

## GlobeTheoLib

### Policy Document on the Sharing and Ownership of Theological Knowledge December 2011

The basic principles which are operative in GlobeTheoLib for the sharing and ownership of theological knowledge are spelled out on the website as follows:

- *Sharing*: GlobeTheoLib promotes the mutual sharing of global and contextual Christian theological concerns and perspectives as a contribution towards overcoming religious fundamentalism and strengthening world peace.
- *Respect*: GlobeTheoLib respects and affirms the dignity of every person and the diversity of all Christian denominations, different cultures, and world religions.
- *Unity*: It serves the unity of Christian churches and solidarity with all of people of good will in the service to peace, justice and integrity of creation.
- *Participation*: GlobeTheoLib values the participation of people from all regions and denominational backgrounds of the world, including representatives from other religious traditions.
- *Responsibility*: GlobeTheoLib encourages responsible use of and responsible contributions to its knowledge resources and network.
- *Transparency*: GlobeTheoLib is committed to building trust through honesty, openness, transparency and accountability.
- *Quality*: GlobeTheoLib is committed to providing and promoting high quality resources and scholarly contributions to theology and religious studies.

(Source: <http://www.globethics.net/web/gtl/vision-and-mission>)

GlobeTheoLib also follows the general principles of the library acquisition policy which has been formulated for the Global Digital Library on Ethics (see: [http://www.globethics.net/c/document\\_library/get\\_file?p\\_l\\_id=14538&folderId=1369829&name=DLFE-1416.pdf](http://www.globethics.net/c/document_library/get_file?p_l_id=14538&folderId=1369829&name=DLFE-1416.pdf)) and the regulations which are expressed in the 'Globethics.net Library: Copyright for Submitters of Documents' (see: <http://www.globethics.net/web/ge/copyright>), as well as the 'Globethics.net Library Terms of Service Agreement' (see: <http://www.globethics.net/web/ge/terms-of-service>).

In response to a request from the first meeting of the GlobeTheoLib Consortium Committee, in Geneva, 23-24 September 2011, the Project Leadership group for GlobeTheoLib has drawn up the following affirmations:

- 1) GlobeTheoLib is fully aware of the present imbalances and inequalities in terms of access to, and visibility of, theological knowledge from the different world regions. While offering a two-way system of sharing theological knowledge, the mission of

GlobeTheoLib is particularly directed and committed to empowering regions marginalized and sidelined in the mainstream of international discourse to raise their voice and to increase their visibility via GlobeTheoLib.

- 2) GlobeTheoLib is particularly sensitive to the interests of owners of theological knowledge to have their rights respected and fully affirmed. No sources are uploaded against the will of their owners or those who have legitimately given permission for these sources to be uploaded into GlobeTheoLib.
- 3) All theological content uploaded by users remains the property of their owners. The ownership does not shift to GlobeTheoLib. Rather Globethics.net is given a non-exclusive licence to share these resources and materials as set down in the Globethics.net Library Terms of Service Agreement (9.2). In individual cases, if a user wishes to withdraw a document they have submitted to the library, they may make this request to Globethics.net.
- 4) GlobeTheoLib is interested in cooperating with a broad spectrum of Christian publishers to support their interest in marketing and making visible good theological books. This includes particularly facilitating out-of-print theological books and editions which are of interest, through sharing scanned or electronic versions of these books.
- 5) GlobeTheoLib is committed to providing accessibility, visibility and recognition of different types of theological knowledge with particular attention to the theological voices articulated in churches of the global South and in Eastern Europe. GlobeTheoLib rejects any claim of cultural hegemony or theological superiority for any tradition or line of thought defined by a single major geographical or denominational context. As GlobeTheoLib is neither exclusive nor one-sidedly selective in terms of a preference for a particular tradition, the process of maintaining and establishing a proper balance between different realms of theological knowledge within GlobeTheoLib is to a large extent also an issue and a challenge for its users. Their readiness and commitment to contribute from their denominational and geographical contexts and their efforts to enlarge the relevant scope of theological contents presented within GlobeTheoLib is decisive for the participatory and liberative nature of the whole project of GlobeTheoLib.
- 6) GlobeTheoLib asks for and promotes responsible use to be made of the sources which are found in this source of worldwide theological knowledge. This includes clearly rejecting any attempts to use sources of GlobeTheoLib for plagiarism. It is also a plea for responsible use of sources in terms of honesty in quotations and references, as this applies to all recognized academic work. Users are expected to follow attitudes of mutual respect for different theological viewpoints and of avoiding intentional harm to any author, wherever materials are made available within the GlobeTheoLib online community.

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For the GlobeTheoLib - Project Leadership Group:

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**More information about GlobeTheoLib can be found at:**  
[www.globethics.net/web/gtl/about](http://www.globethics.net/web/gtl/about)

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**GlobeTheoLib** is a project of Globethics.net and is supported 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).