GlobeTheoLib

Global Digital Library on Theology and Ecumenism

Annual Report 2016

1. Introduction

The Global Digital Library on Theology and Ecumenism, GlobeTheoLib, is a joint project of the World Council of Churches (WCC) and Globethics.net that was launched in September 2011, using the electronic platform of Globethics.net. GlobeTheoLib shares the Globethics.net platform with the Global Digital Library on Ethics, which has been online since October 2008. GlobeTheoLib has a dedicated space on the website of Globethics.net (www.globethics.net/gtl), and complements the main ethics library.

The strategic direction for GlobeTheoLib is provided by a Project Leadership group composed of Globethics.net Executive Director Dr Obiora Ike, WCC Programme Executive for Ecumenical Theological Education (ETE), Dr Amélé Ekué, and a Secretary, currently Andreas Waldvogel, Globethics.net Programme Executive Online Library. This change in the composition was decided upon by the Consortium members at its meeting in September 2016.

2. Staffing

Since February 2016, Mr Andreas Waldvogel, previously Librarian of the WCC, has been serving as Globethics.net Programme Executive Online Library and is responsible for the overall strategic and operational management of both the Ethics and Theology Library. He is seconded by Dr Ignace Haaz, Globethics.net Programme Executive Ethics Library and Publications Manager, and by Ms Anja Andriamasy, Library Assistant, both working 40 % for the Library. On average the Library staff comprising of 1.8 full time equivalents (FTEs), devotes one third of its working time to GlobeTheoLib. In general, GlobeTheoLib benefits also from the Globethics.net administrative, communication and finance staff. In turn, the Library team equally supports the Globethics.net network, research and other services.

3. Activities in 2016

3.1 Consortium

The Consortium Committee met in Geneva from 9-10 September 2016, exactly five years after its launch in 2011. The Committee set the new strategic objectives and budget plans for the period 2017-2020, and discussed new content related projects and/or initiatives, while also sharing best practices among its members and partners. For example, Mr Timotheus Kim, representing Tübingen University Library, presented the new online portal of the

Participants at the meeting of the GlobeTheoLib Consortium Committee, September 2016 © Globethics.net

Index Theologicus, known as IxTheo for short (see https://ixtheo-test.de/), a primary open bibliographic source for theological studies. In order to mark its fifth anniversary, GlobeTheoLib launched the publication of the proceedings of the Volos consultation held from 10-13 March 2016, presenting the findings of a three-year study process on "Ecotheology, climate justice and food security in theological education", in the presence of one of the editors, Dr Dietrich Werner. A comprehensive collection of the Globethics.net Library on these issues with more than 14,700 documents was also presented on that occasion to a wider public. [For more information see http://www.globethics.net/-/-eco-theology-climate-justice-and-food-security-launch-of-book-and-online-collection]

With the new strategy plan 2017-2020, GlobeTheoLib aims to become "fully ecumenical, global, and sustainable". The full document is available for download at http://www.globethics.net/documents/2781038/13471567/GTL_strategy2017-2020.pdf/.

3.2 Reformation anniversary 2017

"*The year 2017 marks the 500th anniversary of the Reformation and it is an occasion for many people and organisations to reflect on what Reformation means today. The project Reformation-Education-Transformation has been set up in this context. Two international conferences have been planned to address this question: November 2015 in São Leopoldo (RS), Brazil and May 2016 in Halle (Saale), Germany"* [1]

Prof. Dr Obiora Ike, newly appointed Executive Director of Globethics.net and Prof. Dr Christoph Stückelberger, Globethics.net Founder participated in the international Conference on Reformation, Education and Transformation (RET) in Halle, Germany in May 2016. The one-week meeting brought together scholars, students, pastors, people from the Reformed faith tradition and other Christian communities from around the world, and focused on the significance of Luther's reformation – both in history as well as today - 500 years later. Dr Ike and Dr Stückelberger contributed actively to discussions on the ethical underpinnings of the Reformation and its relevance for today's education work and its ultimate goal of human transformation. Globethics.net was encouraged by the conference organisers to take up the role of promoting ethics through the digital library and the global network, particularly in view of the upcoming Global Ecumenical Theological Institute (GETI) 2017 and the Reformation anniversary event.

