

PRESENTATION OF RESEARCH FINDINGS

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Abstract

Research findings are the subject of publications and of patent protection documents. However, they are also the subject of periodic and final reports, lectures or posters at conferences and workshops. The former are available to the general public, the latter are accessible to a narrower audience like conference participants or the managers of research programs and projects. A far greater opportunity to present and use these results is provided by the National Repository of Grey Literature.

Keyword

Publications, patent protection documents, reports, lectures, posters at conferences or workshops.

At the beginning, let me introduce the institution I represent. This year 55 years have passed since its foundation. However, the beginnings of research activities in the area of food technologies, food processing machinery and nutrition reach much farther back, practically to the post-war period. Between 1947 and 1958 our institute was administered by the former Ministry of Nutrition. By 1 April 1958 the Central Research Institute of the Food Processing Industry was established by the decree of the then Ministry of Food Processing Industry. In July 1967 the institute was subordinated to the Agricultural and Food Research Administration of the Ministry of Agriculture, shortly afterwards transformed to the Czech Academy of Agriculture. Effective of 1 January 1969 the name of the institute was changed to Czech Academy of Agriculture – Research Institute of the Food Processing Industry. After the dissolution of the Academy in 1974 the institute was incorporated as the Research Institute of the Food Processing Industry into the branch research base of the Ministry of Agriculture and Nutrition. Since its foundation up to 1991 the institute had been a budget organization and an independent legal entity. In 1992 the institute became a contributory organization and renamed Food Research Institute Prague.

Effective of 1 January 2007 the institute was transformed into a public research institution under the name Food Research Institute Prague, p.r.i. The objective of its main activities is basic and applied research and development in the fields of food chemistry and biochemistry, microbiology, food engineering, food processing procedures and machinery, and human nutrition. These activities are supported by public funding in the form of an institutional contribution (research plan) and targeted financing (projects of various providers) on national level and by international research grants.

In compliance with Law No. 341/2005 Sb. on public research institutions the institute performs so-called further activities based on the requirements of the bodies of state administration, which are in public interests and are supported by public funds, and commercial activities, which are funded from non-public resources and are performed as paid services offered to small and medium food-processing companies lacking their own expert personnel and/or facilities.

For quite some time already a discussion has been going on the quantity and quality of research findings or on the relevance of research in general. Well then, how to present research results to avoid any doubts about the importance of research and the wisdom of its funding?

From this viewpoint the least questionable activity is contract research, i.e. research projects directly commissioned by business bodies. In our case such projects involve the development of new food products, quality improvement of existing products, or modifications of production technologies or manufacturing equipment. Their results can be found on store shelves, in production halls, or are reflected in the quality of food products. It is then the contract owner's decision whether to acknowledge the contribution of other subjects to the final product.

The results of government contracts (so-called further activities) are used by the government and also in this case it is the decision of the contracting authority how to claim their authorship. In these two cases, there is no space for grey literature.

This opens in the major type of our activities, i. e. in the so-called main activities. As these activities are financed by public funds, results should be available to the widest possible range of interested parties. Information on the findings of research and development projects and research plans supported by public funds are collected in the Information Register of Research and Development Results (IRRDR). This register has a specific structure that will provide the interested party mainly with bibliographic data. However, such data can spark interest in the details of research findings.

These are most easily accessible in publications and patent protection documents. In applied research publishing currently constitutes a problem. Papers published in renowned scientific journals are most highly valued. Hence it is the sphere of science that is predominantly informed about the findings of research whereas this information does not reach those for whom it was intended, in our case food producers and consumers. The findings of applied research that this population segment wants to know about should be included in technical publications or publications disseminating research findings. However, such publications are not valued highly and therefore researchers do not write them. If such a publication appears, it would be reasonable to store it at the National Repository of Grey Literature (NRGL). The same is true about purely popular articles.

Research findings that constitute the subject of patent protection documents, i. e. patents and utility models, are publicly accessible at the Industrial Property Office (IPO). Naturally, these documents are also presented by their owners, research institutions, on their web pages. The

sale of a license is the best proof of the correct presentation of research findings. I believe that there is no need to duplicate IPO by NRGL.

