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Leibniz-Informationszentrum Wirtschaft Leibniz Information Centre for Economics

International Cooperation Among Libraries

By Amed Demirhan and Tamara Pianos

The rapid development in Internet technologies and open access resources have created great opportunities for libraries to cooperate and collaborate locally, nationally, and internationally. The number of learning resources has been radically increasing. For example the Directory of Open Access Journals as of January 26, 2016 contains "11,087 Journals with 8,637 of which are searchable at Article level, from 136 Countries covering 2,169,211 Articles in total". This directory alone has more journals and articles than most academic institutions have in subscribed print journals, and it is free. A study published by Madian Khabsa and C. Lee Giles in May 2014 states: "Our estimates show that at least 114 million Englishlanguage scholarly documents are accessible on the web, of which Google Scholar has nearly 100 million. Of these, we estimate that at

least 27 million (24%) are freely available since they do not require a subscription or payment of any kind." This includes many open access (free e-textbooks), directories, challenges that all or many partners and reference resources. Therefore, the issue is no longer about how many resources one could have access to but rather is about the quality of those resources. These developments make the role of librarians and libraries more important than ever and can help foster collaborations among librarians.

The German National Library of Economics (ZBW) thrives to foster collaboration among likeminded libraries. The ZBW runs the subject portal EconBiz.de, one of the largest search-portals for economics and business studies and related subjects. The international EconBiz partner network initiated by the ZBW is a strategic partnership for improving

search experiences and various network activities. It enables research institutions and libraries to interact and find solutions for face (e.g. access to information).

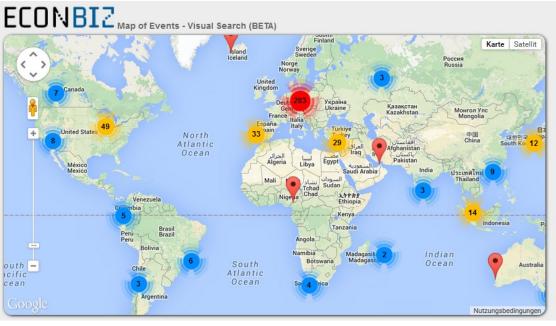
Networking has potentially huge benefits for all partners who are involved. Small Business BC lists the following five general benefits of networking: 1. Shared Knowledge, 2. Opportunities, 3. Connections, 4. Increased confidence, 5. Raising your profile. These general benefits of networking not only apply to businesses but also to networks that have no interest in economic gain.



(continued on p. 7)



The subject portal EconBiz covers over 9 million title records. About one million of these records lead to open access full-text. The portal offers simple and advanced search options as well as faceted filtering. By including the research guide EconDesk into the portal, it offers personalized help in the search process via chat, mail or telephone. EconBiz-Apps for iPad, iPhone and Android smartphones are available, and the portal itself has been



optimized for mobile use as well. Image 1: EconBiz Visual Search for Events in Economics and Business Studies

The most prominent feature of the portal is the search for academic publications. EconBiz tries to show the best availability options for each result set. In order to do this, it provides links to open access PDFs wherever possible but also includes link resolving systems to show availability in libraries via WorldCat or German referencing and link resolving systems.

The EconBiz calendar of events covers conferences and summer schools in the area of economics and business studies from all over the world in cooperation with Resources Economists (RFE) bv the for Economic American Association (AEA). A visual search for events that can easily be integrated into third party websites shows the current distribution of future events covered.

The International EconBiz Partner Network

The international EconBiz partner network initiated by the ZBW is a strategic partnership for improving

search experiences network activities. It enables research subjects. institutions and libraries to interact

and find solutions challenges such as access role of the network.

Events hosted bv partners through the promoted greater visibility for the events and improve their services. enrichment of the calendar at the same

ZBW whereas the partners gain access group was initiated. to a wealth of quality publications.

The partners and ZBW work together We welcome new partners and new to develop the leading portal for opportunities to work with subject information in economics and colleagues. business studies.

The target groups for the network are t.pianos@zbw.eu university and other research institutes working in the fields of economics and business studies and related fields

and various as well as libraries that cover these

for common The annual partner-meetings give all to partners the opportunity to exchange information. Finding partners for ideas and discuss current topics with potential projects is also an important likeminded institutions and give ZBW staff insights into the topics that are important for a culturally diverse are community. The meetings as well as EconBiz the annual student competition also calendar of events. This ensures provide ZBW with user feedback to

time. The promotion of ZBW's library One piece of feedback from the first services and improved visibility of partner meeting was that the partners German research in the partner wanted a Facebook group to exchange countries is a welcome effect for news etc. Thus, an open Facebook

> our Those interested in the partner network are welcome to contact Tamara Pianos: