The Global Digital Library on Theology and Ecumenism [GlobeTheoLib] is a multilingual online library offering access free of charge to more than 750'000 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 Dietrich Werner
  GlobeTheoLib moving towards Busan and beyond

- Register for GlobeTheoLib

- News from GlobeTheoLib
  - GlobeTheoLib develops plan for future
  - New GlobeTheoLib strategy 2014-16
  - GlobeTheoLib at the upcoming WCC assembly in Busan

  Network
  - GlobeTheoLib regional hub in Latin America
  - Be part of GETI from distance
  - New platform for key documents on theological education & leadership development
  - Theological faculty of Geneva offers MOOC on Jean Calvin

  Research/ Projects
  - GlobeTheoLib hosts results of pioneer global survey on theological education

- News related to Ecumenical Theological Education
  - Important series of New Handbooks on Theological education published

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

Editorial by Dietrich Werner

GlobeTheoLib moving towards Busan and beyond
Global networking in research and education for an ecumenical theology of life

More than 3’000 participants are expected to join for the 10th assembly of the World Council of Churches (WCC) in Busan, South Korea, to take place 29 October until 9 November 2013. It will be the most representative gathering of World Christianity at the beginning of the third millennium. Marked by a strong presence of Asian Christians and as many young people as never before in the ecumenical
history it will reflect current dramatic changes in the composition of World Christianity, moving its epicentre to the South and demographically becoming younger and much more diverse in its face. With the leading prayer theme “God of life, lead us to justice and peace” the ecumenical movement echoes the intense longings for justice, peace and reconciliation which are prevailing in the situation of the divided Korean peninsula, but which are also alive in many countries in the Middle East, in Africa, Asia and Latin America. The ambitious project to formulate a comprehensive and integrative ‘theology of life’ which unfolds the dignity of all, the integrity of all creation and the desperate need to transform the dominant value systems which inform the development patterns in much of the world today in order to avoid the continuation of destructive trends in the current model of global economy which threatens the annihilation of human civilization is embedded in this thematic choice. Embarking on a process towards a global “theology of life” (as presented for instance in the Korean oikos-theology movement) needs not only a prestigious global networking process like an assembly in Busan but continuous global networking tools for cooperation in research, in education and in sharing of resources such as GlobeTheoLib. GlobeTheoLib therefore is prominently presented in several ways during the Busan assembly: The Global Ecumenical Theological Institute (GETI) with some 200 younger academic scholars and teachers of theology would not have been possible without GlobeTheoLib. GlobeTheoLib and Globethics.net have offered several outstanding publications to the Busan assembly. Both will be also present with a special exhibition in the Madang of the assembly. And many creative ways have been developed by GlobeTheoLib for those who cannot be physically present in Busan for participating vitally in the debates, the sharing and the new networking and research opportunities which will emerge during Busan. Let us hope and pray that through Busan a new spirit and commitment will emerge to work together globally, regionally and nationally for a new “ecumenical theology and ethics of life”.

Dietrich Werner, International Programme Coordinator of Ecumenical Theological Education/WCC and Co-Founder of GlobeTheoLib

Register for GlobeTheoLib

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

News from GlobeTheoLib

GlobeTheoLib develops plans for the future

Plans for the strategic development of the Global Digital Library on Theology and Ecumenism (GlobeTheoLib) were the main focus of the annual meeting in Geneva of the GlobeTheoLib Consortium Committee made up of the project’s main partners.

GlobeTheoLib was launched in September 2011 as a joint project between Globethics.net and the World Council of Churches and a Consortium of more than 20 regional and international ecumenical organizations supporting the project. These include associations of theological libraries and seminaries, mission organizations, foundations, Regional Ecumenical Organizations and Christian World Communions.

