

SciVie – Sciences de la Vie from the past and for the future

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Highlights: We report the launching process of a multi-institutional repository (SciVie) to broaden access to published work and grey literature in forest research. We describe the digitalization process and the strategies used to accomplish this goal.

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Changes in scientific communication due to European Commission requirements and global demand are pushing authors towards open science, in particular making publications and data available to all communities. These shifts are also reflected in the publishing activities of the Slovenian Forestry Institute (SFI). With the financial support of the EUFORINNO project we have set up the open access repository SciVie.

The SciVie repository (derived from 'Sciences de la Vie'), with its fully open access materials, provides more efficient use and re-use of past research and the promotion of research results, researchers and institutions. This may help in increasing citations and recognition of scientific works, training future scientists for open access, increasing the number of potential users and giving the general public the opportunity to improve their lives based on research findings. The SciVie repository was launched in 2013 based on EPrints 3 software as a multi-institutional repository in the fields of natural and life sciences. It is intended for storage of articles, monographs, databases and other works, with the aim of meeting the requirements of EU co-financers. It has therefore been entered in the databases OpenDOAR, RAOR and OpenAir. Currently, several institutions already contribute to the SciVie multi-institutional repository, including the Slovenian Forestry Institute, Agricultural Institute of Slovenia, National Institute of Biology and Biotechnical Faculty of the University of Ljubljana, Department of Wood Science and Technology. For all partners there are three basic purposes:

- to deposit articles according to the publisher's policy and therefore meet the request for Open Access Policies in the European Union; this is accomplished based on the information mediated by the SHERPA/RoMEO website;
- to publish new publications by participating institutions in open access, and
- to archive old and digitalized literature.

At the Slovenian Forestry Institute several presentations of the advantages and purpose of open access have been conducted for researchers. Special efforts have been put into ensuring compliance with copyright legislation and encouraging researchers to publish in open access.

In addition, a three-stage digitalization process for already published works (dating from the establishment of the Slovenian Forestry Institute in 1950') has been set up. First 643 articles from the Zbornik gozdarstva in lesarstva (now Acta Silvae et Ligni) were digitalized and entered into SciVie. In the second stage, 324 study reports were digitalized from the grey literature, where the only copy (usually) exists only in the Forestry library. This second task has been a challenge for the digitalizing company chosen, since materials were on different paper formats, old or damaged paper, and printed or typed in varying quality. Another special challenge has been the digitalization of supplementary maps and other outsized material, and finding a way to disseminate digitalized copies to the public (via SciVie) in files of manageable size. The third stage, the digitalization of a set of study reports and other similar material published by the Slovenian Forestry Institute, is under way. For all deposited work the process of acquiring permission for digitalization and e-publishing was engaged according to the principle "best effort."

With these activities, we aim to enable the use and re-use of new and old research materials that might otherwise not be readily accessible, and we thereby support the advancement of forest research and development.

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