching literature and obtaining relevant articles published in international journals was a challenging and time-consuming part of any scientific research. The secondary publication Current Contents, which was then published weekly in a paper format, offered an overview of contents of various journals and listed addresses of authors, who usually responded to readers' reprint requests and, in a collegial manner, shared print copies of their articles free of charge. To this end, many had their own postal cards made. In this article, we recall and present these communication practices so as to bring to awareness the immense progress made in the literature search, which is important part of any research.*

### **ADRESA ZA DOPISIVANJE /**

#### **CORRESPONDENCE:**

Prof. prim. dr. sc. Ninoslav Mimica, dr. med.,

mr. sc., IFAPA

Klinika za psihijatriju Vrapče

Bolnička cesta 32

HR-10090 Zagreb, Hrvatska

E-pošta: ninoslav.mimica@bolnica-vrapce.hr

### **KLJUČNE RIJEČI / KEY WORDS:**

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Dopisnica / *Postal card*

**TO LINK TO THIS ARTICLE: ???**

Dopisnica, karta za slanje kraćih poruka poštom bez omotnice. U većini zemalja prodaje se državno izdanje s utisnutom markom. Tiska se na kartonu radi lakše manipulacije. Tarifa je niža nego za kuvertirano pismo. Rabi se i u službenom prometu za poruke koje nisu poslovna tajna. Izumitelj dopisnice je Emmanuel Hermann iz Beča. Uvedena je u poštanski promet u Austro-Ugarskoj 1869., a priznata u međunarodnom prometu od 1878. (1).

## ZNANSTVENA JEDINICA

U Kliničkoj psihijatrijskoj bolnici Vrapče (današnjoj Klinici za psihijatriju Vrapče) zaposlio sam se u rujnu 1989. godine kao odjelni liječnik/istraživač-suradnik (današnji znanstveni novak) pri Zavodu za psihijatrijska istraživanja, te sam upisan u Registar istraživača Republike Hrvatske pod matičnim brojem 174626. Moje radno mjesto bilo je vezano uz projekt «Psihobiološki aspekti endogenih psihoza» koji je vodila sada pok. prof. dr. sc. Vera Folnegović-Šmalc. U Zavod za psihijatrijska istraživanja, funkcionalnu znanstvenu jedinicu, bili su uključeni znanstveni radnici iz cijele Bolnice. Tu su se osmišljavali i provodili znanstveni projekti i znanstvena istraživanja, sakupljala i arhivirala dokumentacija o znanstvenim projektima i studijama ispitivanja lijekova te podatci o stručnoj i znanstvenoj publicistici. U to doba predstojnica Zavoda bila je sada pok. prof. dr. sc. Vera Dürrigl, specijalist neuropsihijatar (2). Sjećam se da smo imali sastanke svaki mjesec i da su se redovito podnosili izvještaji kako napreduju pojedini projekti koji su se trenutno provodili, planiralo se koje će se nove projekte prijaviti, tko će na njima sudjelovati i na koje će se kongrese putovati, tj. gdje će se prezentirati rezultati. Meni je to sve bilo zanimljivo i pomagalo mi je u razumijevanju i učenju psihi-

Postal card, a card for sending short messages by mail without an envelope. In most countries, postal cards are issued by government and have an imprinted stamp. They are printed on cardboard for easier manipulation. The postage is lower than for an envelope letter. The postal card is also used in official correspondence for messages that are not classified as business confidential information. The inventor of the postal card was Emmanuel Hermann from Vienna. The postal card was first introduced into the postal system in Austro-Hungary in 1869 and has been accepted in the international postal traffic since 1878 (1).

