

EuARe — European Academy of Religion

Index Theologicus and FID Theology

Innovative Infrastructure for Theological Research

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Specialised Information Service Theology · Index Theologicus (IxTheo)

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EuARe Annual Conference · 2026 · Panel: DATASETS, WORKFLOWS, SOFTWARE AND AIS TO STUDY RELIGIONS: WHAT IS NEW AND WHAT IS AHEAD?

INTRODUCTION

IxTheo at a Glance

Founded in 1975 — today the world's leading open-access database for theology and religious studies

Indexing over 5.3 million titles

covering all publication types: articles, monographs, databases, blogs, podcasts, archival material, and more

An international hub of theological information infrastructure

Run by Tübingen University Library together with the Protestant and Catholic Theological Faculties of Tübingen, in cooperation with international partners in Innsbruck, Münster, Würzburg, Lausanne, Leuven, and others



5,300,000+

titles indexed

1975

Year founded

INTRODUCTION

FID Theology in the Network



Tübingen's three FIDs

IxTheo — FID Theology

RelBib — FID Religious Studies

KrimDok — FID Criminology

Shared principles: technical innovation, subject-matter expertise, service orientation



Nationwide FID network

A consortium of all Specialised Information Services in Germany, funded by the DFG

Goal: cooperation, knowledge transfer, interoperability, shared standards

Joint infrastructure and outreach work across individual disciplines



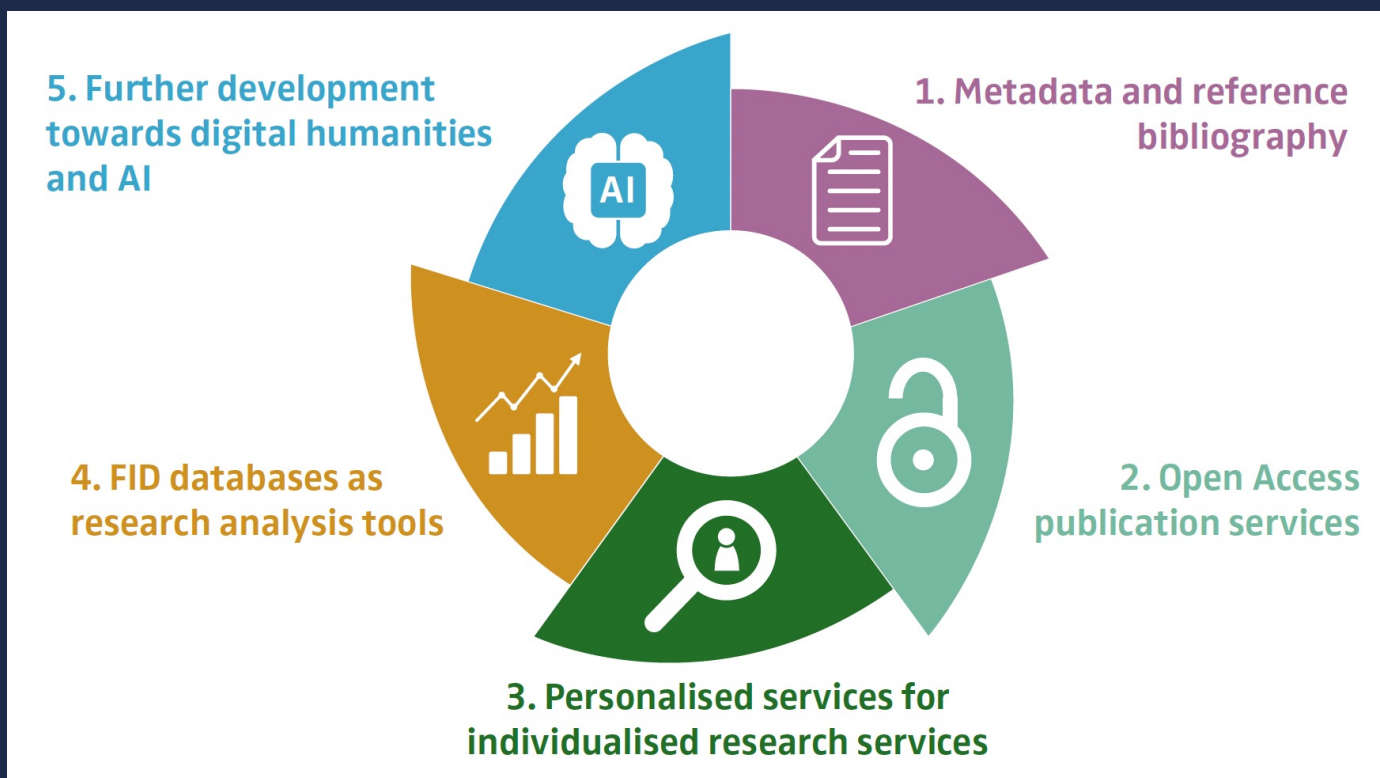
Example: a concrete partnership

FID Theology

cooperates, among others, with the **FID for Eastern, East-Central, and Southeast Europe**

— a good example of cross-disciplinary networking beyond one's own field.

