

## News

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# Vascoda launches new search engine technology

Improvements in the interdisciplinary portal for scientific and scholarly information allow for quicker literature search times and a better quality of hits when using **vascoda**.

Vascoda is the interdisciplinary internet portal for scientific and scholarly information and the University Library Centre of the state North Rhine-Westphalia (hbz) is responsible for technical issues, including the application of FAST.

The new technology allows for quick and qualitatively high value literature searches in databases such as ECONIS, Hamburg Institute of International Economics (HWWA) or also in the specialised collections for business studies at the University Library Cologne.

Up to now, vascoda has used a meta search for searching in bibliographic databases. With this method, the portal connects to the affiliated databases, sends a search request and then receives the results. As the search takes place over the internet in numerous databases, it is not foreseeable how much time will be needed before an answer is supplied.

In order to allow a quicker search, vascoda will, in the future, introduce search engine technology whereby a joint index of the participating databases is searched. The data is edited for the search engine and consequently the users receive more and better quality results – the quality of the hits rises.

The new technology will be tested as part of a pilot project which will initially be found within the Economic Sciences at [www.vascoda.de](http://www.vascoda.de); five databases are being adapted here. The joint database will be hosted and routinely updated by the hbz.

Since vascoda's start in 2003, a total of more than 40 institutions have been involved in the building up and further development of the interdisciplinary internet portal. The libraries, research institutes and information institutions are all linked by their vision of creating one single user-friendly point of entry for the scientific and scholarly world. vascoda, the internet portal funded by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (Bundesministerium für Bildung und Forschung BMBF) and by the German Research Foundation (Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft DFG) wants to allow all those interested in scientific and scholarly information access to publications, documents and data from various institutions and in various formats.

At present, already 29 individual subjects, from English Studies to Economic Sciences, can be searched within vascoda. The databases connected to vascoda also only supply "checked" information: subject specialist librarians and experts from the suppliers, who have joined together under the vascoda

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umbrella, check which texts will be made available. In this way, high academic information standards can be guaranteed. This really sets vascoda apart from other well known search engines. The search mask of the scientific and scholarly portal may well be as similarly easy to use as other internet search engines – vascoda, however, does not get lost in the world wide web!

See also vascoda: <http://www.vascoda.de/> University Library Centre North Rhine-Westphalia (Hochschulbibliothekszenrum NRW): <http://www.hbz-nrw.de/>