The Global Digital Library on Theology and Ecumenism [GlobeTheoLib] is a multilingual online library offering access free of charge to more than 650'000 full-text articles, journals, books and other resources. Its focus is on theology, intercultural and interreligious dialogue, ethics, and ecumenism in World Christianity. GlobeTheoLib was launched in September 2011 as a joint project of the World Council of Churches (WCC) and Globethics.net, together with more than 20 international ecumenical organizations and theological associations. The GlobeTheoLib newsletter sets out the achievements of the last couple of months, key developments, important meetings and future GlobeTheoLib work and events.

The GlobeTheoLib team thanks you for your support and participation!

In this issue:

- Editorial by Mélisande Lorke
  Without theological education church cannot be church

- Register for GlobeTheoLib

- News from GlobeTheoLib
  - Launch of Global Directory of Theological Education
  - New look of the GlobeTheoLib homepage
  - GlobeTheoLib a “model of best practice”
  - E-theses now available in GlobeTheoLib

  Library
  - New Religious Ethics and Institutional Collections in the GlobeTheoLib library
  - New journals on religious studies and theology available in GlobeTheoLib

  Network
  - Globethics.net website migrated

  Research/ Projects
  - New workgroup on ecumenism
  - New books on theological education produced with GlobeTheoLib

- News related to Ecumenical Theological Education
  - Global Survey on Theological Education completed

To follow a link, click on the green words in the text.

Editorial by Mélisande Lorke

Without theological education church cannot be church!
Church as a learning community

Since its launch in September 2011, GlobeTheoLib has aimed to act as a facilitator for theological education around the world. It has strengthened the profile of theological research by providing access to theological resources from different parts of the world and different denominational
background and context. GlobeTheoLib has thereby been acting as a global player in connecting people on a global level and embedding them in their local context. It is key to understand that GlobeTheoLib’s mission of global theological knowledge transfer was intended not only to support the academy and science but particularly to support World Christianity and the global church. As Michael Kinnamon, a former general secretary of the US National Council of Churches, mentioned in one of his speeches, education is crucial to the being church. He noted that “the integration of the World Council of Christian Education (now the ETE programme of the WCC) and the World Council of Churches signified, without education the church cannot be the church. Education isn’t only something the church does; it is part of what the church is. The body of Christ is a worshiping, confessing, witnessing but also a learning community.” (see here)

The church has often been described as being built on four pillars: κοινωνία (unity and communion); μαρτυρία (mission); δικαιοσύνα (justice and peace) and λειτουργία (worship). Within this image, it is often forgotten though that these pillars are not standing on solid ground if the fundament of theological education (Διδαχή) is being neglected. Concern for education - both in society and the church - cannot be separated from other ecclesial activities. Education and formation in all theological disciplines can be seen as the bloodline of church as an institution. The church simply cannot exist without real concern for theological education and the preservation of church memory.

This is why GlobeTheoLib is so close to the heart of the global church and tries to serve it in all possible ways. The worldwide community of GlobeTheoLib is a learning community, united in Christ and embedded in the church.

In this issue of the GlobeTheoLib newsletter, we want to share and show what work GlobeTheoLib has been doing lately in order to strengthen the profile of theological education and thereby the global church.

Mélisande Lorke, library assistant of GlobeTheoLib and project assistant of Ecumenical Theological Education/World Council of Churches

Register for GlobeTheoLib

If you have not already registered for GlobeTheoLib then go to the GlobeTheoLib homepage and follow the link under “Register now for free”.

News from GlobeTheoLib

7’000 institutions in new online directory on theological education available in GlobeTheoLib

Globethics.net is hosting a unique global online directory of more than 7’000 theological education institutions to promote mutual sharing and dialogue between establishments in different parts of the world. The Global Directory of Theological Education Institutions is located within the GlobeTheoLib, and is interdenominational and inclusive in its widest sense, including all types of Christian institutions of theological education and ministerial formation. Users can search directory entries by denomination or affiliation, types of institution, language of instruction, city and country, world region and degrees offered. Records include information about faculty and students, contact details and the accreditation for degrees offered. Read more about the directory here.
New look of the GlobeTheoLib homepage

GlobeTheoLib now has a new home page with quick access to its unique library of more than 650'000 full-text documents, available free-of-charge to registered participants, hundreds of academic journals, handbooks and dictionaries, and special collections. The GlobeTheoLib home page is available in Chinese, English, French, German, Indonesian and Spanish with plans to add new languages in the coming months.

