

# Proof of Concept Scoping Exercise

Jesse Grubesich

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## 1 Project Overview

In my MRES thesis, I will be examining and contrasting the musical practices of the Croatian community in Croatia and the Croatian diaspora in Australia. I have given this very brief overview because this knowledge is required to understand why I will be facing certain 'jobs' and 'pains' in my research.

### 1.1 Jobs

- I will need to find journal articles, books, sheet music, and similar other resources to use and refer to in my research. I will need to do this both for articles that are written in English and articles that are written in Croatian, as I have been and invariably will need to use Croatian journals in my research. I may also have to find articles that are written in Serbian and which use Cyrillic script.
- I will need to translate at least parts of the Croatian Serbian texts into English, both because I can read English more easily, and so that English-speaking readers can understand the quotes from these texts.
- I will need to transcribe Cyrillic script into Latin script.
- I will need to transcribe the songs that I analyse into readable sheet music.
- I will need to make sure that there are no spelling errors, grammar mistakes, and formatting issues.
- I will need to organise my reference list and discography and ensure my in-text references are all accounted for.

The second and fourth jobs are particularly important.

### 1.2 Pains

- Transcribing a song into visual form can be extremely time-consuming. It would also not be completely reliable if done by a human ear if there is no existing sheet music for the song, which would often be the case in my research.

- Transcribing Cyrillic script into Latin script can be time-consuming and difficult.
- Translating from Croatian and Serbian into English can be time-consuming and difficult, and it may result in an inaccurate translation.
- Creating a reference list and a discography and formatting them both manually is extremely time-consuming and stressful.
- Ensuring that the in-text references are all accounted for and properly formatted is time-consuming and stressful, and they are easy to miss if fixing them manually.
- Manually checking for spelling errors, grammar mistakes, and formatting issues would be time-consuming, unreliable, and stressful.
- Searching for information about music for my discography would be a very tedious task.
- Finding and organising different articles and books as references can be tedious and stressful.

### 1.3 Pain Relievers

- A tool that could analyse and transcribe music would be excellent for my research. Even if it could only reliably analyse a single isolated instrument, it would be a great pain reliever.
- A tool to transcribe phonetic Serbian Cyrillic script into phonetic Croatian Latin script would be an excellent pain reliever. Both languages share the same sounds and both alphabets are phonetic, so I can't imagine that this should even be too difficult.
- A tool to translate Croatian into English would be a very helpful pain reliever.
- A tool that automatically formats my discography and reference list would be an excellent pain reliever.
- A tool that scans for errors in the in-text references would be a very helpful pain reliever.
- Tools that fix spelling errors, recommend changes to poor grammar, and detect formatting issues would be good pain relievers.
- A tool to scan library databases for articles that are relevant to my research, and another to organise my resources once I find and download them, would be very helpful pain relievers.

## 1.4 Gains

- It would be terrific if I could quickly translate both my work and other texts to and from all three languages - English, Serbian, and Croatian.
- I would similarly like to be able to transcribe not just Cyrillic into Latin, but also Latin into Cyrillic, as well as potentially other scripts.
- It would be great if I could quickly determine the tempo or scale of a song that I need to analyse.
- It would be excellent to be able to rapidly make decisions about how I want to use my grammar and punctuation based on different writing guides or language-usage guides/dictionaries.
- I would like to be able to quickly organise different journal articles/books/etc. based on the language in which they are written and the date when they were written.

## 1.5 Gain Creators

- A tool to translate different texts into different languages would be an excellent gain creator.
- A similar tool that could quickly change Latin letters into their Cyrillic equivalents and vice versa, and potentially including other scripts, would be excellent. This tool could perhaps even be combined with the tool above, which would potentially make the gain even more efficient.
- If I had a tool that could not only transcribe the music that it analysed, but also be able to quickly determine the tempo, scale, etc., then that would be a great gain.
- If a tool could recommend multiple different changes to grammar and punctuation based on different language-usage guides, then that would be an excellent gain.
- A tool to organise Croatian, Serbian, and English texts into different folders and organise them by the date they were written would be excellent.

## 2 Notes

The most significant pains and pain-relievers would be the ones that deal with translating texts and transcribing music. The other pains such as referencing can be terribly tedious and stressful, especially if this were a thesis that was one hundred or more pages long, but I find that the pain of those tasks can largely be avoided with planning. I find that translation and transcription doesn't get much easier with planning, and it is often unavoidable if research is to progress.

Therefore, those pains and pain relievers are the ones that I find most significant, and they are ones I would likely focus on. A similar principle works with my gains and gain creators; I am primarily interested in making the transcription and translation of various types of texts easier.