## SCIENTIFIC UNIT

I landed a job at the University Psychiatric Hospital Vrapče in September 1989 as a ward doctor / research associate (today's junior researcher) at the Institute for Psychiatric Research, and I was registered in the Register of Researchers of the Republic of Croatia under the registration number 174626. My job was related to the project "Psychobiological aspects of endogenous psychosis" led by late Prof. Vera Folnegović-Šmalc, PhD. All researchers from the Hospital were involved in the work of the Institute for Psychiatric Research, a functional scientific unit where scientific projects and research studies were designed and carried out, and documentation on scientific projects and drug trials and data on professional and scientific publications collected and archived. At that time, the head of the Department was late prof. Vera Dürrigl, PhD, specialist in neuropsychiatry (2). I remember that we had meetings every month and that regular reports were given on the progress made in individual projects that were on-going at the time. Plans were carefully developed as to which new projects to apply for funding, who would work on these projects and which congresses would be attended, i.e. where the results would be presented. I found it all very interesting and helpful for understanding and

jatrije. Iako sam u Bolnici *de facto* obavljao sve poslove kao i specijalizanti iz psihijatrije, specijalistički staž mi nije tekao, jer je moj nominalni posao bio magistrirati s temom iz projekta na kojem sam bio pripravnik. Znači, tema shizofrenija mi je bila zadana samim projektom, a unutar toga sam se odlučio za komparaciju katatonog i ostalih podtipova dugotrajnim (retrospektivnim i prospektivnim) praćenjem reprezentativnog uzorka. Bilo mi je interesantno, jer je posao podrazumijevao i terenski rad po cijeloj Hrvatskoj (pa i šire), tamo gdje su pacijenti boravili odnosno kamo su otišli. No, kako je osnova svakog znanstvenog rada prvo proučiti literaturu, vidjeti što je o temi dotada već napisano, uputio sam se u Biblioteku bolnice Vrapče, proučio postojeće knjige iz ovog područja i ubrzo shvatio da su udžbenici i knjige u trenutku objavljivanja najmanje 5-10 godina u zaostatku za trenutnim stručno-znanstvenim spoznajama, a da se recentni podatci najnovijih studija pretežno nalaze u međunarodnim stručno-znanstvenim časopisima, pa sam počeo pratiti znanstvenu periodiku. Uskoro sam najviše vremena provodio proučavajući citiranu literaturu, te sam na taj način dolazio do spoznaja o za mene važnim časopisima, onima na koje naše biblioteke nisu bile pretplaćene. Pronalazio sam puno interesantnih citata i naslova značajnih istraživanja, no sažeci i cjeloviti članci su mi i nadalje većinom bili nedostupni. Naime, postojala je mogućnost posudbe nekih časopisa odnosno kopiranja članaka putem međubibliotekarske suradnje, no to je bilo prilično komplicirano i sporo. Tijekom edukacije o metodologiji znanstvenog rada informirao sam se o sekundarnim časopisima, tj. bazama podataka, te ubrzo shvatio važnost objavljivanja u indeksiranim časopisima (3). Svaki tjedan listao sam mali bijeli časopis naziva *Current Contents* (4), okretao tanke stranice biblijskog papira, bilježio interesantne naslove i adrese autora te im slao zamolbu da mi pošalju otisak svog