Publishable results also are the subject of lectures or posters at conferences and workshops. If any proceedings of such scientific events are published and contain full texts of papers presented, the publicity has been taken care of, at least in professional circles. If not, the presentation is only accessible to a narrower audience, primarily to participants in the respective event. Such results can then be successfully stored at the NRGL. The above-mentioned complete proceedings of national-level events can also be stored there.

Certified methodologies, functional samples, prototypes or implemented technologies are specific achievements of applied research. Methodologies are retained by the certification authority and by the provider of funding. They can also be retained at the NRGL. Other mentioned research findings can be descriptively presented at a seminar, conference or workshop, and then it is again possible to gain information about them from the proceedings. If no proceedings are published the complete presentation as such could be stored at NRGL. These results of research are also contained in technical reports, which will be discussed below.

However, the most complete information about research projects can be obtained from reports submitted annually to the provider of funding. These are accessible primarily to administrators of research programs and projects, members of review committees and peer reviewers. The NRGL offers a far greater opportunity to present and use these results. Yet even here it is impossible to generalize because each provider of public funds approaches the presentation of research findings in a different way. I will focus primarily on our experience with the Ministry of Agriculture and also with the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports. Research findings are shown:

- 1) In periodical or interim reports (PR). For these reports a template is created in the e-project, which takes into account the data from the project proposal. The PR as such is very concise, containing general data on participating researchers, a financial statement and a simple description of the activities performed in the past year and the plan of activities and the budget for the following year of the project. The research findings are shown in the format compatible with the IRRDR. An edited report informing about the most important research activities and their results achieved during the previous year is a mandatory annex of this report. PRs also have additional, optional appendices, like a technical report, a copy of the patent, a certificate of registration of a utility model, or published articles. A PR is presently kept at the Ministry of Agriculture or at the National Agency for Agricultural Research. Edited reports and lists of achieved results are available in the publicly accessible Research Infobank (web site of the Ministry of Agriculture).
- 2) In final reports (FR). The same applies to them as to PR except that they summarize research done during the whole life of the project.

Research plans, or the activities supported by the institutional contribution, are presented in a similar way. These reports are not included in the e-project and have no mandatory annex. It

is up to the researchers what they include into the report in addition to the general information, or what they publish in the form of an appendix. They mostly attach copies of articles, patents, utility models and technical reports.

Researchers can use the NRGL to store information about a project or a research plan in the form of edited reports and technical reports, which constitute the appendices of reports in strict sense. In my view, researchers cannot be pressed to provide all technical reports to the NRGL because these contain information that later on (after the project is terminated) can result in a publication or a patent protection document. Or it can just inspire the competitors. This problem could be resolved by the application of a certain "protection period", after which these documents would be transferred to the NRGL.

After the approval of the provider of public funds, it would be possible for the NRGL to hold complete reports as described above, since these are otherwise kept only for the mandatory retention period. A similar way is followed by many research organizations.

The results of the so-called main activities are also reflected in consulting and training. In particular, presentations at user events - for producers or consumers - can also be stored in the NRGL.

In addition to the concerns of researchers about the release of sensitive information, other problems with the publication in the NRGL can also occur. For example, in many projects several institutions cooperate with one another. Technical reports then belong to one institution only, if they only cover a certain autonomous part of the project. Alternatively, research can be done cooperatively by several institutions. In this case, when one of them decides to save the report in the NRGL, the approval of other participating parties will be needed. This can be decided either at the time of publication, or in advance in the contracts between researchers. In user presentations the approach of the lecturing researcher to the presentation is crucial. Most presentations are done in Power Point and then it is again up to the author whether he puts his lecture at public disposal. But there are also those who give their lectures impromptu, and they can hardly be forced to prepare essentially a new publication in addition to their presentation.

CONCLUSION.

To preserve the findings of research, the following can be offered to the NRGL:

- Edited reports
- Technical reports
- Conference proceedings
- Periodical and final reports
- Presentations from conferences, seminars and workshops

Seminar on Providing Access to Grey Literature 2013: The 6th year of the seminar focused on storage and providing access to the grey literature, 23th October 2013 [online]. Praha: National Library of Technology, 2013. Available at WWW: <http://nusl.techlib.cz/Sborniky>. ISSN 1803-6015.

- Articles published in all kinds of journals