The first phase of the project lasts from 2011 to the end of 2013. At its meeting on 20-21 September, the Consortium Committee drew up plans for the second phase of GlobeTheoLib to run from 2014 to 2016. A major focus in this period should be the strengthening of regional hubs and platforms, to increase visibility of and the genuine sharing of theological production in the various world regions. In his report, GlobeTheoLib Programme Executive Stephen Brown
noted that GlobeTheoLib now has more than 25'000 registered participants from all regions of the world with a clear majority from the global South. Altogether GlobeTheoLib participants represent almost 30 percent of the total number of registered participants using the Globethics.net platform. Read more


Priorities in the GlobeTheoLib Strategy 2014-2016 identified at the Consortium Committee meeting in September include the following:

- to encourage and support the development of theological education and learning networks such as regional platforms in Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America and North America that increase visibility of and the genuine sharing of theological production in these world regions
- to develop cooperation with global and regional bodies working on theological education
- through cooperation with partners, to offer strengthened thematic and institutional online collections with a focus on intercultural and contextual theologies in World Christianity including interfaith dialogue, global peace and development studies as well as gender perspectives.
- to build on the experience, participants and resources of the Global Ecumenical Theological Institute (GETI) to develop core resources for ecumenical formation, interfaith learning and theological education that can be accessed by churches, theological institutions and others interested.
- to make available authoritative and reliable information about Christianity and Christian theology to followers of all religious traditions, and to explore cooperation with libraries engaged in interfaith dialogue and relations between religions.

GlobeTheoLib at the upcoming WCC assembly in Busan

GlobeTheoLib will have its own exhibition stand at the WCC 10th assembly in Busan, taking place 30 October to 9 November 2013. There will be three side events, taking place at stand no.25 in the green zone:

- **Tuesday, 5 November, 12:45 – 13:45h:** Increasing online access to theology and ecumenism. A discussion with Dr Stephen Brown, Programme Executive, GlobeTheoLib
- **Wednesday, 6 November, 12:45 – 13:45h:** Publishing your thesis on ethics and theology, low-cost with Globethics.net. Information sharing with Prof. Dr Christoph Stückelberger, Founder and Executive Director, Globethics.net
- **Thursday, 7 November, 12:45 – 13:45h:** Access to law as the key to justice. Introducing the African Online Library on Law and Governance with Prof. Dr Christoph Stückelberger

Being part of the so-called madang programme, GlobeTheoLib will have an exhibition space in the madang hall. Madang is a Korean term that describes a courtyard in a traditional Korean home. The madang serves as a space for encounter and sharing, celebration and fellowship, greeting a visitor and welcoming a stranger. In this spirit of madang, GlobeTheoLib invites you to the exhibition booth for discussion, exchange, greeting and celebration. If you will be at the assembly, do not forget to pass by and visit the stand!

Network

GlobeTheoLib regional hub in Latin America

Since February 2013 a small regional GlobeTheoLib hub in Latin America has been working with colleagues from Argentina, Colombia and Guatemala to increase Latin American content in the library and establish stronger relationships to partners and institutions in Latin America. In the last nine months, good results were achieved with a total of over 3’000 new academic articles on contextual Latin American theology being
submitted. A majority of this content is in Spanish. Furthermore, there are a dozen new academic journals and a high number of new library agreements signed with institutions and seminars.

Be part of GETI from distance

GlobeTheoLib participants can profit from different communication channels that were set up for a “distant learning module” of the Global Ecumenical Theological Institute (GETI). GETI is a major event that brings together 200 young theologians and scholars to the WCC 10th assembly for an intensive theological course with thematic focus on the future of ecumenism and the transformation of World Christianity in the 21st century. The GETI communication team set up different ways on how to include people from distance who will not be in South Korea. GlobeTheoLib is one of the main facilitators in this communication strategy: A GETI collection is available on GlobeTheoLib, making publicly accessible all academic material of GETI, including the GETI resource book “Ecumenical Visions for the 21st Century”, key-note lectures and student papers. On GETI social media (Facebook and Twitter), there will be daily live news threads on the lectures and discussions that are happening in the plenary sessions with the possibility for users to reply and participate in virtual discussions by sharing their personal opinions. Interesting reactions, comments or questions from the Facebook or Twitter community will even be addressed on the spot to the GETI plenum in Busan. Furthermore, there will be video recording of the key lectures, posted regularly on the social media pages. For more information, consult the GETI webpage on GlobeTheoLib.

