

Establishing Digital Repositories at Western Balkan Universities: Implementation of PHAIDRA System, Educational Activity and Regional Cooperation

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Introduction

Establishing repositories at Western Balkan universities is a part of Tempus project "New Library Services at Western Balkan Universities", launched in 2010. and coordinated by University Library "Svetozar Markovic" in Belgrade. The main objectives of the Project are: modernization of library economy, more efficient library services, integration and institutional diffusion of academic library network on six Western Balkan universities in Serbia, Montenegro and Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Partners in the project: University of Belgrade, University of Niš, University of Kragujevac, University of Montenegro, University of Sarajevo and University of Tuzla – regional; University of Vienna (Austria), University of Maribor (Slovenia) and Middlesex University (Great Britain) – EU partners.

Basis of new repositories is PHAIDRA system, created, developed and launched in 2006. by University of Vienna, University library in Vienna and Computer Center.

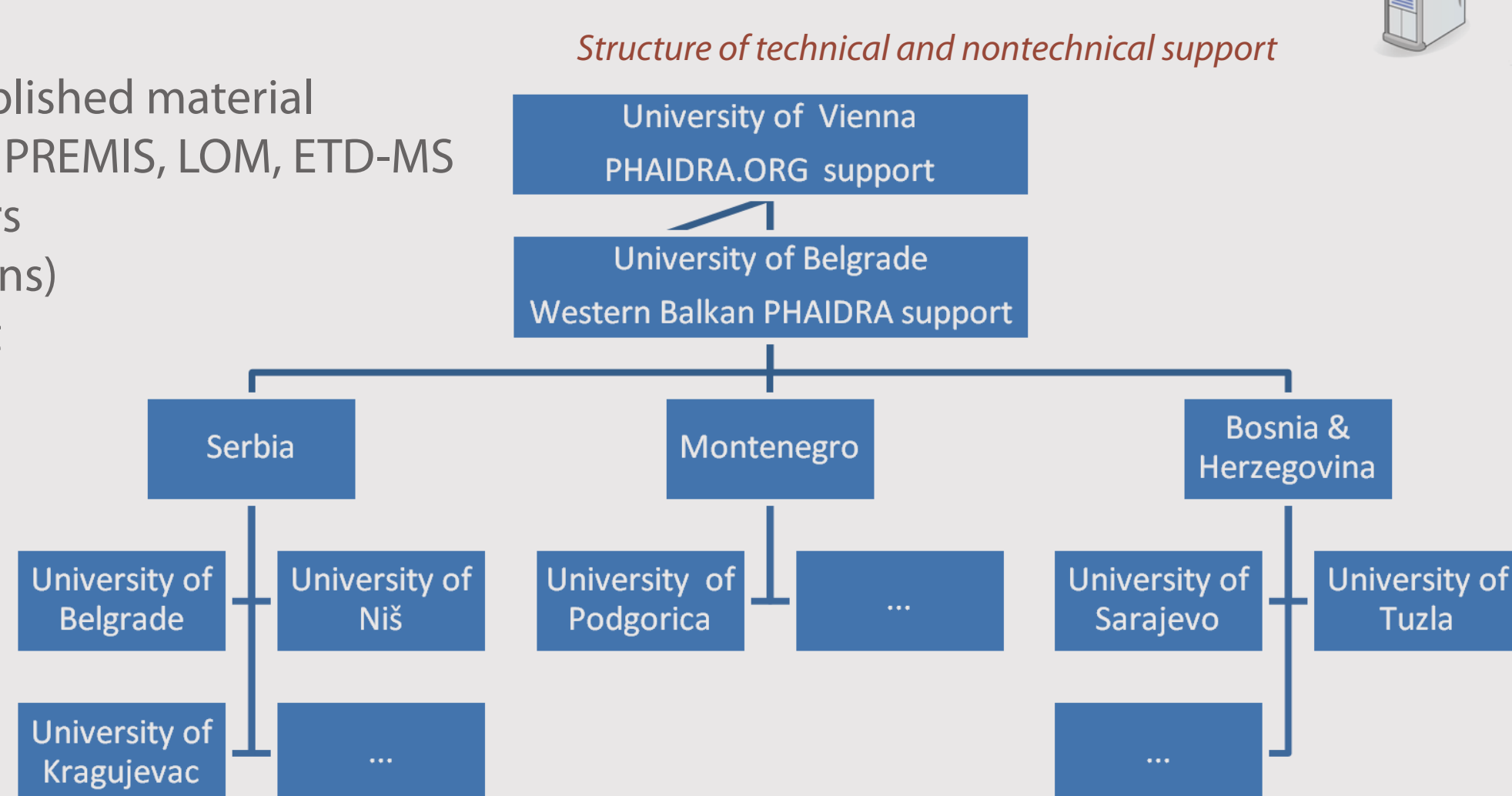


Leading Role of University of Belgrade

University of Vienna is providing technical and nontechnical model of support and it transfer it to the University of Belgrade, which it disseminates to other partners. Reversibly, University of Belgrade notifies every technical difficulty and problem that occurs at each repository, judge and redefine them, and in such revised version send them again to University of Vienna for final evaluation. This procedure enables efficient solution of problems and avoid duplicating of remarks.

PHAIDRA features

- Archiving of published and unpublished material
- Metadata standards: Dublin Core, PREMIS, LOM, ETD-MS
- Citation based on stable identifiers
- Grouping of the objects (collections)
- Legal protection of the document
- Many classification scheme
- Easily managed access policy

