

# Lib4RI – UPDATE #05 English JULY 2012



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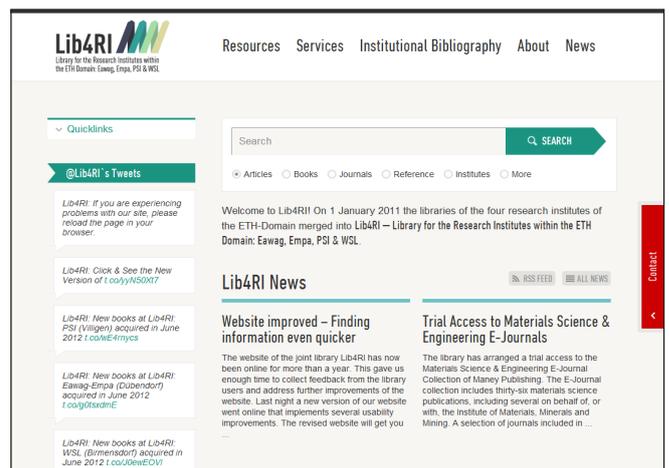
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## Website Improved FINDING INFORMATION EVEN QUICKER

The website of the joint library – [www.lib4ri.ch](http://www.lib4ri.ch) – has now been online for more than a year. This gave us enough time to collect feedback from the library users and further improve the website. A new version of our website went online recently. The revised [website implements several usability improvements](#) and will provide you with the information you are seeking even more quickly than before. Specifically, the following improvements have been realized:

### Enhanced Searchbox

The Lib4RI-Searchbox, highly visible on the start page and in the header of all the other pages, provides quick access to the library's most important information resources. Moreover, [the number of available information sources in the searchbox has been extended](#). The



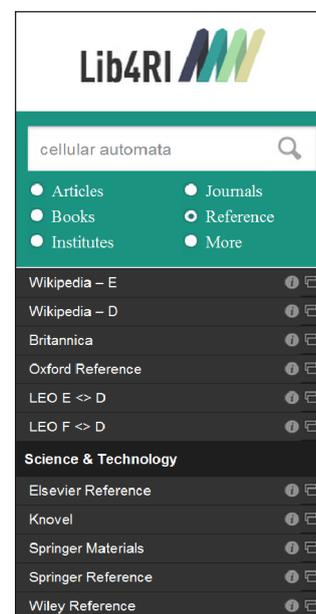
website now provides you with the ability to search within reference works («Reference») and the search category «More». The latter comprises information resources to search for dissertations, maps, patents, and the Web.

- Getting there faster** The Lib4RI website's navigation has become faster. A drop-down menu gives you direct access to the next menu level and the «Quicklinks» are now placed prominently at the top of the homepage. Opening a databases in the list of databases now involves a mouse click less. Try it!
- Better readability** The higher contrast between text and background and a new font now make reading our website much easier for your eyes. In addition, a more tightly arranged header leaves extra space for more content on the screen.
- Feedback?** We are looking forward to your feedback on the new features and the website in general. Send us an e-mail ([feedback@lib4ri.ch](mailto:feedback@lib4ri.ch)), call us at 058 765 5700 or visit us at one of the *Lib4RI library sites*. We always welcome suggestions and ideas for further improving the website in our *Feedback Forum*.

# Online Reference Works EXPANDED RANGE

The printed edition of the Encyclopædia Britannica is still on our shelves – all 32 leather-bound, gold-embossed volumes. Judging by the dust layer, these have not been used in years. Thus, after 244 years of printing its volumes, it comes as no surprise that *Encyclopædia Britannica* recently announced to publish exclusively online in the future. Of course, we now also offer the *electronic version of the encyclopaedia* in addition to the printed edition.

