



EVALUATING THE USAGE AND COSTS OF A FACULTY LIBRARY

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INTRODUCTION

- along with the traditional services provided by academic libraries, some new methods and technologies for document and information retrieval have appeared, and thus widened the spectrum of academic libraries' services
- in order to keep up with the growing trends in the information retrieval technologies and services, the role of the academic library must be reconceptualized, which implicates additional costs for providing such services

OBJECTIVE

- the purpose of this study is to compare and present cost analysis of four different ways in which Faculty of electrical engineering and computing library provided access to documents/information in 2006: book acquisition, interlibrary loan, access to online databases, and membership in professional associations

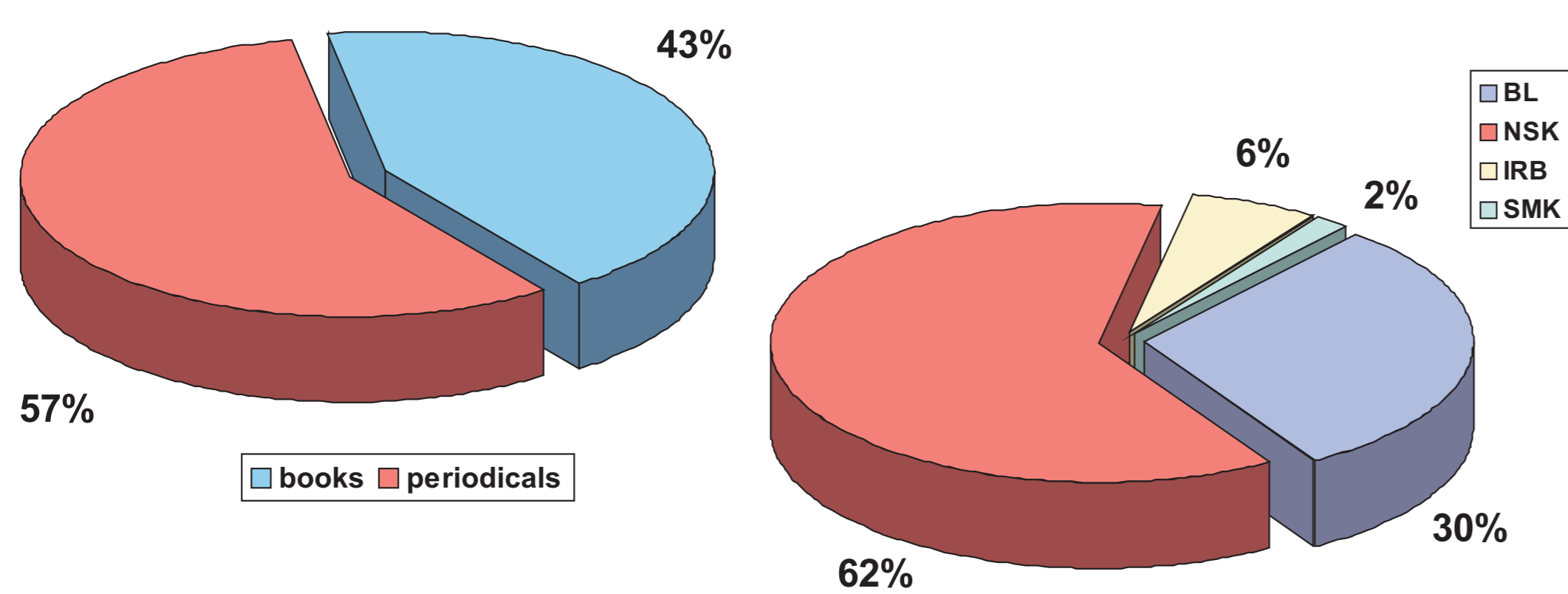
1. ACCESS TO DOCUMENTS/INFORMATION

BOOK ACQUISITION

- aims to develop and update the library's collection with books and periodicals, which still play an important role in dissemination and distribution of scientific knowledge among researchers
- 30.511,03 € (223.584,00 Kn) was spent on book acquisition in 2006

INTERLIBRARY LOAN

- enables users to borrow books, articles, or receive photocopies of articles that are owned by another library
- accessible to professors, students, and staff members at the faculty
- there were 63 demands for interlibrary loan in 2006