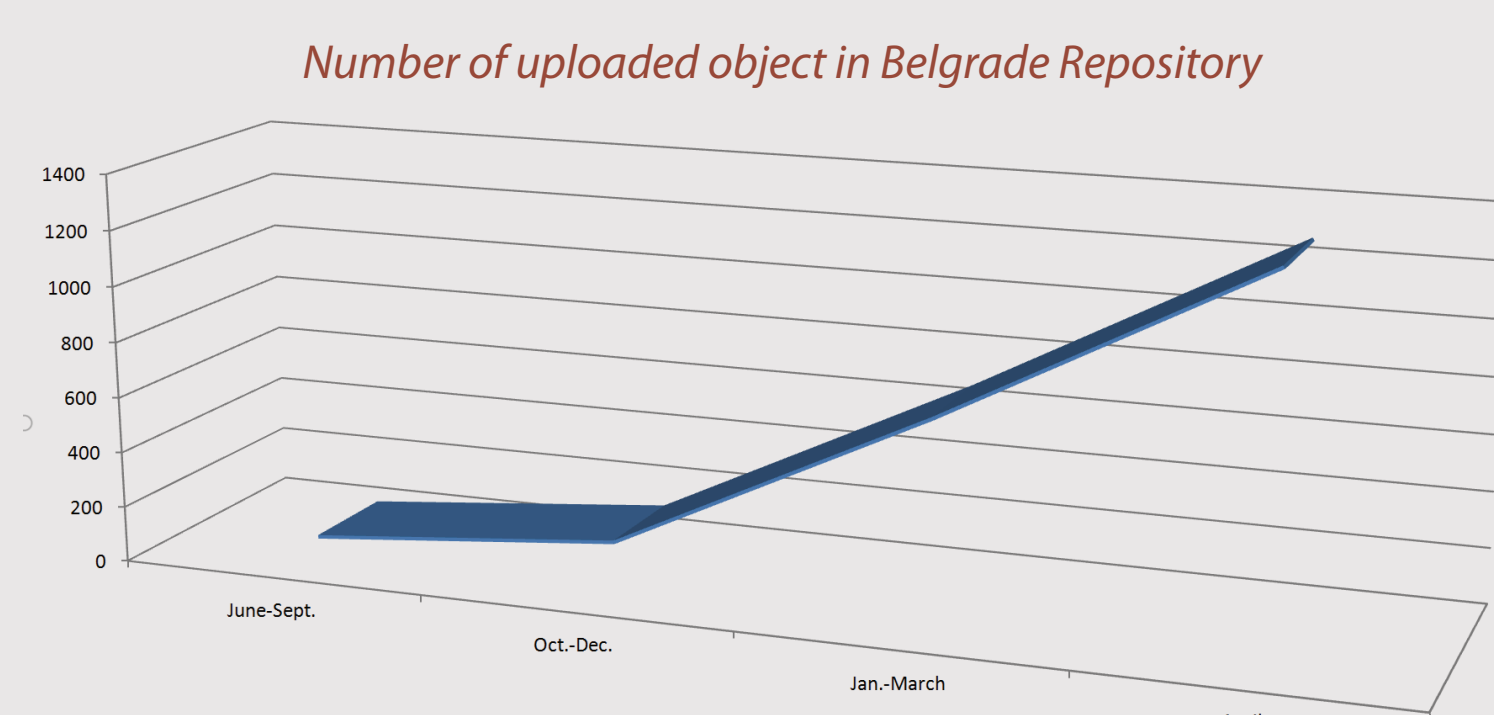


PHAIDRA promotes open access

Every object uploaded in repository is primary visible worldwide, with possibility to restrict access according to users' wishes. The establishing of the repository initialized the decision of the University of Belgrade to join the Berlin Declaration on Open Access to Knowledge in the Science and Humanities.

Education strategy

The strategy of education and dissemination of information included in the first phase faculty librarians and other professionals from the academic library system. This approach enables quicker spread of the information among the university environment, better connection between the academic librarians, providing the centralization of system together with developed information network.



What is PHAIDRA?