- From Print to Online** Information in printed reference works is often already outdated at the time of publication. Internet-based solutions allow for timely updates. In addition, in terms of the accuracy of its entries, the free Wikipedia with the «wisdom of the crowds» comes close to traditional encyclopaedias («wisdom of the experts»), as found in an investigation carried out by *Nature* [1]. You can test this with the extended Lib4RI-Searchbox. In the category «Reference», we now offer a search function for Wikipedia (*English* and *German*), *Encyclopædia*



*Britannica* and *Oxford Reference Online*. We also include the well-known dictionaries from LEO (*English - German & French - German*) as well as numerous technical reference works.

### Online access to subject-specific reference works

Many subject-specific reference books have already made the transition from print to online. We have massively expanded our range of online reference works since the beginning of this year. For example, reference works licensed for the scientists at Eawag, Empa, PSI and WSL include the following:

- *CRC Handbook of Chemistry and Physics* (CRC Press, 2011)
- *Encyclopedia of Ecology* (Elsevier, 2008)
- *Handbook of Nuclear Engineering* (Springer, 2010)
- *Treatise on Water Science* (Elsevier, 2011)
- *Ullmann's Encyclopedia of Industrial Chemistry* (Wiley-Blackwell, 2003-2012)

... and numerous other reference works – there is certainly also something to match your interests.

### Three ways to access online reference works

There are basically three options to access and search in these and many other reference works:

1. **The Lib4RI-Searchbox**: In the new category «Reference» you can search the reference works of the major suppliers. A few clicks will get you from Wikipedia to the information in technical reference works.
2. **Compilation on the Lib4RI website**: On our website (*Resources > Reference*) we have put together a selection of reference works on various subjects. Links to *online dictionaries* and resources for finding *physical and chemical properties* are presented on additional pages. We welcome your suggestions (*feedback@lib4ri.ch*), if you think that an important reference work is missing here.
3. **NEBIS catalogue**: NEBIS does not only hold records for all printed books but also for books and reference works that have been licensed in an electronic version. The availability of the electronic version can be checked-out in the tab «Online Resource». If we have licensed an electronic version, then you will – usually – find a link to the E-Book here.

### Are you missing an important reference work?

We will preferably acquire electronic versions of reference works in the future. This way, we avoid dust catchers on our shelves and are able to cover the needs of our members at the many locations of the research institutes. Is there something missing in our collection of reference works? We welcome your **purchase suggestions** via the online form (*About > Contact > Suggest a Purchase*), e-mail (*acquisitions@lib4ri.ch*) or call us at 058 765 5700. ///jb, ln, lt, mv/

# The Cost of Knowledge

On the website *thecostofknowledge.com*, more than 12,000 scientists from all disciplines have declared to boycott the journals of the publisher Elsevier: «won't publish, won't referee, won't do editorial work».



## Criticism of business practices

The rationale for the boycott as indicated by the website are the *high and continuously rising journal prices*, the practice of *bundling journals* into «big deals», and the publisher's *lobbying and support for certain legislation designed to limit free access to scientific information*.

Librarians have long complained about business practices of many journal publishers – and the problem is definitely not confined to Elsevier. The campaign is encouraging because scientists are the key players when it comes to changing the situation in the scientific publication system. Ultimately, individual researchers control the fate of their own papers. We cannot offer a silver bullet to a better system of scientific publishing, but time and effort invested into the active promotion of scientific information seems well spent. Here are two suggestions:

- Publish in a journal, giving you the right to self-archive your paper in a repository or on your website. More than 90 % of journals have no objections to self-archiving. *SHERPA/RoMEO* is a searchable database of publishers' policies regarding the self-archiving of journal articles. We are working on an institutional solution for the archiving of publications by scientists at the research institutes in the ETH domain. The document server is expected to go online in a few months.
- Publish in an Open Access journal. Nearly 8,000 Open Access journals cover a broad range of subject areas. More than 2,000 are already indexed in *Web of Science* or *Scopus*, and Impact Factors are already available for several hundred journals.

Open Access is *fully compatible with rigorous peer-review* and there is no intrinsic reason why *Open Access journals are not considered as high in quality and prestige* as the best toll access journals. In addition, numerous studies have shown a *positive impact of Open Access on citation rates*. Dare to experiment – we will be happy to advise you. ///jb, ln/