As a contribution to the Reformation anniversary in 2017, GlobeTheoLib is planning to develop a global collection on Protestant ethics, which will be launched on the occasion of the Geneva celebrations of the Reformation jubilee in May 2017.

3.3 Content development

- Latin American ethics and theology collection

In June 2016, during the Global Ethics Forum in Geneva, hosted by Globethics.net, the Library presented a large collection on Latin American Ethics and Theology, with more than 45,000 documents, mainly in Spanish and Portuguese, facilitated through its partners in South America [see http://www.globethics.net/web/latin-american-ethics/].

[1] Source: http://www.r-e-t.net/

- Online Chinese Christianity collection (OCCC)

In mid-August 2016, Andreas Waldvogel, together with Prof. Dr Christoph Stückelberger, visited Hong Kong SAR, to meet and discuss with partners on how to develop further the OCCC project planned to be launched in 2017. During that visit, a partnership agreement was signed between Globethics.net and the Institute of Sino-Christian Studies (ISCS), directed by Dr Daniel Yeung. Through this collaboration it is planned to integrate out of print publications of this renowned research institute, including its historic collection named after Karl Ludvig Reichelt (1877-1952), a Norwegian religious scholar and missionary and the founder of the ISCS, through the gracious help of Hong Kong Baptist University Library, the host library of this collection.

- Methodist and Wesleyan studies

In December 2016, the United Methodist Church in the USA officially announced the launch of the Methodist and Wesleyan studies collection[2]. The collection is a joint project of GlobeTheoLib and the Methodist e-Academy, gathering the collected works of John and Charles Wesley, academic journals, and books from Methodist publishers with over 17,800 documents. The collection is available online at: http://methodist-studies.world/.

- Interreligious dialogue

In 2016 GlobeTheoLib began the work of building a collection on interreligious dialogue in conjunction with the Ecumenical Institute of Bossey study programme "CAS in interreligious studies" (accredited by the University of Geneva), taking place every year during the summer (June-July).

- Gale Religion & Philosophy collection

Since October 2016 GlobeTheoLib has been subscribing to a new online source from Gale-Cengage, the Religion & Philosophy collection, a comprehensive database with more than 1.6 million articles from over 200 journals, freely accessible at www.globethics.net/library/browse-the-databases.

- E-journals in religious studies

GlobeTheoLib consolidated and enhanced its offer of e-journals in theology and religious studies from major publishers, such as Equinox, Sage, and Taylor and Francis[3].

3.3 Technical development

Thanks to the new OAI (Open Archives Initiative) harvester, developed and implemented early in 2016 by Novalogix SA, and revised search queries in various languages, the Globethics.net Library content tripled the number of documents compared to 2015, reaching over 4.9 million documents for the Ethics Library, and 2 million for GlobeTheoLib by March 2017 (see point 4 below).

[2] See http://www.umc.org/news-and-media/methodist-wesleyan-resources-now-available-worldwide
[3] See http://www.globethics.net/-/update-on-commercial-journals

Also the Library homepage has been re-shaped to include a Google-like search box and a clearer navigation [see http://www.globethics.net/library/libraries-home].

The html code for the search box can be found on the Globethics.net website and can be embedded and used on any other website[4]. It is planned that this feature will also be developed for GlobeTheoLib.

Registered participants can now easily upload their own documents, and see them instantly published online in the library and in their user account, referenced through a permalink. The instructions on how to make submissions are found at http://www.globethics.net/library/submit-my-document.