The new home page is the first step in making GlobeTheoLib even more attractive and user-friendly. If you have ideas or suggestions for how GlobeTheoLib may be improved, please let us know by email to: globetheolib@globethics.net

GlobeTheoLib a 'model of best practice'

GlobeTheoLib has been highlighted by the German internet portal “Geistreich” as an example of best practice on knowledge access. Geistreich, which means ingenious in German, gathers ideas from church-linked projects in Germany and beyond. GlobeTheoLib is highlighted as part of Geistreich's monthly theme for April on knowledge. Access the GlobeTheoLib entry on Geistreich in English or German.

E-theses now available in GlobeTheoLib

Globethics.net has started a new publication series of dissertations and theses with a focus on work from the global South. The first four volumes have been published (in French) and are available for download free of charge from the Globethics.net website: www.globethics.net/web/ge/theses-series. Print copies can be ordered at infoweb@globethics.net or from amazon.


- Ange Lusanga Sankieme: Ethique de la migration. La valeur de la justice comme base pour une migration dans l'Union Européenne et la Suisse, 357 pages (2012) [The ethics of migration. The role of justice as the basis for migration policy in the European Union and Switzerland]


- Njojo Kahwa: Éthique de la non-violence, 592 pages (2013) [The ethics of non-violence]

Library

New Religious Ethics and Institutional Collections in the GlobeTheoLib library

Through special collections on religious ethics within its libraries, Globethics.net seeks to increase access to reliable and authoritative material about different faith traditions.

Two new Institutional collections are being created. In preparation for the World Council of Churches’ 10th Assembly in Busan, Korea, taking place from 30 October to 8 November, GlobeTheoLib has launched the World Council of Churches 2013 Assembly collection, putting together all preparatory papers and documents that have been published in regard to the assembly. The collection will be updated regularly, adding new documents and the actual conference papers in autumn this year.
The other new institutional collection is the Global Ecumenical Theological Institute 2013 collection that will be launched by midst June 2013. This collection will assemble all papers related to the Global Ecumenical Theological Institute (GETI), a theological programme for 150 young theologians, organized by the WCC programme on Ecumenical Theological Education (for more information click here). Its curriculum focuses on “the future of ecumenism and the transformation of World Christianity in the 21st century” and it will take place alongside the WCC 10th assembly in Korea. The GETI collection contains all the articles of the soon published GETI book “Ecumenical Visions for the 21st century”, presenting more than 60 key documents from the last two decades of ecumenical work and illumines the changing features of world Christianity today. The printed book will be available from July and can be ordered by ISBS or Gazelle, or from online retailers like amazon.

Furthermore, Globethics.net launched a new collection of full text digital documents in Chinese on a wide range of ethical issues, as well as a collection on Confucian ethics. "China is already the economic powerhouse in Asia. The bigger challenge however is if China also becomes a major player in ethics. The new collection on Chinese ethics may become a major reference to discover and properly value the role of Chinese approaches to ethics,” said Dr. Stephan Rothlin, Secretary General of CIBE in Beijing at the launch on 8 December in Beijing. The two new collections, established by scholars in cooperation with Globethics.net China and the “Center for International Business Ethics” (CIBE) in Beijing, contribute to the mutual understanding and peaceful cooperation with Chinese culture and values.

The full list of collections in the GlobeTheoLib library can be found here.

New journals on religious studies and theology available in GlobeTheoLib

GlobeTheoLib offers full-text access for registered participants to more than 100 journals on theology and religious studies, including several journals now available in GlobeTheoLib for the first time. These include:

- **Autres Temps**: a French-language review inspired by the Christian social movement and dealing with issues of church, religion and society.
- **Cuadernos de Teologia**: A Spanish-language theological journal produced by the ISEDET university institute, Buenos Aires, Argentina
- **Religion and Gender**: Religion and Gender explores the relation, confrontation and intersection of gender and religion, taking into account the multiple and changing manifestations of religion in diverse social and cultural contexts
- **Voices**: Published by the International Theological Commission of the Ecumenical Association of Third World Theologians (EATWOT), Voices is a bi-annual theological journal.

