An Open Access Information Service for Researchers in Theology

Marianne Dörr, University Librarian, Tübingen University
Tübingen – At the heart of Europe
Tübingen University was founded in 1477

Famous alumni

Johannes Kepler  Astronomer
G.W.F. Hegel  Philosopher
Friedrich Miescher  Physician and biologist
Ferdinand Braun  Physicist
Alois Alzheimer  Psychiatrist, neuropathologist
Joseph Ratzinger  Theologian (Pope Benedict XVI)
The Historical Building, 1912, Architect: Paul Bonatz

The Main Building, 1962, Renovation in 2011

The Extension, 2002
Background of the Project

• Tübingen has a very important collection of literature in Theology, the library received funding for collection building by the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft for about 60 years

• Transformation of the DFG funding program from collection building to information services for researchers

• Decision to focus in our application for the new program on the building of an Open Access bibliographical database giving access to fulltexts wherever possible

• Our ambition: Index Theologicus as the most important bibliographie for researchers in theology
How we started

- Legacy database
- Indexing manually about 550 journals since 1975
- Comprising only data of journals the library had subscribed to

Our goal

- Bibliographic database representing the state of the art of search systems
- Discipline specific search features
- Content: monographs, articles (from about 1000 journals, regularly indexed and retrospective indexing of journals) and other relevant information sources
- Providing an easy access to fulltexts
What we did

• Developing the concept of a new database system and migration of the data

• Concept and implementation of efficient, fully or partially automated workflows

• Finding Partners for Cooperation and Collaboration

• Supporting Open Access Publishing

• Negotiation of licenses of specialised information resources
The new system

Index Theologicus
International Bibliography of Theology and Religious Studies

Welcome

The new IxTheo is a comprehensive bibliography for theology and religious studies. It is now possible to search not only for articles, but also for monographs, databases and relevant internet links.

Discover IxTheo

Search
You can start a search on all the titles catalogued in the IxTheo by clicking on the "Find" button. You will then find over 1.6 Million titles.

Browsing
The new IxTheo offers three different ways to browse. You can access it by clicking on "Browse" in the area below the search box.

Personalized searches
Many useful functions are at your disposal when you create a personal account. Once you’ve registered, you may log into your account by clicking on the link.

Search for Bible passages
The search for Bible passages has been newly designed in order to cater for the needs of academic users. In order to activate it, you must select the search...
Efficient (partially) automated workflows

• Printed journals: Scanning the table of contents, by OLR and OCR (SW by Imageware), creating structured metadata fit to be ingested in the union catalogue
• Electronic journals or journals with TOCs which are available online: Zotero translators capture the metadata in a structured format; by a second translator the metadata can be enriched (automated matching to the German Integrated Authority File)
• Contracts with deGruyter and Brill for metadata delivery of their journals
Partners for Cooperation and Collaboration

• Several smaller theological libraries are already cooperating (shared indexing)
• Theological Faculty of the University of Innsbruck, Austria „Bibelwissenschaftliche Literaturdokumentation Innsbruck“ is migrating their data to Index Theologicus and will continue indexing in this system
• Theological institute of the University of Würzburg, Germany Database specialised in Canon Law will be migrating in IxTheo
• Theological institute of the University of Münster, Germany Database specialised in Augustine of Hippo will be migrating in IxTheo
Supporting and Encouraging OA Publishing

• Golden OA
  OJS support for Open Access journals
  (one is online, six are in preparation)
• Tübingen University Press for Monographs
• Green OA
  More than 130 researchers agreed to the proposal to publish their articles online (§ 38, UrhG), publishing will be done as a service by the library

Planning of a digitisation project for relevant journals; contact with the editors has been established, mostly positive response
Negotiation of licenses for specialised resources

- Licenses for specialised products for the scholars of the discipline (excluded are basic resources universities normally subscribe to)

- Different concepts:
  - Access after authentication
  - Opt-In for institutes of this discipline
  - National license

- Tübingen is focusing on the last model, one license has been concluded (Coptic-gnostic literature)
Result – a user’s perspective

Index theologicus

• Comprehensive Open Access Database (1.6 mio records) with special features for researchers in Theology (special feature for the search for biblical scriptures)
• Growing part of directly available articles in the database (links to articles from national licenses, green OA, golden OA, retrospective digitisation)
• Interlibrary loan and document delivery
• Patron driven acquisition offer for titles not available via interlibrary loan
• Indexing terms in several languages (German, English, Italian, French, Spanish, Russian, Chinese)
• Scientific board, regular information of multiplicators (subject specialists)
Thank you for your attention!

Questions?
Tübingen in Pictures

The Castle, Home of the Library from 1819–1912, nowadays Home of several Departments in the Humanities (Archaeology, Pre-History, Ethnology…)

The ancient botanical garden
