

GlobeTheoLib

Global Digital Library on Theology and Ecumenism

Annual Report 2018

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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 online 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 Amélie Ekué, and a Secretary, currently Andreas Waldvogel, Globethics.net Programme Executive Online Library.

2. Activities in 2018

2.1 GlobeTheoLib Consortium meeting 13-14 April, International Reformed Center John Knox, Geneva

The Global Digital Library on Theology and Ecumenism, GlobeTheoLib, and the GlobeTheoLib Consortium that supported it, served theological higher education institutions, associations and libraries from 2011 until 2018 run together by Globethics.net and the World Council of Churches. During the Assembly of the GlobeTheoLib Consortium in April 2018 at the International Reformed Center John Knox, Geneva, the decision was taken by the members to integrate into the Globethics.net Consortium on Ethics in Higher Education.

This was put forward largely for practical reasons, to run one Consortium rather than two with added benefits for all members in the form of additional resources, publications, online courses, networking and joint research projects, to name but a few. See www.globethics.net/-/library-overview-2018-building-capacities-through-access-to-knowledge for more information about this decision.



Photo: representatives of members of the GlobeTheoLib Consortium with Globethics.net staff at the International Reformed Center John Knox, Geneva, Switzerland, April 2018

The integration process took place in steps with a consultation with members and experts from June to September 2018 during which a number of members were in favour of continuing support for GlobeTheoLib.

Following the consultation and decisions taken by the Globethics.net Board of Foundation the GlobeTheoLib Consortium was dissolved at the end of 2018 and those members who are interested are joining the new Consortium. These include the Lutheran World Federation, the Association for Theological Education in South East Asia (ATESEA) and the World Council of Churches who have joined in 2019. Globethics.net is in the process of negotiating continued membership with other members.

2.2 Special Library collections, online learning and research opportunities

Globethics.net remains committed to maintaining and enlarging not only the Global Digital Library on Theology and Ecumenism but also the network of theological libraries, organisations and educational institutions, while continuing to provide special services to former GlobeTheoLib members and others, including the development of special online collections and publications focused on theology and ecumenism.

As an illustration of these efforts, Globethics.net offered its online teaching platform for the Global Ecumenical Theological Institute 2018 course, organised by the World Council of Churches Ecumenical Theological Education programme, in the run up to and during the World Mission Conference in Arusha, Tanzania in March 2018. The Library developed a special collection on Global Ecumenical Missions Studies for the purpose of this course.

A grant application has been successfully submitted to the Foundation of Theological Education in South East Asia (FTESEA) in support of a new collection on Asian Christianity/Asian Theologies, to be developed in 2019. The Evangelisches Missionswerk Deutschland (EMW) supported GlobeTheoLib in 2018 with the amount of 23.000 Euros.

Library staff were pleased to host and accompany and supervise a Research fellow, Mr James Miriago (Kenya), MAS student from Bossey Ecumenical Institute, who conducted research work in and for the Library related to topics, such as Ethics and Elections and Gender and Theology, during 4 weeks in March 2018.

2.3 New Library content

The main focus in 2018 was on developing open access content through the Library's OAI-harvesting system following the decision taken in 2017 to reduce paid subscriptions of journals and purchase of commercial content due to financial constraints.

The Library created new collections, such as those on Gender and Theology and Global Ecumenical Mission Studies, among many others in the field of Ethics in Higher Education, which is the new strategic and thematic focus of Globethics.net.

Thanks to a cooperation agreement concluded on 13 February 2018 with the University Library of Tübingen, Germany, the Library was able to integrate large parts of their Index Theologicus (IxTheo), a primary bibliographic source for theological and religious studies, with over 1.7 millions of records (see www.globethics.net/-/1-7-million-index-theologicus-records-now-available-in-globethics-net-library).