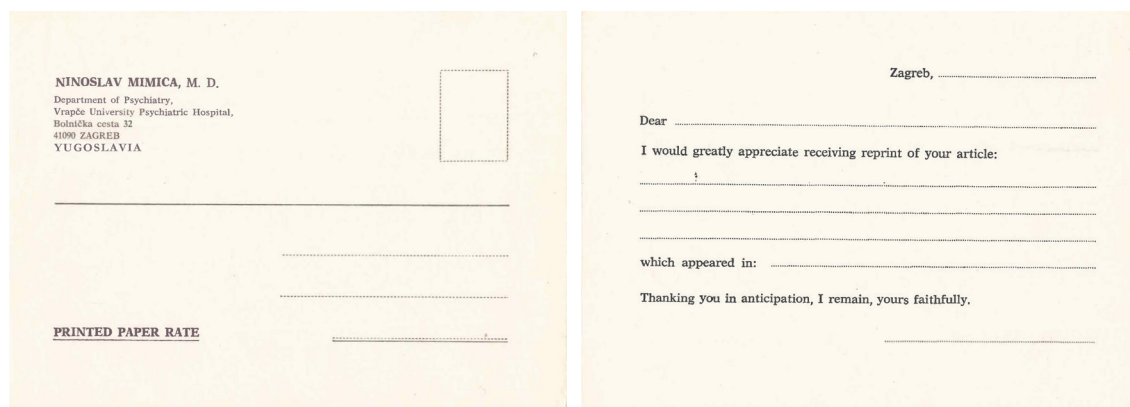
learning psychiatry. Although I practically did all the work at the Hospital like any other psychiatry resident, my specialist residency was not running because my nominal job was to earn a master's degree and my research topic was determined by the project I worked on as a junior researcher. So the topic of schizophrenia was a given because of the project itself, and I decided to compare catatonic and other subtypes of the disease after a long-term (retrospective and prospective) follow-up of a representative sample. I thought this was quite interesting, because the job description also included field work throughout Croatia (and beyond), wherever patients stayed or wherever they went. However, as the basis of any scientific paper is first to study the literature and see what has already been written about the topic, I went to the Library of Vrapče Hospital, read the existing books in this field and soon realized that textbooks and books at the time of publication were at least 5-10 years behind the current clinical and scientific knowledge. The recent data from the latest studies could mostly be found in international professional and scientific journals, so I started following scientific periodicals. I soon spent most of my time studying the cited literature, and in that way I learnt of journals that were important to me, those to which our libraries were not subscribed. I found a lot of interesting citations and titles of significant research papers, but abstracts and full-text articles were still mostly out of reach. There was a possibility of borrowing some journals or copying articles through interlibrary cooperation, but it was quite a complicated and slow process. During the training in scientific methodology, I was acquainted with secondary journals, i.e. databases, and soon realized the importance of publishing papers in indexed journals (3). Each week, I browsed through a small white journal called *Current Contents* (4), flipped through the thin pages made of Bible paper, jotted down interesting titles and addresses of authors, and then sent them reprint requests. At first, I wrote letters on a typewriter, but then I decided to create my own

članka. U početku sam pisao pisma na pisačkoj mašini, ali sam onda, zbog uštede vremena, ali i radi plaćanja niže poštarine, jer većina autora su bili iz Sjedinjenih Američkih Država i drugih prekoceanskih zemalja, odlučio kreirati svoju dopisnicu (sl. 1a). Prema uzoru na postojeće poštanske dopisnice o svom trošku sam dao izraditi i tiskati osobnu dopisnicu na tvrdem papiru dimenzije 14,5 x 10,5 cm. Na njoj je u gornjem desnom kutu bio označen kvadrat za lijepljenje marke, a u gornjem lijevom kutu bila je tiskana moja adresa na engleskom jeziku: NINOSLAV MIMICA, M. D., Department of Psychiatry, Vrapče University Psychiatric Hospital, Bolnička cesta 32, 41090 Zagreb, YUGOSLAVIA. U donjem lijevom dijelu bilo je napisano PRINTED PAPER RATE što je označavalo da se radi o TISKANICI, a što je podrazumijevalo još nižu poštarinu od one za dopisnicu.

Na poledini ove dopisnice (sl. 1b) u gornjem desnom uglu napisano je *Zagreb*, te je ostavljeno mjesto za upis datuma, potom u drugom redu riječ *Dear [Dragi]* a u nastavku je ostavljeno mjesto za upis imena i prezimena. Zatim je slijedio tekst *I would greatly appreciate receiving reprint of your article: [Bilo bi mi jako drago primiti otisak vašeg članka:]* i onda tri crte predviđene za upis naslova članka. Nakon toga je slijedio tekst *which appeared in: [koji je objavljen u:]* pa prostor za upis naziva časopisa. Tekst završava s rečenicom zahvale – *Thanking you in anticipa-*

postal card (Figure 1a) to save time and pay lower postage, because most of the authors were from the United States and other overseas countries. Following the example of the existing postal cards, I had a personal postal card custom-made and printed on harder paper measuring 14.5 x 10.5 cm, at my own expense. A square for affixing the stamp was located in the upper right-hand corner, and my address was printed in English in the upper left-hand corner: NINOSLAV MIMICA, M. D., Department of Psychiatry, Vrapče University Psychiatric Hospital, Bolnička cesta 32, 41090 Zagreb, YUGOSLAVIA. In the lower left part, PRINTED PAPER RATE was written, which indicated that it was PRINTED MATTER, which meant an even lower postage than for a postal card.