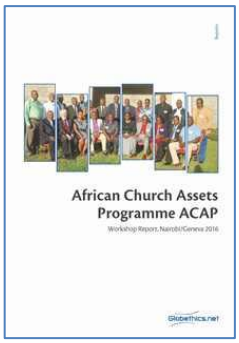
3.4 Regional content

The **Latin American** hub has continued to identify potential partners and content for GlobeTheoLib, as a small team under the coordination of Mr Deivit Montealegre, Programme Executive for the Globethics.net South America Regional Programme. The number of submissions from this region is constantly growing [see point 3.3 above on the Latin American ethics and theology collection].

In **Asia**, GlobeTheoLib staff, in conjunction with the Globethics.net Programme Executive for China, Dr Jing Li, indexed around 25,000 documents, e-journals, dissertations, and conference proceedings selected from a Chinese national academic content provider, which have been integrated in the Online Chinese Christianity Collection. The Regional Programme team in Indonesia continued to submit content to the library, such as Indonesian Islamic journals[5].

For 2017 it is planned to make available major contributions from the ***'Anthology of African Christianity'***, a ground-breaking collective work of eminent African scholars and researchers published in 2016 by WCC/Regnum[6], with the objective to build a global collection on African Christianity.

3.5 Selected publications from Globethics.net in 2016 of interest to GlobeTheoLib



- *African Church Assets Programme ACAP* [online]. Globethics.net, 2016. ISBN 978-2-88931-160-6. Available from: http://www.globethics.net/gel/10509223
- FIELD, David and KOSLOWSKI, Jutta. *Prospects and challenges for the ecumenical movement in the 21st century: insights from the Global Ecumenical Theological Institute* [online]. 2016. ISBN 978-2-88931-097-5. Available from: http://www.globethics.net/documents/4289936/13403236/GE_Global_12_web.pdf
- GRIEDER, Andrea. *Collines des mille souvenirs: Vivre après et avec le génocide perpétré contre les Tutsi du Rwanda* [online]. Geneva : Globethics Publications, 2016. Globethics.net Theses, 19. ISBN 978-2-88931-100-2. Available from: http://www.globethics.net/documents/4289936/13403260/GE_Theses_19_web.pdf

[4] The html code to search the library is available at http://www.globethics.net/about-us/portrait
[5] See http://www.globethics.net/-/globethics-net-newsletter-no10-2016-december-2016-#lib
[6] See http://www.oikoumene.org/en/press-centre/news/anthology-of-african-christianity-highlights-the-continent-where-the-faith-is-growing-fastest

- HOUSSOU GANDONOU, Fifamè Fidèle. *Les fondements éthiques du féminisme: réflexions à partir du contexte africain* [online]. Genève : Globethics.net, 2016. Globethics.net thèses, no 22. ISBN 978-2-88931-139-2. Available from: http://www.globethics.net/documents/4289936/13403260/GE_Theses_22_web.pdf/
- MAWUDOR, Bright Gabriel. *Financial sustainability of church related organizations an empirical study on Kenya* [online]. Geneva : Globethics.net, 2016. Available from: http://www.globethics.net/documents/4289936/13403260/GE_Theses_17_final_web.pdf/
- RENNSTICH, Karl and STÜCKELBERGER, Christoph. *Gerechtigkeit für Alle: religiöser Sozialismus in Mission und Entwicklung* [online]. 2016. ISBN 978-2-88931-141-5. Available from: http://www.globethics.net/documents/4289936/13403252/GE_Focus_36_web.pdf/
- SOFJAN, Dicky and GLOBETHICS.NET (eds.). *Religion, public policy and social transformation in Southeast Asia: managing religious diversity* [online]. Geneva : Globethics.net, 2016. Globethics.net focus, no. 33. ISBN 978-2-88931-115-6. Available from: http://www.globethics.net/documents/4289936/13403252/GE_Focus_33_web.pdf/
- STÜCKELBERGER, Christoph. *Entrepreneurs with Christian values: training handbook for 12 modules* [online]. 2016. ISBN 978-2-88931-143-9. Available from: http://www.globethics.net/documents/4289936/15984460/China_Christian_3_Web_Master_Final.pdf/
- STÜCKELBERGER, Christoph. *Global ethics applied. Vol.4, Bioethics, religion, leadership* [online]. Geneva : Globethics.net, 2016. Readers, no. 4. ISBN 978-2-88931-131-6. Available from: http://www.globethics.net/gel/10214924
- WERNER, Dietrich. *Eco-Theology, Climate Justice and Food Security* [online]. Globethics.net, 2016. ISBN 978-2-88931-144-6. Available from: http://www.globethics.net/gel/10232090

