

GlobeTheoLib

Global Digital Library on Theology and Ecumenism

GlobeTheoLib is a global online library that covers theology and ecumenism. It offers free-of-charge access for individual registered users (such as theological researchers, educators and students) to documents and resources on intercultural theology and the international ecumenical movement, including contextual theologies, church and society issues, mission, and the history of Christian denominations.

GlobeTheoLib is directed particularly towards individuals active in theological education, research and publication in the countries and churches of Africa, Asia, Latin America, Pacific and Caribbean and in Eastern and Central Europe. It provides a new model for sharing theological knowledge and resources across national, cultural and denominational barriers in order to make the theological voices and resources of the South more visible and accessible.

GlobeTheoLib aims to support and enable well-equipped participation in the teaching of theology, the generation of ecumenical and intercultural perspectives and the formation of a new generation of ecumenical leaders.

GlobeTheoLib offers:

- a single online library to bring together theological resources available free-of-charge on the Internet but dispersed among multiple sites and institutions;
- multilingual access to full text content, not only references;
- access to journals, magazines, books, training material, dissertations and news documents on theology and ecumenism, with a focus on full text documents, open to all;
- free-of-charge access for individual registered participants to licensed content such as journals and e-books from commercial digital content providers;
- contemporary content, not only historical documents;
- the opportunity for registered participants to upload content through an online submission system;
- interactive Web 2.0 potential for exchange and sharing of information and knowledge, through wikis, blogs, forums, workgroups, and online communities;
- one common platform offering greater opportunities for increased interreligious dialogue and interdisciplinary research in theology and religious studies.

GlobeTheoLib aims to:

- use new digital models of information exchange to create greater visibility for theological knowledge and insights from churches of the global South;
- make use of information and communication technologies to counter imbalances in global theological education systems;
- respond to the needs of theological colleges, faculties and institutes of growing churches in the global South for quality resources for theological education and research;

- overcome barriers to accessing existing digital content providers, particularly in the global South;
- promote understanding of the diverse expressions and understandings of Christianity worldwide;
- foster theological exchange within and between countries and regions, particularly of the global South.

GlobeTheoLib is for:

- Individual users theological researchers, educators and students (who can upload/download full-text sources)
- Theological libraries (facilities for specialized theological collections)
- Associations of theological libraries (a common global platform)
- Associations of theological schools (Masters and doctoral dissertations and theses; e-courses)
- Churches and specialized ministries (strengthening common research)
- Content providers (wider spectrum of users)
- Regional ecumenical organizations and Christian World Communions (documentation of ecumenical archives)

GlobeTheoLib uses the platform of Globethics.net, which already holds more than 500 000 full text documents in its Global Digital Library on Ethics, and which has been online since October 2008.

Content for **GlobeTheoLib** comes from the following main sources:

- **Commercial providers:** GlobeTheoLib makes commercial content accessible to individual registered participants in the framework of institutional subscription fees or content purchase through negotiation with publishers.
- **Open repositories:** GlobeTheoLib harvests existing Open Access repositories using a list of relevant keywords in several languages.
- **Partner institutions:** GlobeTheoLib offers partner institutions the opportunity to submit their own documents to the online library and to build specialized collections.
- **Individual participants:** GlobeTheoLib allows registered participants to submit their own documents to the online database.

In addition, in its effort to give greater exposure to resources on theology and ecumenism from all parts of the world, and especially to those from the global South, **GlobeTheoLib** provides, in partnership with a service provider, an electronic journal publishing platform.

GlobeTheoLib is being launched in late 2011.

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GlobeTheoLib is a project of Globethics.net and is managed by a consortium whose founding institutions are Globethics.net and the World Council of Churches. Other members include library associations, major theological libraries and digital theological collections, theological colleges/seminaries/universities, associations of theological schools, mission organizations, foundations, Regional Ecumenical Organizations, Christian World Communions. The project has been co-initiated and planned by the WCC Programme on Ecumenical Theological Education (ETE).