In 2019 a new collection is planned on Asian Christianity/Asian Theologies, including major Asian theological journals, such as the

- Asian Journal of Pentecostal Studies
- Chinese Theological Review
- Ching Feng new series
- Indonesian Journal of Theology
- International Journal of Sino-Western Studies
- Journal of Dharma
- Religions and Christianity in Today's China

2.4 New Library system

It is planned to move the Library repository to a new system, based on DSpace, a world leading open source data repository solution for academic institutions. This will enhance the Library's research and user functionality, discoverability on the web, and the interoperability with third party systems. For this purpose, a two-month tender process was carried out during November and December 2018 to identify the best possible option fitting the Library requirements and needs for the years to come. The new Open Repository system is an integrated cloud based Software as a Service solution, provided, hosted and developed by Atmire Inc. (www.atmire.com), based in Leuven, Belgium.

3. Library team

The Library team is composed of

- Andreas Waldvogel, Programme Executive Online Library (Library Manager), 100%
- Dr Ignace Haaz, Publications manager and Programme Executive Ethics Library, 40 %
- Ms Anja Andriamasy, Library Assistant, 80 %



Photo: the Library team promoting the Open Access Library during Open Access Week, 22-28 October 2018

4. Statistics

As of January 2019, GlobeTheoLib has 39,733 registered participants coming mainly from South East Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa, with a major interest in intercultural and contextual theologies.

The Library holds over 4.7 million documents, including more than 241,000 journal articles, 925,000 books, 98,000 theses, 127 journals, and 33 collections.

Its content mostly comes from open sources and manual submissions, with a very tiny percentage from commercial sources (0.7 %), such as e-journals, and reference works.

The number of downloads registered in 2018 fell below 1,000, which is a drop of more than 1,000 in total compared to 2017. This negative trend has also been observed for the overall library, probably due to the removal of commercial content, user functionality, and lack of data exposure on the web, inherent in the current system.

The majority of documents that are downloaded are open access, which includes submissions. With the decrease in commercial content, which requires login as a participant in order to be able to access it and the fact that open access content does not need login, there is as a result a larger ratio of unregistered users. Now almost all downloaded content has been accessed by unregistered users.

Interestingly, among the countries with the highest download rates, you find Switzerland with 2,109, followed by Asian countries (China 727 items, India 538 items), while countries in Africa and elsewhere show a lower number of downloads.

These figures are exclusively related to registered users, who log on to the system in order to download documents. However the majority of users - as shown in the figures - access the Library without authentication, and hence are not represented in the Downloads by countries table given below.

4.1 Library Holdings / Number of documents

There are 4,735,941 documents in GlobeTheoLib as at 31 January 2019. In the same period in 2018 there were 2,440,734.

Sources	Jan2019	Jan 2018	Mar 2017	April 2016
Open Access ¹	4,655,302 ²	2,180,963	1,785,095	1,401,263
Commercial	34,655	207,437	253,680	182,463
Submissions	45,062	44,250	41,831	39,559
Total	4,735,019	2,432,650	2,086,038	1,664,624

Library items by document type

Document types	Jan 2019	Jan 2018	Mar 2017	Aug 2016
Journal articles	241,683	188,840	145,636	
Books (including reference books)	925,606 (12)	47,057 (70)	36,898	
Theses	98,584	79,105	67,875	72,198
Journals	127	184	177	
Collections	33	23	20	

¹ See also note 3

² Approximate figure, includes open access (OAI) data, and data from content providers, such as the World Council of Churches, IxTheo, etc., based on multiple queries. This applies also to the number of commercial sources. Finally it explains the difference between the total number of documents in the table and the "overall" number in the header.