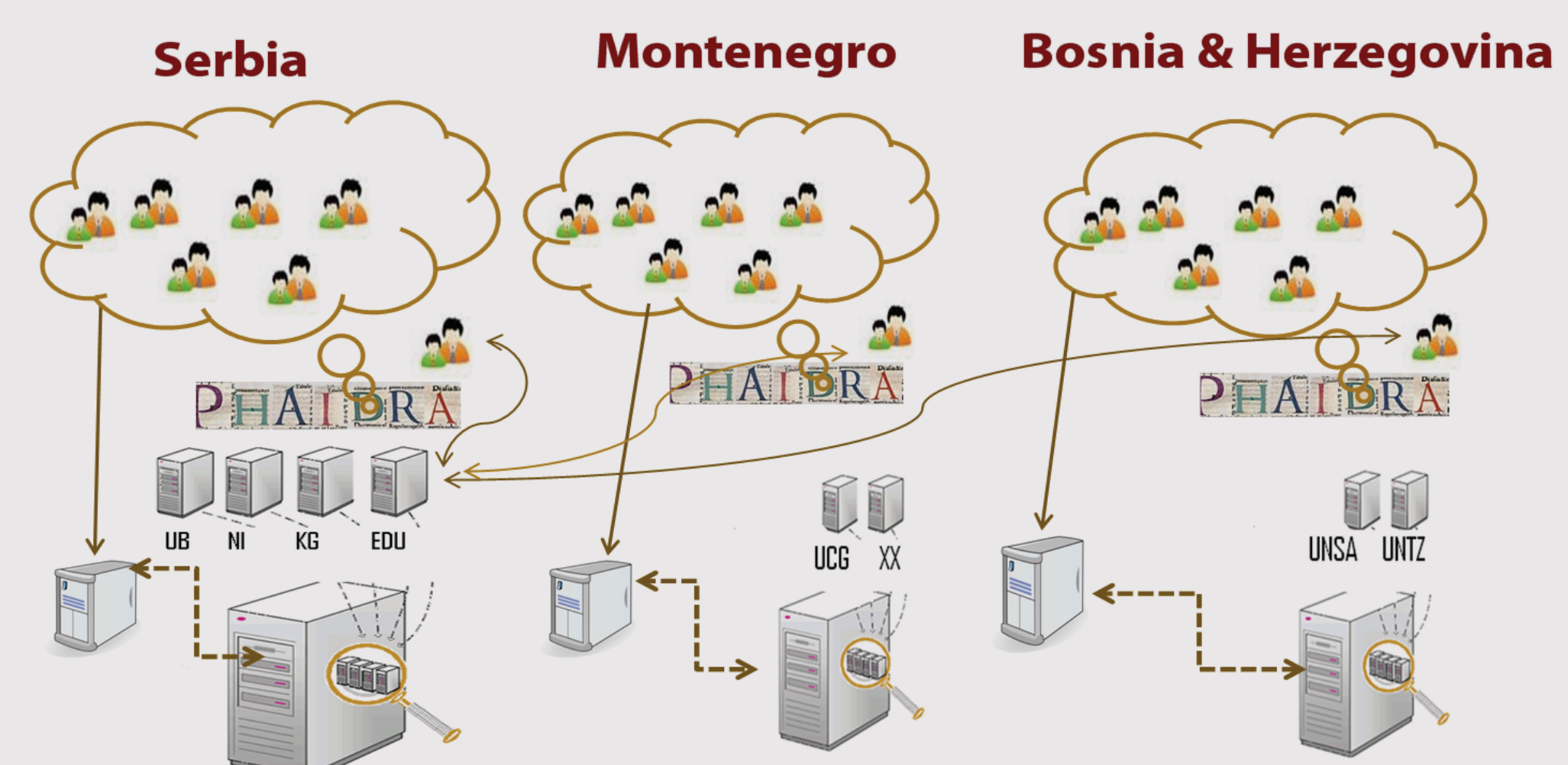
PHAIDRA (Permanent Hosting, Archiving and Indexing of Digital Resources and Assets) is designed for long term preserving and managing of different types of digital objects like texts, images, video, audio files etc. It is modified version of Fedora system using CMA (Content Model Architecture).

Where is PHAIDRA?

PHAIDRA.ORG project starts by offering PHAIDRA system as an open source solution to other universities. This project, as a model of sharing and harmonizing PHAIDRA system developments, beside six Western Balkan universities, now includes University of Vienna, University of Padova, University of Music and Art, Graz, Linz University of Art, Forum of University Libraries in Austria.

Structure of PHAIDRA at Western Balkan universities is based on technical support of three servers, one for each country. Servers in the countries with more universities contain few virtual servers for particular repository.

The structure of technical and nontechnical support is open and allows to every interested institution to join and to become a member of PHAIDRA Consortium.



Conclusion

- Regional established system is conceptualized to provide free and efficient exchange of data and documents in the region, as a basis of regional university cooperation.
- Structure with virtual servers in one place enables more economic and efficient managing and technical support. Universities of particular country can use same classification system, user management system can be centralized and easily maintained, educational, marketing and developmental services can be shared and unique.
- Having one university as a leading model for others (University of Belgrade), the process of establishing the new system becomes more efficient and can avoid many problems.
- Having the same system as a basis for repository, library in the region can collaborate more closely and share their experiences.
- Simultaneous realization of such project enables the possibility to improve and to develop in short time library information system, and to provide that each library, no matter of its previous experiences, have digital library for permanent archiving of digital materials.
- It also facilitate to universities in the region to upgrade their potentials and to modernize their teaching process since the repositories give basis for e-learning.
- The project brings to all universities in the region better visibility worldwide and make them more attractive for students and researchers.

Everybody participates, everybody uses

This is a model of solidarity based development: every partner participates and contributes to the system, which everybody can use. It is imagined like a system of constant share and exchange of information and experiences.

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