

Collaborative works on compiling the online encyclopaedia began in February 2008. Online encyclopaedias are no longer a novelty. Even the most relevant encyclopaedias are published on the Web. A few smaller or specialised encyclopaedias or similar reference books have so far been published in Croatia and a few half-finished dictionaries are available as well. We should also mention Wikipedia and its huge number of entries written in English and a substantially smaller number of those written in Croatian. But Proleksis encyclopaedia is the first Croatian general and national online encyclopaedia. Therefore, it is written in Croatian and has been compiled and edited following Croatian lexicographic principles. Its form is classical, but communication possibilities make it a modern electronic encyclopaedia; it is open, but also monitored by its editors. We plan to enlarge the number of entries by opening it towards collaborators and not only the editors and thus create one of the first portals where the users will be able to find basic information on a wide range of knowledge and experiences brought to them by classical and modern encyclopaedias. They will also be able to contribute by making such information more detailed.

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Online encyclopaedia - Proleksis encyclopaedia currently features more than 62 000 articles and more than 17 000 illustrations.

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Proleksis encyclopaedia aims at simplifying the process of article searching as much as possible. As articles will be subject to continuous changes, additions and updates, this will require additional cross-references since they may sometimes remain unobserved. We hereby invite the Proleksis encyclopaedia users to pay attention not only to the supplements accompanying certain articles but also to some other layout elements and to suggest useful solutions or correct possible omissions.

The articles are listed alphabetically in the way they have originally been written, which also includes titles of the articles (containing names or terms) written in some foreign language. According to the way names are indicated in encyclopaedias, surnames come first and are separated from first names by a comma in order to indicate the deviation from the standard way of writing.

It is possible that some users might not be familiar with the original spelling of a certain foreign name or word, so their Croatian versions are available and you can also find different ways of writing certain foreign words, which might not be familiar to everyone. That is why there is a special alphabetical list along with the main search window at the home page. The main window requires entering a correct and full title of the desired article, while the alphabetical list makes article searching easier.

So, by clicking on one of the letters of the alphabet a special window opens. There you can enter only the first one, two or three letters of the article title. If you click the window containing the word "enquiry", the alphabetical list will be reduced to the above letters and will thus allow the user to find desired article title more easily. By clicking on the title, the desired article opens immediately.

For example, if you would like to look for a word you know how to pronounce but are not sure about the spelling (e.g. "Tomas Man"), you should just enter "man" and you will be offered a reduced number of articles, out of which you will be able to pick out the desired one easily ("Thomas Mann"). The alphabet list might also help you with finding certain article titles which in different languages are spelled differently. It often occurs when the letters such as "k" and "c", "f" and "ph", "b" and "v" have been interchanged. In such a case the alphabet list will offer you a cross-reference indicating the title of the desired article.