If you produce a journal and wish to make it available to registered participants of GlobeTheoLib, please contact the GlobeTheoLib team: globetheolib@globethics.net

Network

Globethics.net website migrated

The Globethics.net team has been working on updating the software for its platform. The migration was carried out to the new software at the end of January. Some problems may still occur and details still have to be adjusted. If you encounter problems, please try with another browser (Firefox, Explorer, Google Chrome, etc.). You can also send us an email at infoweb@globethics.net explaining the problem. Thank you in advance for your patience and understanding.
New Workgroup on ecumenism

Younger theologians or church leaders (aged 25 to 45) and interested in ecumenism and World Christianity are invited to join this new workgroup. The "Global Ecumenical Network of Young Theologians" is an international network of young theologians interested in the field of ecumenism and World Christianity. The workgroup is a platform for discussion and exchange and for creating synergies between participants all around the world. The idea came through the application process for the "Global Ecumenical Theological Institute" (GETI), taking place alongside the World Council of Churches (WCC) Assembly in October/November 2013 in Busan, Korea. The WCC office received many applications from young ecumenical leaders and theologians and therefore wanted to provide a space to connect and work with these young theologians – even if they are not selected to participate in GETI. This workgroup is not only a network, but will give access to resource materials of the GETI course as well - with special regard to those who are not part of the GETI students group.

New books on theological education produced with GlobeTheoLib

The "Ecumenical Theological Education" programme (ETE) of the World Council of Churches has published two new books, making use of the research workgroups available through the Globethics.net system.

The "Handbook of Theological Education in Africa" (about 1'200 pages) includes contributions from over 100 leading African scholars of theology and articles on major educational issues of relevance for the African continent. This handbook is a fascinating witness to the explosive status quo of African Theological Education that has changed drastically during the final twenty to thirty years of the last century. The book can be ordered from Regnum Books here.

The "Asian Handbook of Theological Education and Ecumenism" (about 700 pages) collects articles on major issues in mission, ecumenism, interfaith dialogue and justice with relevance for the Asian continent. It reviews past achievements, major experiences and current themes and challenges for Asian ecumenism in the 21st century. The book can be ordered from Regnum Books here.

Behind both handbooks is a three-four year process of conceptualisation, strategic network-building and editorial work that was achieved with the help of the Globethics.net platform and workgroups.

News related to “Ecumenical Theological Education”

Global Survey on Theological Education completed

The first global study on theological education since 1910 was launched in October 2011 by the World Council of Churches in partnership with the Institute for Cross-Cultural Theological Education in Chicago and the Centre for the Study of Global Christianity in Boston. After a period of 18 months, this survey has been completed, having received a total number of almost 1'800 respondents (the survey questionnaire is still open for final responses here).

The survey aimed to provide empirical data on current developments, challenges and major trends in theological education in World Christianity by sending out questionnaires to relevant partners, both individual theological educators as well as institutions for theological education.
A major global research report on results of this research will be prepared until summer 2013 and made available also on GlobeTheoLib. According to the programme directors Dr David Esterline and Dr Dietrich Werner, the provisional results include the following:

- Financial instability of many theological education institutions, although figures vary greatly between the different regions (see example graph)
- Increasing numbers of female theology students (faster than the number of male students) in all traditions in all parts of the world
- Growing interest in online education although many theological educators are not yet ready to endorse online theological education as completely appropriate
- Concern for "integrity in leadership" as pointing to one of the most significant indicators of institutional quality in theological education
- A general understanding of achieving best theological education through a combination of experiential education (in congregations or other places of service) and traditional academic work (in class-rooms or online)

Many more results and also some surprising insights and regional variations will be revealed in the global research report on theological education which will be presented at the WCC assembly in Busan at the "Ecumenical Conversation 6" on "Developing effective leadership: contextual ecumenical formation and theological education". The results will also be available in GlobeTheoLib this summer.