Downloads of documents by sources

Sources	2018	2017	2016
Open access	4,322	19,911	24,357
Submissions	5,543	10,108	16,360
Globethics.net Publications	385	706	125
World Council of Churches	80	100	279
IxTheo ³	1,293		
Commercial content	143	4,642	3,707
Total	11,766	24,568	29,246
<i>Part of unregistered users</i>	<i>11,078</i>	<i>13,907</i>	<i>14,904</i>
Average per month	981	2,047	2338

Downloads of documents by countries (only registered users)

Country	2018	2017
Switzerland	2,109	1,749
China	727	908
India	538	1,022
United States	437	754
Indonesia	435	1679
Canada	249	331
Germany	205	
Kenya	180	
United Kingdom	154	436
Sri Lanka	93	
Philippines	82	321
Hong Kong	80	292
Nigeria	54	257

³ New resource added in 2018 containing 1,751,542 references

Regional breakdown of participants

Region	Jan 2019	%	Jan 2018	%	Mar 2017	%
South and East Asia	19,861	49,9	19,707	50,1	18,907	49.5
Europe	5,519	13,9	5,547	14,1	5,586	15.1
Sub Saharan Africa	5,288	13.3	5,150	13,1	4,893	12.2
North Africa and the Middle East	3,107	7.8	3,103	7,9	3,064	8.1
North America	2,850	7.2	2,804	7,1	2,754	7.4
Latin America	1,732	4.5	1,682	4.3	1,618	4.2
Central Asia	735	1.8	734	1,8	705	1.8
Oceania	641	1.6	634	1,6	633	1.7
Total	39,733	100.0	39,361	100.0	38,160	100.0

Participants by areas of interest

Thematic interests	Jan 2019	%	Jan 2018	%	Mar 2017	%
Intercultural and contextual theologies	17,651	44,4	17,443	44,3	16,988	44.5
Comparative religion and interreligious dialogue	14,927	37,6	14,756	37,5	14,313	37.5
Practical theology and theological education	14,103	35,5	13,909	35,3	13,533	35.4
Christian denominations	14,042	35,3	13,872	35,2	13,561	35.5
Biblical theology	14,038	35,3	13,852	35,2	13,492	35.3
Dogmatics	13,180	33,2	12,989	33,0	12,602	33
Global Church history and World Christianity	11,794	29,7	11,658	29,6	11,340	29.7
Ecumenism	5,715	14,4	5,481	13,9	4,963	13

5. Financial Report 2018

The following financial report has been audited during the annual audit exercise of Globethics.net and is subject to the approval of the Globethics.net Board of Foundation.

In 2018 GlobeTheoLib received a total income of CHF 113,550 balanced against expenditures.

Apart from the regular contributions of Globethics.net and the World Council of Churches, and from the Consortium members' annual membership fees, major donations came from Evangelisches Missionswerk in Deutschland (EMW) with EUR 23,000, and from the Foundation of Theological Education in South East Asia (FTESEA) with USD 5,000. Additional funds were granted for special collections by the World Methodist Council and FTESEA in 2018.

We convey our profound gratitude to project partners, members and donors for their precious and continued support. For more detailed information, please see the figures and notes of the 2018 Financial Report below.

Global Digital Library on Theology and Ecumenism, GlobeTheoLib			
Financial Report 2018		<i>in CHF</i>	Notes
INCOME	Budget 2018	Accounts 2018	a
Consortium membership fees	14,000	10,049	b
Mission and Development Agencies: Evangelisches Missionswerk in Deutschland (EMW)	25,300	24,656	c
Subscriptions: Theological Faculties/libraries	1,000	1,000	d
Foundations, governments, churches, orders: Foundation for Theological Education in South East Asia (FTESEA)	4,750	5,000	e
Special collections: United Methodist Council (USD 3,000) and FTESEA (USD 10,000)	-	12,846	f
Project partner contribution: World Council of Churches	10,000	10,000	g
Project partner contribution: Globethics.net	50,000	50,000	g
Additional funds to be raised	163,166	-	
Total Income	268,216	113,550	

