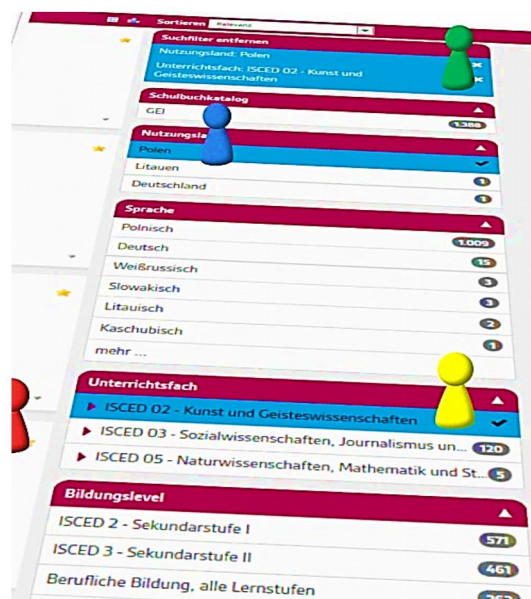


“Great feedback – Many Ideas“

Results from the user survey
carried out by the research library

Georg Eckert Institute for International Textbook Research (GEI)



In contrast to previous user surveys, the online poll carried out by the Georg Eckert Institute for International Textbook Research (GEI) in 2017 reached a **higher number of participants** from outside Germany. The majority of the respondents were from the research field of **history** and the specialist areas of **educational science/didactics/education research**, whereby a large number of those participating in the survey were academics or doctoral students.

The results reveal that there is high demand for access to curricula, as they are still a difficult resource to obtain around the world. As curricula continue to be a significant source material for research into educational media, the GEI will expand its [Curricula Workstation](#) tool. With regards to research into textbooks, the results of the survey suggest that **current and historic textbooks** continue to be highly sought after, both those from Germany and from around the world. The desired expansion of the non-European textbook collection will be continued with support from the German Research Foundation (DFG) in the form of the '[Specialised Information Service \(FID\) on Educational Science and Education Research](#)'.

Search engine optimisation for the GEI's digital products is currently an important task, as the expert community depends heavily upon internet search engines when researching educational media. Optimising the search engines enables the GEI to make its digital products for educational media research, such as the [International TextbookCat](#), more widely known. The GEI's research instruments were generally rated to be very important in the survey, so it is therefore also important to expand our **public relations activities** and to more widely publicise our digital products. The majority of the respondents not only want to search databases but also to have immediate access to **digitised source material**. In addition to continuously improving the databases by adding more tables of contents, the research library plans to continue to systematically provide access to digital **full-texts**, as clearly desired by the survey respondents. By maintaining the process of **digitisation** and continuing the e-preferred strategy, by which digital sources are prioritised in the acquisition process, the research library will further develop its hybrid profile and push improved **access to digital material**, both within the Institute and beyond.

In view of the plans for a **new library building** the survey revealed some interesting results regarding users' wishes for the design of the new premises and changes to the way people are able to work. In contrast to university libraries, where spaces for group work are in high demand, the survey results demonstrated a clear preference for **individual workspaces**. The particular demands made of a research library were clearly expressed by the recurring interest in **individual and personal consultations**. We were especially pleased with the **very high levels of satisfaction** in the work of the **library personnel** expressed by respondents. A high commitment to service will remain at the core of our work. In addition to taking pleasure in our work, we view regular training in the areas of innovative library services, intercultural skills, foreign-language acquisition and information literacy as fundamental to ensuring user satisfaction. New **opening hours** from 9am to 6pm, which were requested by the majority, will be implemented when we move to the new building.

We would like to thank everyone who took part in the survey, the results of which will help improve the work of the GEI research library. Should you be interested in the detailed results of the survey, please send an e-mail to bibauskunft@gei.de.