

Researching the sound, (re)writing the music history: Ethnomusicological research of shellac recordings in Croatia

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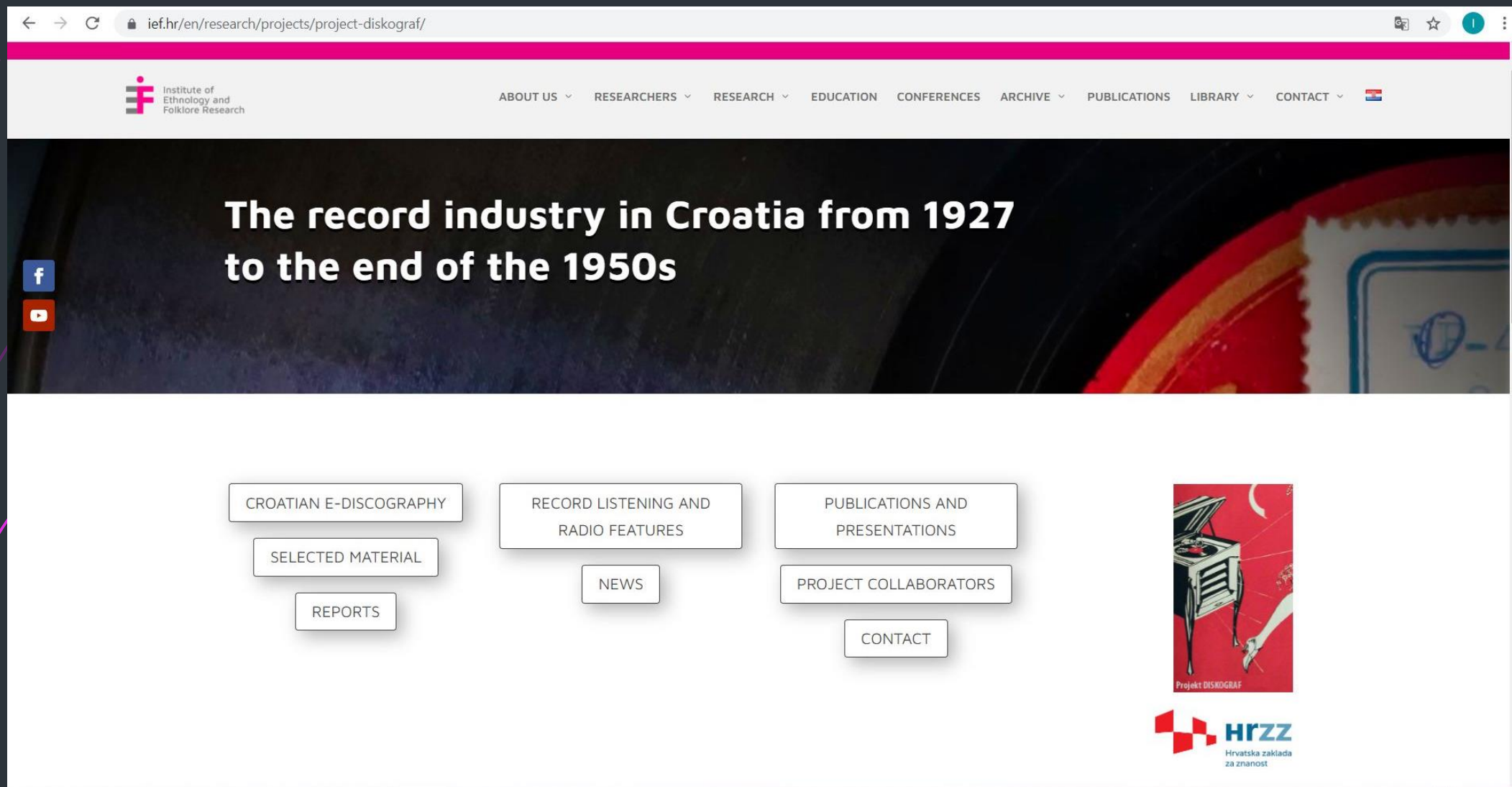
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Zagreb, Croatia

1





Etnomusicology could never have grown into an independent science if the gramophone had not been invented (Jaap Kunst 1959:12)

Recordings may have been the single most important factor in getting ... ethnomusicology started (Charles Keil 1984:91)







← → ↻ ief.hr/en/research/projects/project-diskograf/

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The first instance of a systematic scholarly approach to the topic of record industry in Croatia


 


This project focuses on the period from 1927 until the end of the 1950s, thus covering the era of shellac records produced by three record companies based in Zagreb: Edison Bell Penkala, Elektroton and Jugoton.


In addition to the endangerment of gramophone records as primary sources and the lack of reliable documentation on them, the impetus for the joint work of seven project collaborators and a PhD candidate comes from understanding discography and its supporting industry as constituent elements of music and musical life in view of two key aspects: the music itself, realized in/as performance, and the record “filters” which – through the choice of musical repertoire and interpreters, production possibilities and aspirations, musicians’ working conditions and ways of market placement – draw out not only the broader dynamics, hierarchy and tendencies in music and musical life but also the microhistory of Croatian society and culture in the periods in question.