EXPENSES	Budget 2018	Accounts 2018	
1.1 Website/software adaptation	30,000	10,407	h
1 Development	30,000	10,407	
2.1 Library software maintenance and website	75,000	16,386	
2.2 Server fees	6,000	2,000	
2 Technical work/fees	81,000	18,386	
3.1 Licenced content (journals, news, books)	3,333	3,720	
3.2 OAI harvesting	5,000	-	i
3.3 Submissions	1,000	779	
3 Content/Regional Programmes	9,333	4,499	
4.1 Online Marketing Library	5,000	2,081	
4 Marketing	5,000	2,081	
5.1 Programme Staff GlobeTheoLib	69,000	40,221	
5.2 GlobeTheoLib Consortium Leadership Group	10,000	5,668	j
5.3 Office rent, IT, infrastructure	39,500	21,476	k
5 Staff, Leadership, Services	118,500	67,365	
subtotal 1-5	243,833	102,738	
6.1 Project management, bookkeeping, audit	24,383	10,812	l
6.2 Miscellaneous	-	-	
Total Expenses	268,216	113,550	
Balance	-	-	

Note a - Budget 2018

The Budget 2018 was revised on 29 March 2018, based on the audited financial report 2017

Note b - Membership dues	<i>Origin amount</i>	Received CHF
All Africa Conference of Churches (AACC)	USD 500	473.18
Anglican Consultative Council London	USD 1,000	993.74
Association for Theological Education in South East Asia (ATESEA)	USD 600	587.88
Bibliothèques Européennes de Théologie (BETH)	EUR 430	483.05
Foundation for Theological Education in South East Asia (FTESEA)	USD 1,000	993.61
Lutheran World Federation	USD 1,000	1,000.00
Mission 21	CHF 1,000	1,000.00
Senate of Serampore	USD 1,500	1,473.66
University of Tübingen	EUR 1,000	1,144.93

World Communion of Reformed Churches (WCRC)	<i>EUR 800</i>	898.69
World Methodist Council	<i>CHF 1,000</i>	1,000.00
Total		10,048.74
Note c - Mission and development agencies		
Evangelisches Missionswerk in Deutschland (EMW)	<i>EUR 23,000</i>	24,655.89
Total		24,655.89
Note d - Subscriptions: Theological Faculties / libraries		
World Council of Churches		1,000.00
Total		1,000.00
Note e - Foundations, governments, churches, orders		
Foundation for Theological Education in South East Asia (FTESEA)	<i>USD 5,000</i>	5,000.00
Total		5,000.00
Note f - Special collections		
World Methodist Council - special collection	<i>USD 3,000</i>	2,851.94
Foundation for Theological Education in South East Asia (FTESEA)	<i>USD 10,000</i>	9,993.86
Total		12,845.80
Note g - Contributions from Globethics.net and World Council of Churches		
Globethics.net (10k + 40k)		50,000.00
World Council of Churches		10,000.00
Total		60,000.00

Note h - Expenditures and Accounts 2018

Expenses in lines 1.1 to 5.1 are calculated on the basis of one third of total operating expenses for the Globethics.net Library, into which the GlobeTheoLib project is integrated. They are lower than budgeted due to lower total overall running costs of the Globethics.net Library in 2018. Also the decision taken by the GlobeTheoLib Consortium Committee in April 2018 to integrate the Consortium into the wider Globethics Consortium on Ethics in Higher Education resulted in lower costs for the GlobeTheoLib Consortium during the remainder of the year

Note i - OAI Harvesting

The Open Archives Initiative (OAI) content harvesting was integrated into line 2.1, library software maintenance and website in 2018

Note j - GlobeTheoLib Consortium Leadership Group

Direct costs related to meetings and materials with 2018 being a Consortium year

Note k - Office rent, IT, infrastructure

Cost of two offices, three workstations and infrastructure

Note l - Project management, bookkeeping, audit

Calculated as 10% of total expenses (subtotal 1-5)

6. Editorial note

This is the last GlobeTheoLib Annual Report to be published separately on behalf of GlobeTheoLib, as GlobeTheoLib ceased to exist as an organisational entity as of 31 December 2018, following the decisions taken by the Consortium meeting in April 2018 and by the Globethics.net Board of Foundation in October 2018 (see section 2.1, pp. 1-2).

Future reports on GlobeTheoLib will be fully integrated into the Globethics.net Annual Report as of 2019.

7. Contact

For further information about this report and about GlobeTheoLib please contact:

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