On the back of this postal card (Figure 1b), the upper right-hand corner displayed the printed word *Zagreb*, and a blank field next to it for entering a date. Then, the second line began with the word *Dear* and below, there was again blank field intended for entering a name and surname. This was followed by the text *I would greatly appreciate receiving a reprint of your article:* and then three lines were left for writing the title of the article. This was followed by the text *which appeared in:* and an empty space for entering the name of the journal. The text ended with a thank-you note - *Thanking you in anticipation, I remain, yours faithfully.* The final line was intended for signature.



**SLIKA 1.** Tiskanica u obliku osobne dopisnice (iz doba Jugoslavije) kojom se moli reprint određenog članka, prednja i stražnja stranica  
**FIGURE 1** Postal stationery in the form of a personal postal card (from the time of Yugoslavia) with a reprint request, front and back.

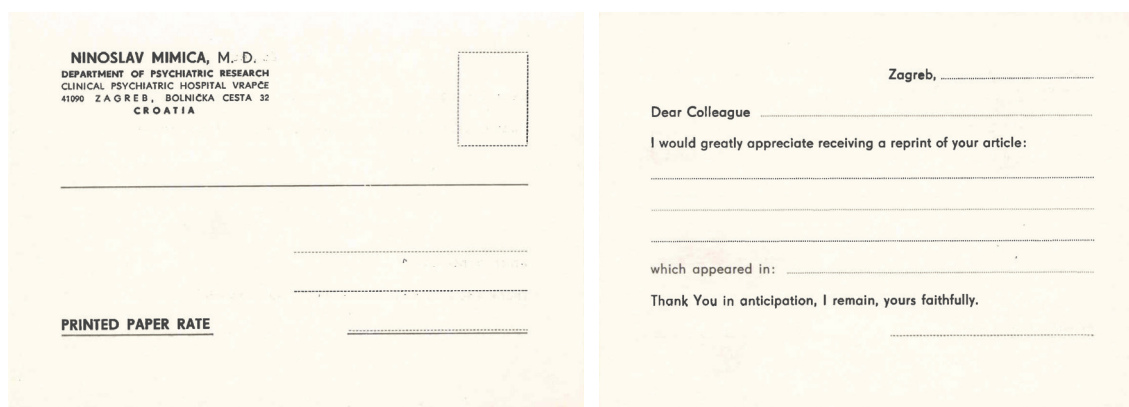
tion, I remain, yours faithfully [Zahvaljujem unaprijed, ostajem vjerno vaš]. I onda crta na koju ide potpis.

Nedugo potom, pri kraju 1991. godine, došlo je do raspada Jugoslavije, a kako moj magisterij nije bio još gotov, sa zadovoljstvom sam odmah tiskao novu dopisnicu na kojoj je u adresi bilo upisano CROATIA. Novu dopisnicu, s malo modificiranim tekstom nastavio sam slati u sve dijelove svijeta. Vjerujem da su primitkom te dopisnice mnogi tada po prvi puta čuli za Hrvatsku, a pri ispisivanju moje adrese zbog slanja svog separata osvijestili postojanje nove suverene države Hrvatske. Kao što je vidljivo na dopisnici je naveden poštanski broj 41090, jer je još u to vrijeme bio važeći, a dosta kasnije je promijenjen u 10090 (sl. 2a i 2b).

U početku sam članke pronalazio samo u časopisu Current Contents (CC), Clinical Medicine (CM), koji je izlazio tjedno, u njemu iščitavao sadržaje časopisa, tj. naslove članaka odabranih psihijatrijskih časopisa, bilježio adrese autora i njima slao dopisnicu s molbom da mi pošalju otisak svog nedavno objavljenog članka. Nešto kasnije sam shvatio da se neki meni interesantni članci objavljuju i u *Current Contents*, *Life Science* (LS) odnosno *Social and Behavioral Sciences* (SBS) pa sam od tada na dalje čitao ta tri CC časopisa. Pošta je tih godina dobro funkcionirala, vjerojatno bolje nego danas, poštari

Shortly afterwards, at the end of 1991, Yugoslavia dissolved, and as my master's degree was not yet completed, I was pleased to immediately print a new postal card with the address CROATIA written on it. I continued sending the new postal cards, with a slightly modified text, to all parts of the world. I believe that many people first heard about Croatia because of my postal cards. When they wrote my address in order to send me their reprint, they became aware of the existence of a new sovereign state of Croatia. The postal code on the card was 41090, as it was still valid at the time, and much later it was changed to 10090 (Figures 2a and 2b).

