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## Article

# International Cooperation Among Libraries

International Leads

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# 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 English-language 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, 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 challenges that all or many partners 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 )