4. Statistics

The GlobeTheoLib portal is multilingual, currently available in Chinese, English, French, German, Indonesian and Spanish. Documents can be uploaded in any language. **As of March 2017**, the **Theology library holds more than 2 million documents**, including nearly 37,000 books, **68,000** theses, 177 journals, and 20 special collections.

Its content mainly comes from open sources and manual submissions (87%), a minor part from commercial sources (13%), such as e-journals, and reference materials.

In terms of downloads, mainly open access documents are downloaded, whereas submissions represent the largest part thereof. About half of the downloads are done through unregistered users, which means that more than half do not require a user login for accessing the full text. Only about 10% of all downloads fall on commercial sources. This underlines the importance of the open access character of GlobeTheoLib.

Interestingly, among the countries with highest download rates, you find Switzerland with more than 3,000, followed by Asian countries (India with around 2,000 and Indonesia with about 1,600 items), whereas countries from Latin America (Colombia) or Africa (Nigeria) are farer behind.

Unfortunately we cannot (yet) track the origin of unregistered users, which make up the largest user community of Globethics.net library.

Number of documents

By source	March 2017	April 2016
Open Access (OAI)	1,785,095	1,401,263
Commercial	253,680	182,463
Submissions	41,831	39,559
Total	2,086,038	1,664,624

Number of documents

By type	March 2017
Journal articles	145,636
Books (including reference books)	36,898
Theses	67,875
Journals	177
Collections	20
Total	2,086,196

Downloads 2016

Open access	24,357
Submitted	16,360
Commercial	3,707
Total	29,246
Downloads done by unregistered users	*14,904*

Top downloads by country 2016

Country	Downloads
Switzerland	3,134
India	2,016
Indonesia	1,640
United States	1,088
Canada	465
United Kingdom	452
Russia	435
Germany	333
Colombia	229
Nigeria	192

By March 2017, GlobeTheoLib had 38,160 **registered participants** with an interest in theology, a slight increase of 1,729 compared to 2015. More than half come from Asia and Africa, as the regional breakdown shows in the table below:

Regional breakdown of participants (March 2017)

Region	Number	%
South and East Asia	18, 907	49.5
Europe	5,586	14.6
Sub Saharan Africa	4,893	12.8
N Africa and the Middle east	3,064	8.03
North America	2,754	7.2
Latin America	1,618	4.2
Central Asia	705	1.8
Oceania	633	1.7
Total	38,160	100.0

The participants are largely interested in intercultural and contextual theologies, comparative religion and interreligious dialogue, and Christian denominations, whereas Ecumenism, interestingly, has the lowest score in terms of interest, though the number in this category more than doubled compared to 2014. Please note, that relatively few participants declare an area of interest during their registration and that when they do they tend to declare multiple areas of interests.

Thematic breakdown of participants who declared interests (March 2017)

Area of interest	Number	%
Intercultural and contextual theologies	16,988	44.5
Comparative religion and interreligious dialogue	14,313	37.5
Christian denominations	13,561	35.5
Practical theology and theological education	13,533	35.4
Biblical theology	13,492	35.3
Dogmatics (subject not mentioned in the 2014 report)	12,602	33
Global Church history and World Christianity	11,340	29.7
Ecumenism	4,963	13

5-Finance/Donors

In 2016 GTL received a total income of CHF 71,163 against expenditure of CHF 121,171, resulting in a deficit of around CHF 50,000, which has been covered by Globethics.net. Apart from the regular contributions of Globethics.net and the WCC, and from the Consortium members, major donations came from Evangelisches Missionswerk Deutschland (EMW) with EUR 23,000, and from the Foundation of Theological Education in South East Asia (FTESEA) with USD 9,000. We convey our profound gratitude for their precious and continued support. For more detailed information, please see the GTL Financial report 2016 in the annex.