Initially, I was finding articles only in the journal Current Contents (CC), Clinical Medicine (CM), which was published weekly. I read the contents of the journal, i.e., the titles of articles from selected psychiatric journals, recorded the authors' addresses and sent them my postal cards asking for a reprint of their recently published article. Somewhat later, I realized that some articles I was interested in were also published in *Current Contents*, *Life Science* (LS) and *Social and Behavioral Sciences* (SBS). So from then on, I began reading these three CC journals. The post office worked well in those years, probably better than today. Postmen regularly delivered items on Saturdays, so it only took 1-4 weeks, depending on the destination, to receive the



**SLIKA 2.** Tiskanica u obliku osobne dopisnice (iz 1991. godine) kojom se moli otisak određenog članka, prednja i stražnja stranica  
**FIGURE 2** Postal stationery in the form of a personal postal card (from 1991) with a reprint request, front and back.

su redovito dostavljali pošiljke i subotom, pa je tako trebalo samo između 1-4 tjedna, ovisno o destinaciji, da se traženi članak dobije na kućnu adresu, najčešće s kratkom posvetom autora (sl. 3).

Ponekad sam dobio otisak (fotokopiju) a ponekad separat rada, tj. zasebno otisnut članak uvezan s naslovnicom časopisa. U to je vrijeme bilo uobičajeno da autori članka besplatno dobivaju 10-25 separata (sl. 4), a svaki od časopisa je još putem prethodne narudžbe nudio kupnju većeg broja separata. Naime, mnogi autori su imali običaj samoinicijativno slati svoje separate kolegama nadajući se da će možda biti citirani u njihovim radovima. Stoga je u to doba bilo uobičajeno da nakon prihvaćanja članka,

requested article to your home address, usually with a short dedication by the author (Figure 3).

Sometimes I received a photocopy and sometimes a reprint of the article, i.e., a separately printed article bound within the journal covers. At that time, it was common for the authors to receive 10-25 reprints of their published article free of charge (Figure 4), and each of the journals offered a larger number of reprints for purchase based on the previous order. Many authors used to send the reprints to their colleagues on their own initiative, hoping that their work might be cited in others' papers. Therefore, at that time it was customary for authors to order an additional 50, 100 or more reprints after their article had been accepted



SLIKA 3. Poštom prispjeli separat s posvetom  
FIGURE 3 A reprint with inscription received by mail.

poglavito ako se radilo o međunarodnom časopisu, autor dodatno naruči još 50, 100 ili više separata.

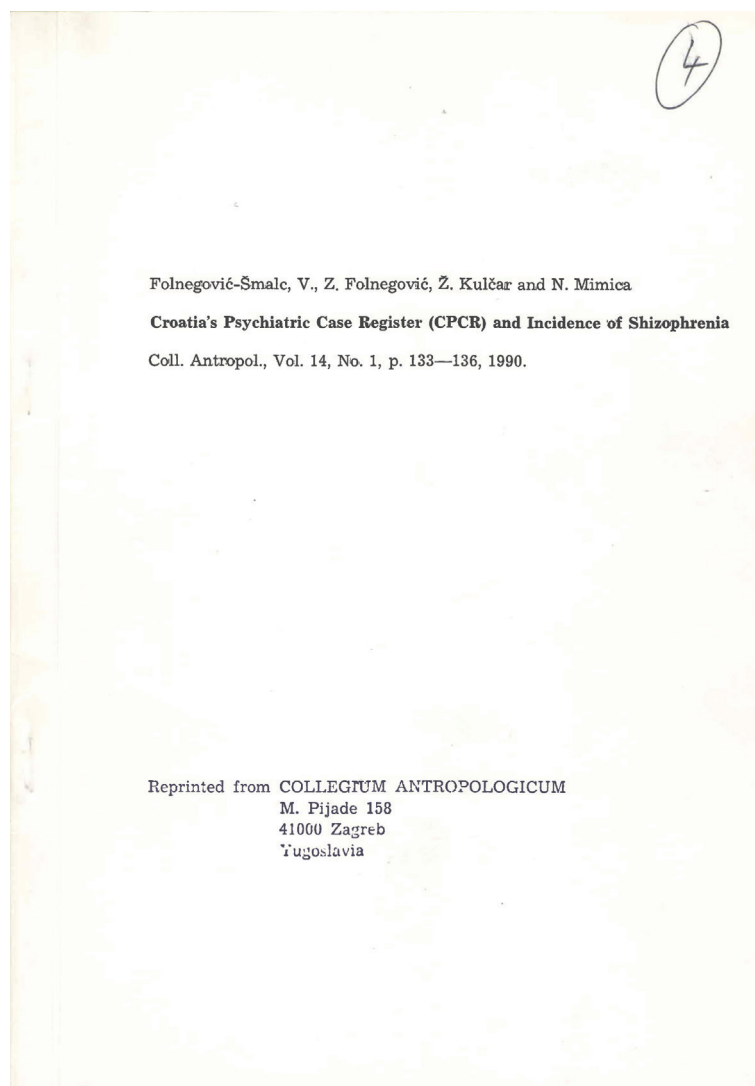
Magistrirao sam 1994. godine (5), nakon 5 godina terenskog rada, i skupljanja literature, no kada sam branio rad, bio sam potpuno spokojan, jer sam znao da sve relevantno što je dotad objavljeno na tu temu imam u svojoj arhivi i detaljno sam proučio.

Potom sam s vremenom i ja počeo objavljivati članke vezane za rezultate magisterija i doktorata, pa su i meni počesto pristizali zahtjevi za slanje reprintsa mojih članaka (sl. 5), na koje sam sa zadovoljstvom odgovarao.

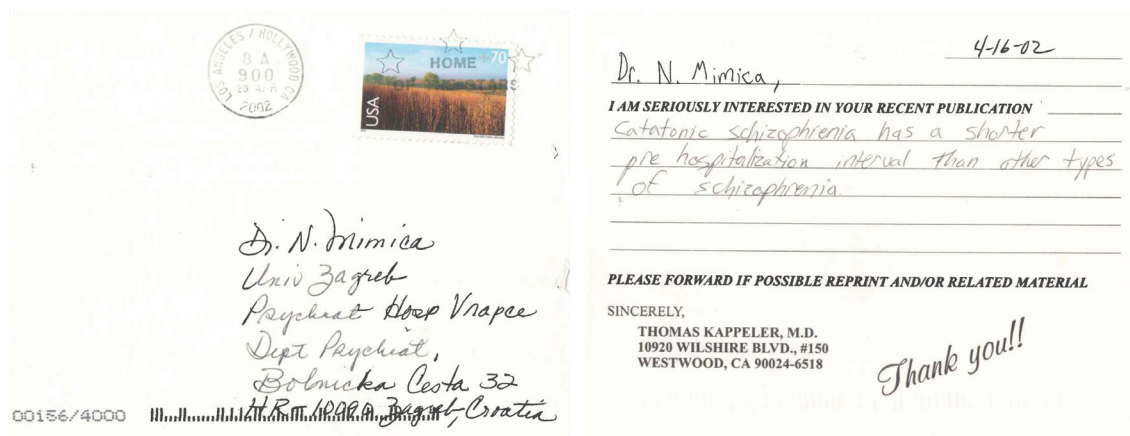
for publication, especially if it was to be published in an international journal.

I received my master's degree in 1994 (5), after 5 years of field work and collecting literature. When I defended my thesis, I was completely calm, because I knew that I had everything relevant that had been published on that topic up to then in my archive and that I had studied it all in detail.

Then, over time, I began to publish articles related to the results of my master's and doctoral dissertations. Suddenly, I started receiving requests to send reprints of my articles (Figure 5), to which I gladly responded every time.



SLIKA 4. Separat rada objavljenog u časopisu *Collegium Antropologicum* 1990. godine  
 FIGURE 4 A reprint of an article published in the *Collegium Antropologicum* in 1990.