New platform for key documents on theological education and leadership development

A Global Dialogue Platform on Ecumenical Theological Education linked to GlobeTheoLib has been launched for the WCC assembly in Busan, gathering key texts on theological education and Christian leadership development.

They include key documents which will be important for the debates on future global collaboration in the area of theological education and ecumenical formation during the assembly (Ecumenical Conversation Number 6), as well as resources on regional developments in theological education in Africa, Asia and Latin-America which will be of interest for theological faculties, theological schools and colleges in several parts of the world. The thematic collection is organized as an open work group within GlobeTheoLib.

Theological faculty of Geneva offers MOOC on Jean Calvin

The Theological Faculty of the University of Geneva, founded in 1559 by John Calvin, is the first theological faculty in the world to offer a MOOC (“massive open online course” which is an online academic course for distance education). The five-weeks online course is titled “Calvin. History and Reception of a Reformation” with accompanying professors who are specializing in history of Christianity, constructive theology and theological ethics and will present a fascinating survey on Calvin from different theological perspectives. The course ends with a final exam and students will receive an acknowledgement of participation. The MOOC begins October 21, 2013, registration is free of charge and still possible here. For more information, watch the promotional video.

Research/ Projects

GlobeTheoLib hosts results of pioneer global survey on theological education

A global survey on theological education urges churches to put emphasis on Christian leadership formation, collaboration in theological education, support for scholarship programmes and development of capacity-building for theology students. The report was presented to the annual consortium meeting of the Global
Digital Library for Theology and Ecumenism (GlobeTheoLib), which met in Geneva, Switzerland, from 20 to 21 September. The main findings of the global survey are now available online on GlobeTheoLib.

The survey on theological education is a first of its kind since the 1910 World Missionary Conference in Edinburgh, which produced a similar report.

The survey has gathered data and perspectives on all forms of theological education from diverse Christian traditions. The project was launched in October 2011 at a meeting in Indonesia by the WCC in partnership with the Institute for Cross-Cultural Theological Education in Chicago and the Center for the Study of Global Christianity (CSGC) in Boston, United States.

One of the key results of the survey was the Global Directory of Theological Education Institutions, an interactive global directory aims at facilitating mutual connectivity, exchange, dialogue and research cooperation between theological education institutions in all regions of the world. This directory is also hosted by GlobeTheoLib. Read more

**News related to “Ecumenical Theological Education”**

**Important series of New Handbooks on Theological Education published**

The WCC programme on ecumenical theological education has published an important series of Handbooks on Theological Education reflecting current trends and new models in World Christianity, on the African continent and in Asia. A new volume just released shortly before the Busan assembly is an Orthodox Handbook on Ecumenism with Resources for Theological Education. The massive volume is result of a three years working process, using the research networking capacities of GlobeTheoLib, between WCC programme on Ecumenical Theological Education, the Volos Academy of Theological Studies in Greece (a member of GlobeTheoLib Consortium), the Holy Cross Orthodox Theological Seminary in Brookline, MA, and the Conference of European Churches. His Holiness Bartholomew, the Ecumenical Patriarch, has given his support to the publication. He said: “As Orthodox Christians, we have no right to ignore the world around us; this world requires our presence and voice wherever it can be heard, precisely because the Church is the guardian of a universal truth, which we have no right to restrict or confine within our zones of comfort. In fact, we are called to proclaim the fullness of this truth precisely where we feel uncomfortable. For this reason, we wholeheartedly welcome the publication of this Pan-Orthodox Handbook for teaching ecumenism. It is our fervent prayer that this volume will restore and revive the ecumenical vision among our Churches and especially among the younger generation, who are called to sustain and expand it in the years to come.” See [here](#) for more information on the publications.

GlobeTheoLib

Stephen Brown, Programme Executive
Mélisande Schifter, Library Assistant
150 route de Ferney
CH - 1211 Geneva 2
Switzerland
☎: +41 22 791 63 42
📧 globetheolib@globethics.net

Licenced under Creative Commons 2.5

Globethics.net grants the right to copy, distribute and transmit this newsletter free-of-charge under three conditions: attribution, non-commercial, no change of text.