Five Strategic Milestones



Systematic Indexing at Scale

35,000+

new titles per year

300,000+

retrospective titles / special
collections per year

Semi-automated cataloguing procedures for electronic and print journal articles

Retrospective indexing and integration of special collections from other partners — adding roughly 300,000 further titles per year

Evaluation of national bibliographies worldwide

Inclusion of new publication types, such as scholarly blogs and podcasts

High indexing quality despite large volume — subject expertise meets scalable processes

Continuous growth of the bibliographic record over decades

A Platform for Open-Access Publishing



IxTheo Open Journals

13 theological open-access journals are currently hosted on the platform

New: OA Edited Volumes

Scholarly-led offering for open-access edited volumes

Professional design templates for a consistent, high-quality appearance

Technical support from the FID throughout the entire publication process

Two Paths to Open-Access Secondary Publication

Secondary Publication Service

The FID handles the entire workflow

22,000 articles from more than 500 researchers already made available in open access

Digitisation, cataloguing, and rights clearance by the FID

Copyright advice and complete publication lists

Self-Archiving Service

Researchers upload their work themselves

Independent upload of publications by researchers themselves

Open worldwide to all researchers in theology — regardless of FID affiliation

Complements the mediated service with a low-threshold, self-directed option

Personal Profile Pages for Researchers



Thousands

of researcher profiles in IxTheo

500+

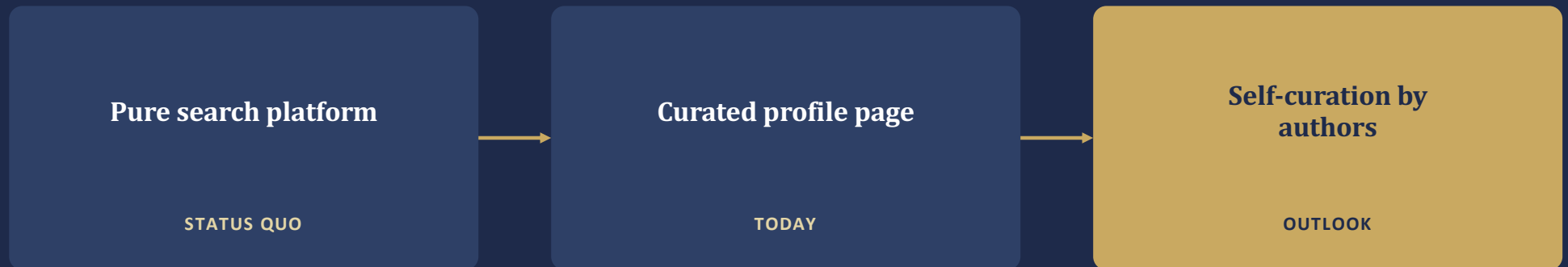
with a complete scholarly œuvre

More than 500 profiles with a complete scholarly œuvre and a high share of open-access publications

Profile pages strengthen researchers' visibility within the field

Lasting integration into the IxTheo infrastructure — research output and bibliographic record grow together

Outlook: From Search Tool to Research Service



In the future, authors will be able to design and expand their own pages themselves — a step that transforms IxTheo from a pure search platform into a personalised research service.

IxTheo as a Research Analysis Tool

Systematic metadata capture spanning centuries as the foundation

Bibliometric analyses of publication dynamics, thematic emphases, and international research collaborations

An example of how IxTheo is becoming not just a data provider, but an active partner in international research.

EXAMPLE

MapTheo — Mapping Theology

Digital methods to map themes, lines of reception, and the formation of traditions in theology

An approach modelled on the “science of science,” built on AI-based data models

Led by the Computational Theology Lab (Yale University) and the TheoLab for Computational Theology (Heidelberg / Zurich / Bonn)

IxTheo / FID Theology as a key cooperation partner in the project

MapTheo Website: [Link](#)

Needs Assessment: A Survey of the Field

Survey conducted at the IxTheo anniversary conference · n ≈ 59 responses · scale 1–5

Findability of DH scholarship in theology



2.4 / 5

Problem indicator — DH- and AI-related content is currently hard to discover

Importance of systematic indexing in IxTheo



4.3 / 5

Strong support for a curated DH/AI collection

Importance of regular exchange formats



4.0 / 5

High demand for networking within the community

Methods & Tools Mentioned

AI/LLMs · Text analysis (NLP, topic modelling) · Coding & data (Python, TEI-XML) · Scholarly tools (Zotero, MAXQDA) · Visualisation

Measures Derived From the Survey



Improve findability

Systematic indexing of DH/AI projects, publications, research data, and code in IxTheo



Orientation & advice

FID Theology as the central point of contact for digital methods in theology



Methodological building blocks

Practical support for DH projects — e.g. Jupyter templates, NLP/NER, digital editions, metadata management



Networking

Regular DH lunch talks with international partner networks

Vision: FID Theology as a hub for digital theology — making visible · orienting · advising · supporting method development

DH Lunch Talks: Exchange With International Partners



A regular exchange format around digital humanities and digital theology

Networking with international partner networks in the digital-humanities community

A stage for ongoing projects — making visible digital-theology work that would otherwise easily go unnoticed

Strengthens FID Theology's role as a community hub for digital methods in theology

IxTheo as a Response to Inequalities in Theology

This year's conference theme asks how religions are entangled with social, economic, and cultural inequalities — *theological knowledge production itself is no exception.*



Unequal access to publications

many commercial publications are inaccessible at numerous locations worldwide



Open-access publication services, secondary publication & self-archiving



Unequal findability of research output

Visibility often depends on language, region, or institution



Systematic metadata record & personal profile pages



Unequal knowledge of what is being researched

thematic and regional emphases often remain implicit



Research analysis tool makes emphases & gaps visible



Unequal access to digital methods

DH and AI competencies are unevenly distributed



DH/AI collection, methodological building blocks & lunch talks

Thank You for Your Attention

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