We begin with the hypothesis that the record industry represents an important domain for getting insight into the modernization processes in Croatian and wider Yugoslav society, the relationship between cosmopolitanism and nationalism, class stratification of society, regional differences, and interethnic and gender relations.



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Five main project objectives

- 1) to create a thorough and comprehensive database of record releases made by the three companies
- 2) to provide a scholarly based insight into the poetics, politics and economics of the record industry during the periods in question
- 3) to explore selected aspects of the record industry in detail in the form of case studies
- 4) to improve the music studies in Croatia by connecting insights of ethnomusicology, historical musicology and popular music studies
- 5) to contribute to the public awareness of record releases as an important part of cultural heritage

<https://www.ief.hr/en/research/projects/project-diskograf/#>

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL [ief.hr/en/research/projects/project-diskograf/](https://www.ief.hr/en/research/projects/project-diskograf/). The page features a header with the IEF logo and a navigation menu. The main content area has a background image of a library and a central text box with the title "Methodological backbone".

Methodological backbone

The methodological backbone of this research is archival work.

It primarily involves analysis of archival material (stored in Zagreb, Štrigova, Osijek, Split, Rijeka, Sisak, Ljubljana, Belgrade, Prague and Washington) that talks about the operation of Edison Bell Penkala, Elektroton and Jugoton record companies and record stores.

In the part of the research related to the contemporary reflections of the project theme, we will use qualitative methods of research established in ethnomusicology and related disciplines.


When it comes to collectors and record enthusiasts, we will use semi-structured interviews, biographies, life stories and oral history, and when it comes to the interactions in the virtual space, we will rely on methodological experiences from the field of cyber-ethnography.


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🏠 · Research · Projects · The record industry in... · Croatian e-discography

Croatian e-discography

■ ■ ■

The database is aimed at displaying the total holdings of releases made by the companies Edison Bell Penkala, Elektroton and Jugoton from 1927 to the late 1950s, reconstructed from the archival collections, sales catalogues, and periodicals. The database also contains information about which releases are still physically preserved in institutions and private collections or digitally available on the Internet. For each available record, the database includes a photo of the label, and for the available digital copies, the first 30 seconds of the recording. By the end of the project, the database will be supplemented with data on the dissemination and reception of individual releases at the time of their creation and later, up until present day, as well as with data on the relationship between the record industry and printed sheet music, radio programmes, concert programmes and festivals, and copyright protection.

DATABASE

DATABASE STRUCTURE

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Prikazano 1-30 od 4358 zapisa Faseta Lista Mreža Po stranici: 30 ▾ Sortiranje zapisa ▾

Pretraživanje metapodataka 🔍

« < 1 2 3 4 5 6 > »

Lokalitet ▾

Zagreb 143

📄 ⓘ ... [1]

Vrsta građe ▾


zvučni zapis 487

📄 ⓘ ... [1]

Zbirka ▾

Hrvatska e-diskografija 2154

📄 ⓘ ... [1]



Tajna

Naslov Tajna

Podnaslov lagani fox

Autor S. Lippman ; Instr.: Zl. Černjul

Izvođač (osoba) Pjeva Ivo Robić

Izvođač (ansambl) uz plesni sekstet "Jugotona"

Žanr lagani fox

Podaci o odgovornosti (osoba) [Lippman, Sid \(Sidney\) \[skladatelj/ica\]](#) • [Černjul, Zlatko \[aranžer\]](#) • [Robić, Ivo \[pjevač/ica\]](#) • [Piliš, Heda \[tekstopisac – prepjev\]](#)

Podaci o odgovornosti (ansambl) [Plesni sekstet Jugotona](#)

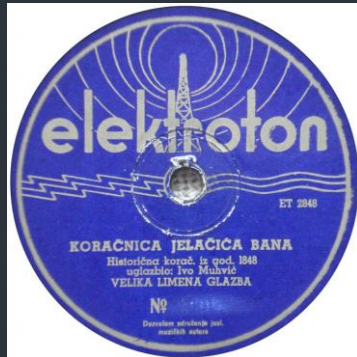
Nakladnički broj C-6209

Broj matrice 542

Osnovni izvor [naljepnica ploče u zbirci Gradskog muzeja Sisak](#) • [naljepnica ploče u bazi Discogs](#) • [naljepnica ploče u zbirci ploča u arhivu Croatia](#)



1926/1927



1938

<http://mz.nsk.hr/zbirka78/>


1947

<http://mz.nsk.hr/zbirka78/tag/edison-bell-penkala-record/>

Recording sound



Kulisa br 3., 1927

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!

Mark Katz. 2010. Capturing Sound. How Technology Has Changed Music
Stephen Cottrell. 2009. „The rise and rise of phnomusicology” In: Bayley, A. (Ed.),
Recorded Music: Performance, Culture and Technology. Cambridge

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