**SLIKA 5.** Tiskanica pristigla 2002. godine, iz Amerike, Los Angeles, Hollywood u obliku osobne dopisnice a kojom se moli otisak članka, prednja i stražnja stranica

**FIGURE 5** A postal stationery received in 2002, from the USA, Los Angeles, Hollywood in the form of a personal postal card with a reprint request, front and back.

## ZAKLJUČNO

Današnje baze podataka u većini slučajeva besplatno nude samo sažetak rada, a cjeloviti rad se obično prodaje, tj. može kupiti najčešće po cijeni od 25 – 39 USA \$/Eura. U zadnje vrijeme postoji sve više časopisa s tzv. otvorenim pristupom (*Open access*) koji daju cjelovite radove besplatno, no tu se najčešće radi o tome da su prethodno sami autori unaprijed uplatili značajnije svote tom časopisu (od 100 do 3000 i više Eura) kako bi to omogućili. U najnovije doba postoje i društvene mreže (npr. *ResearchGate*) koje povezuju znanstvenike međusobno i omogućuju im neposrednu komunikaciju te da između sebe razmjenjuju znanstvene članke i na taj način dolaze do besplatnih informacija za vlastitu upotrebu. Današnja komunikacija na toj društvenoj mreži uvelike podsjeća na nekadašnje slanje dopisnica i traženje separata, samo što se danas sve odvija znatno brže, elektroničkim putem, pa je tako nestala draž višetjednog provjeravanja poštanskog sandučića, iščekivanja poštaru i otvaranja prispjelih pošiljaka.

U preinternetsko doba, kada su nam samo malobrojni stručno-znanstveni podatci bili nadohvat ruke, časopis *Current Contents* pružao je prozor u svijet znanosti, a traženje separata putem dopisnica predstavljao neposredan kon-

## CONCLUSION

Today's databases generally provide free-of-charge access only to abstracts, while full-text articles have to be bought, i.e., they can usually be purchased at a price of 25 - 39 USA \$ / Euro. Recently, there have been more and more journals with so-called open access, offering access to all articles free-of-charge. However, most authors themselves have previously paid significant sums to open-access journals (from 100 to 3000 Euro or more) to make it possible. Of late, there are also social networks (e.g. *ResearchGate*), which connect scientists, allow them to communicate directly to one another and to exchange scientific articles, thus getting free information for their own use. Today's communication on these social networks is very reminiscent of postal cards and reprint requests, only today everything is much faster, electronically sent. The charm of checking the mailbox for weeks, waiting expectantly for the postman and opening mail has faded.

In the pre-Internet era, when only a handful of scientific data was at our fingertips, *Current Contents* provided a window into the world of science, and requesting reprints through postal cards was a direct contact with the author and

takt s autorom i relativno brz, jeftin i učinkovit način sakupljanja recentne literature. Današnje internetske baze podataka omogućavaju trenutni pristup podatcima što znatno olakšava, ubrzava prikupljanje literature i protok informacija, te je stoga važno osvijestiti koliko je veliki napredak ostvaren u tom segmentu.

a relatively quick, inexpensive, and efficient way to collect recent literature. Today's online databases provide an instant access to data, facilitating greatly the collection of literature and flow of information. It is, therefore, important to be aware of the magnitude of progress that has been made in this segment.

## ZAHVALA

Zahvaljujem svojoj majci, Nikici Mimica, prof., bivšoj tajnici Klinike za ženske bolesti i porodiljstvo, te voditeljici istoimene biblioteke pri Kliničkoj bolnici „Dr. Mladen Stojanović“ u Zagrebu (danas Klinički bolnički centar Sestre milosrdnice), da me je u samom početku mog znanstvenog rada uputila na radove sada pok. Eugene Garfielda, osnivača biometrike i scientometrike.

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I would like to thank my mother, Nikica Mimica, professor and former secretary of the Clinic for Women Diseases and Maternity, and head of the eponymous library of Clinical Hospital „Dr Mladen Stojanović in Zagreb (today University Hospital Center Sestre milosrdnice), for referring me to the works of late Eugene Garfield, the founder of biometrics and scientometrics.

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