TOTAL 1.474,42 € (10.798,65 Kn)	
NATIONAL AND UNIVERSITY LIBRARY 1.122,88 € (8.224,00 Kn)	BRITISH LIBRARY 351,54 € (2.574,68 Kn)
RUGJER BOŠKOVIĆ INSTITUTE LIBRARY —	CENTRAL MEDICAL LIBRARY —

ONLINE DATABASES

- provide access to full text documents and enable search capability in almost every field of research
- a very important tool for locating the latest developments and information in technical engineering and computing
- intended for Croatian academic and scientific community, and funded by the Ministry of Science, Education and Sports
- databases cost expense in 2006: 862.950,50 € (6.323.625,10 Kn)

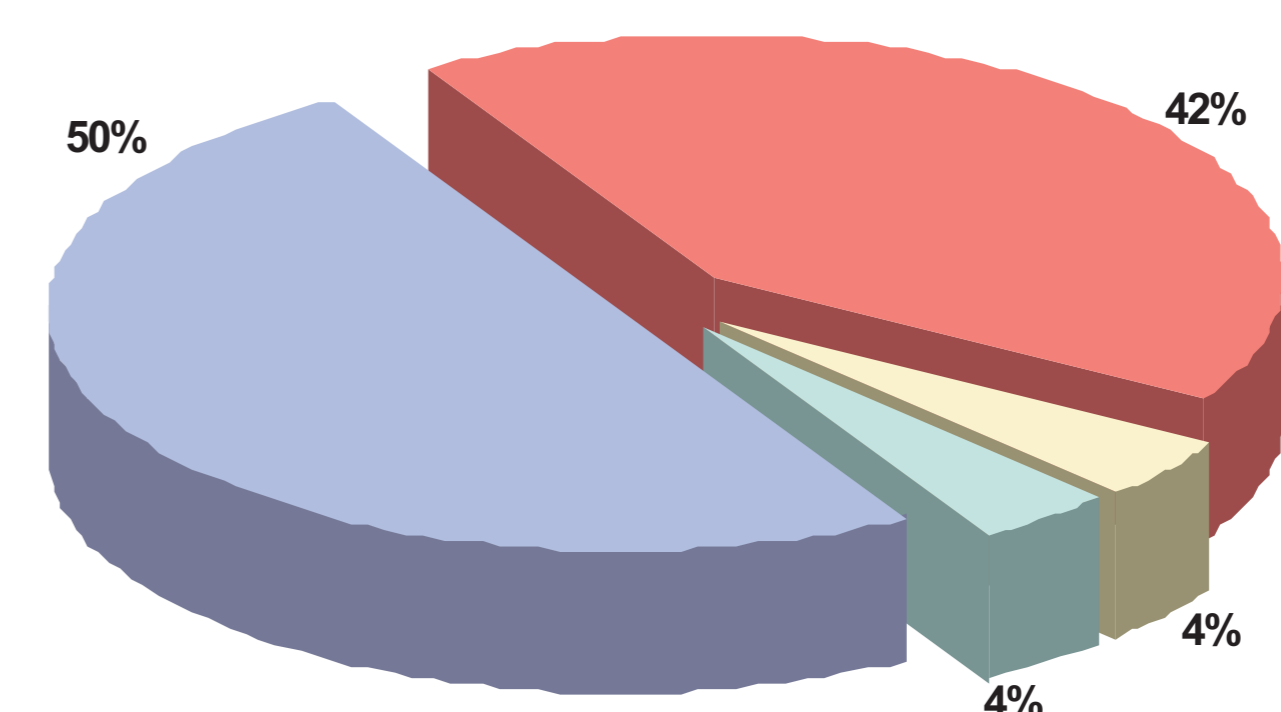
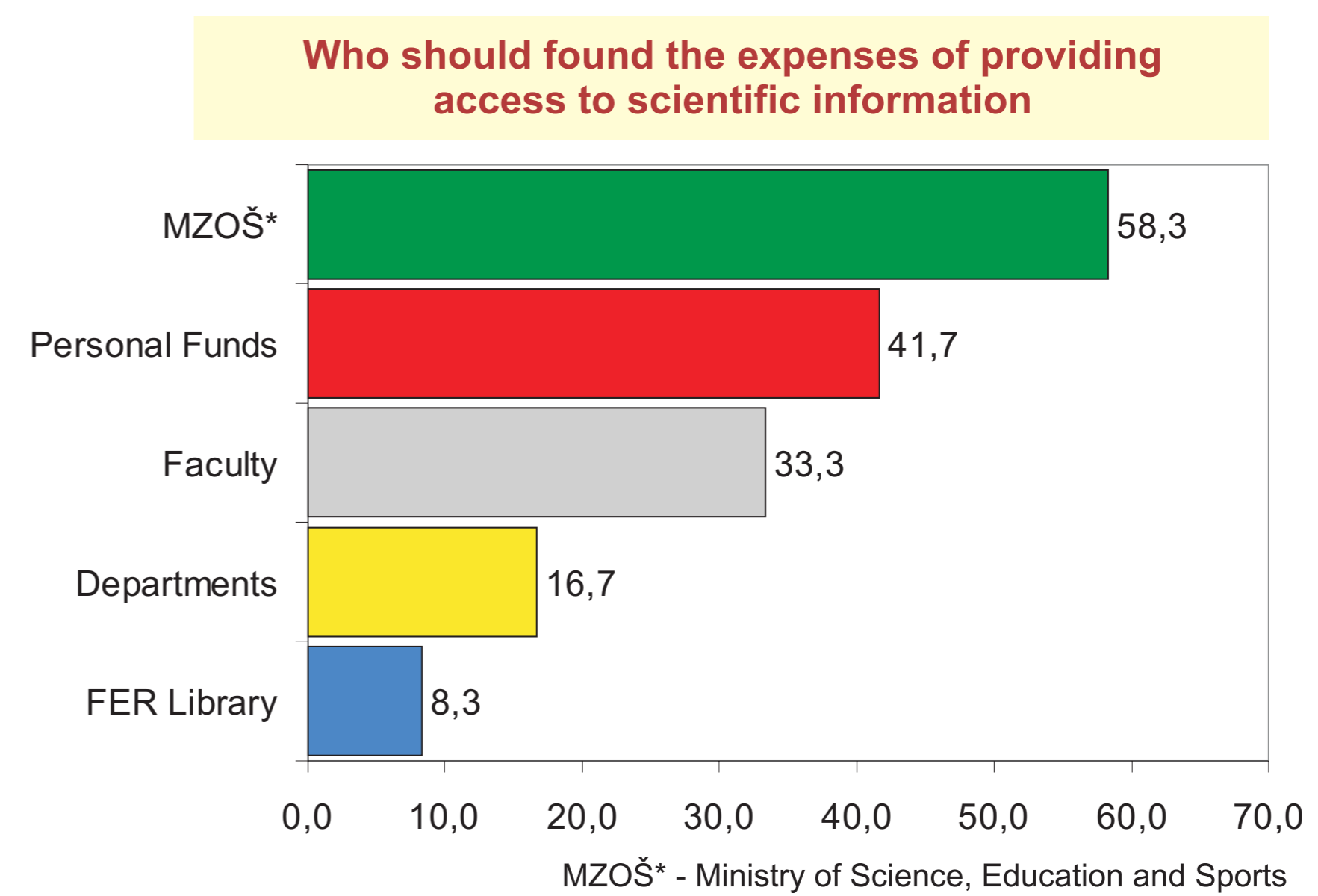
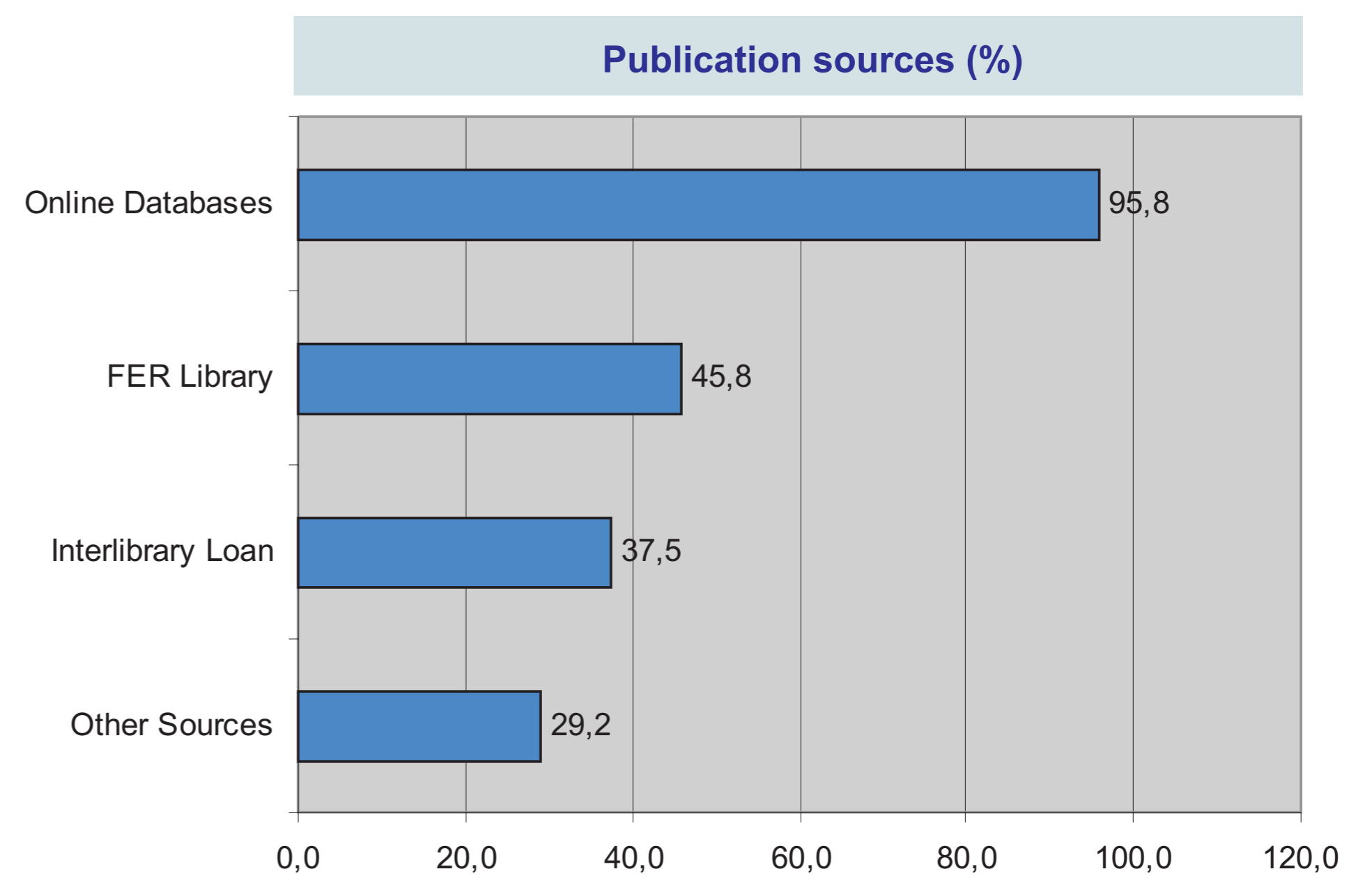
MEMBERSHIP IN PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

- enables the faculty's scientific-teaching staff, as well as students, to enhance the value of their profession and to network with their peers
- benefits include access to current information, as well as online, full-text access to their publications, distance learning courses

MEMBERSHIP COST EXPENSE IN 2006	36.194,70 € (265.232,00 Kn)
INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATIONS	27.860,40 € (204.159,00 Kn)
CROATIAN ASSOCIATIONS	8.334,30 € (61.073,00 Kn)

2. RESEARCH

- pilot-research
- sample: 27 examinees (10% of scientific-teaching staff on the Faculty of electrical engineering and computing)
- objective: determining how the scientific-teaching staff of the faculty access scientific information and records, and how much they are aware of the prices of the given services
- form: questionnaire



Do not know 0 € 1.365 - 2.730 € More than 5.460 €

CONCLUSION

- online databases are the most expensive way of providing access to scientific information, but since the service is used by a sizeable number of scientific-teaching staff, it is certainly the most cost-effective, as well as necessary tool for information retrieval
- it is quite important to put emphasis on the already existing educational programs for users, as well as for librarians, in order to heighten the awareness of its importance in present day scientific work, as well as in librarianship