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Content Strategy in Asia

Global Digital Library on Theology and Ecumenism
ForATL, Siliman University/Philippines, 12 April 2012

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Content strategy in Asia

Aim:
Improve and increase online access to
full-text documents for ForATL members
as future-oriented, innovative and
important step forward

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Content strategy in Asia

Strategy:

1. Awareness of global strategic context
2. Strategy of cooperation with partners who offer content
3. Financial priorities including part of library acquisition budget into online library sources

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1. Global strategic context

- Global portal for a digital theological library promises to be cost-saving and faster in implementation than physical libraries
- Many theological resources available already free-of-charge on the Internet, but in dispersed places, time consuming and costly internet research
- GlobeTheoLib offers a multi-directional system of communication - creating more visibility for theological knowledge from churches of the South
- GlobeTheoLib as one common platform offering better chances for increased interreligious dialogue and interdisciplinary research in theology and religious studies
- GlobeTheoLib makes accessible TEE (Theological Education by Extension) resources for remote areas

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1. Global strategic context

- Online resources will not replace physical libraries, but have to be a very strong complementary tool
- Funding must go from 90/10 to maybe 60/40 for online libraries
- Conditions/costs of commercial publishers becoming unbearable even for publicly-owned libraries
- Open access movement is fast growing worldwide
- Negotiations with commercial publishers for online subscriptions are possible.
- Make soft (e-)copies a compulsory requirement for theses!

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2. ForATL: Synergies through cooperation

- **Strategy:** define online theological content in Asia as a key instrument for future theological education
- **Cooperation:** the concept of GlobeTheoLib is based not on domination, but cooperation: a global network of theological institutions and churches sharing theological content.
- **Single portal:** reduce costs and create synergies through one portal instead of financing efforts in individual theological institutions
- **Sharing:** GlobeTheoLib can be a Voice of the South. Sharing of theological works and content is a contribution to world mission and makes world Christianity the visible united body of Christ.

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2. ForATL: Synergies through cooperation

- Regarding the figures of participants and users, Asia plays and will play a key, driving role in GlobeTheoLib:
- Agreement signed in February 2012 with Senate of Serampore, India, to create online library within GlobeTheoLib for the Senate and its 50 affiliated institutions
- Proposal to develop collection on theological resources in Chinese within GlobeTheoLib
- Interest from Korea, China and many other countries to cooperate with GlobeTheoLib

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2. ForATL: Synergies through cooperation

- ForATL is already a member of the GlobeTheoLib Consortium Committee
- GlobeTheoLib as a portal offers two-way possibilities (*download and upload*) for sharing resources of ForATL member institutions
- GlobeTheoLib can complement other content partners of ForATL
- ForATL can play important role as intermediary with member libraries and institutions and in raising awareness about online content (training, workshops etc.)

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2. ForATL: Synergies through cooperation

Develop policy for ForATL member institutions:

- Focus on material already available in electronic format (whether online or not)
- Policy decisions on e-content, online publications: e.g. all these should be submitted by students in paper and electronic form (policy decision of theol. institution)
- Teaching Material/Curricula
- Theses
- Faculty member publications
- Journals (going online with the journal. GlobeTheoLib gives support)
- Possibly Archives

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2. ForATL: Synergies through cooperation

Proposal:

- Agree a proposal that ForATL members strengthen their digital library through cooperation with GlobeTheoLib in practical and feasible way.

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2. ForATL - Synergies through cooperation

- ForATL/GlobeTheoLib identify content priorities for Asia
- In conjunction with ForATL member institutions identify content already available in electronic form (online or otherwise)
- Identify appropriate forms of acquiring content (OAI repositories, electronic bridge, manual submissions)
- Identify priorities for scanning projects
- **Fill in the GlobeTheoLib questionnaire on content from your constituency. 2-3 hours work with great effect for the future**

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3. Financial Priorities

- International fundraising of GlobeTheoLib by Globethics.net/WCC in Geneva from Mission agencies etc.
- At strategic level, need to channel part of library acquisition budgets into online resources
- Contribution from theological institutions/ libraries important.
- **Request that ForATL member institutions reserve at least 10% of the annual library acquisition budget for GlobeTheoLib (gives access to 1 Mio full text documents on ethics and theology and offers opportunity to create institutional collections)**

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terima kasi danke
thank you Asante sana
merci 謝謝 adube
oshe gracias
 धन्यवाद (Danyavad)
 grazie

- identify the content for GlobeTheolib from your institution/Lib/Area/Church/Organisation?