Contact

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Annexe

GlobeTheoLib Financial Report 2016 (CHF)

Income	Budget	Actual	*Notes*
a. Consortium membership fees	12,000.00	7,528.40	*1*
b. Mission and Dev. Agencies, consortium contributions	90,000.00	42,634.86	*2*
c. Theol.Faculties/libraries Low Income Countries	5,000.00		
d. Theol.Faculties/libraries Middle Income Countries	12,000.00		
e. Theol.Faculties/libraries High Income Countries	13,000.00	1,000.00	*3*
f. Associations/libraries/ Regional Ecumenical Org.	8,000.00		
g. Foundations, governments, churches, orders,	120,000.00		
h. World Council of Churches		10,000.00	*4*
i. Contribution from Globethics.net		10,000.00	*4*
Total Income	**260,000.00**	**71,163.26**	
Expenditures			
1.1 Website/software adaptation new strategy 2016-2020			
1 Development	**0.00**	**0.00**	**-**
2.1 Library software maintenance and Website	95,000.00	43,200.00	*5*
2.2 Server fees	17,000.00	5,312.95	*6*
2 Technical work/fees	**112,000.00**	**48,512.95**	
3.1 Licenced content (journals,news,books)	20,000.00	7,987.52	*7*
3.2 OAI harvesting	18,000.00	8,400.00	*8*
3.3 Submissions	7,000.00	3,413.00	*9*
3 Content/Regional Programmes	**45,000.00**	**19,800.52**	
4.1Online Marketing Library	2,000.00	2,000.00	*10*
4 Marketing	**2,000.00**	**2,000.00**	
5.1 Programme Staff GTL	90,000.00	38,166.00	*11*
5.2 GTL / Leadership Group	1,000.00	6,608.17	
5.3 Office rent, IT, infrastructure	8,000.00	6,083.00	*12*
5 Staff, Leadership, Services	**99,000.00**	**50,857.17**	
subtotal 1-5	**258,000.00**	**121,170.64**	
6.1 Project management	0.00	0.00	
Total Expenses	**258,000.00**	**121,170.64**	
Deficit*	2,000.00	-50,007.38	
****Covered by Globethics.net***		**50,007.38**	*13*

Notes		CHF
Note 1 - Membership dues		
ATESEA - Trinity Theological College - (2015)		293.93
FTESEA		1,000.00
World Methodist Council		1,001.00
Mission21		1,000.00
ATL (Forum of Asian Theological Libraries), 2015 and 2016		600.00
Lutheran World Federation		1,000.00
ATESEA - Trinity Theological College		300.00
WCRC		857.60
Volos Academy		536.00
Beth - GTL fee in 2016 and 2015; USD1,000		939.87
Total in CHF value		**7,528.40**
Note 2 - Details of Contributions		
EMW (EUR23,000)		24,940.51
FTESEA - USD 18,000 (2015 and 2016)		17,694.35
Total		**42,634.86**
Note 3 - High Income Countries:		
World Council of Churches (Library)		**1,000.00**
Note 4		
Globethics.net (GE)		**10,000.00**
World Council of Churches (WCC)		**10,000.00**
GTL's share in total GE cost is:		
Note 5 - Library software maintenance and Website	17%	
Note 6 - Server fees	29%	
Note 7 - Licenced content (journals,news,books)	15%	
Note 8 - OAI harvesting	22%	
Note 9 - Submissions	19%	
Note 10 - Online Marketing Library	5%	
Note 11 - Programme Staff GTL	22%	
Note 12 - Office rent, IT, infrastructure	2%	
Note 13 – Globethics.net paid 50% of total cost	50%	