

### Subject Librarians of the Association of German Librarians meet at the ZBW

Every two years the Association of German Librarians VdB holds a [training conference](#). This year it brought almost 70 subject librarians for economics from Germany, Austria, Switzerland and Italy to the ZBW in Hamburg. This was the third time that the conference was held in one of the ZBW's branches: in 2002 it took place in Kiel; in 2004 in Hamburg – when it still was the library of the Institute of International Economics (HWWA).

The main topic of the conference on 11 and 12 September was the imparting of information competence. Open-Access publishing in economics was also widely discussed.

The lectures discussing information competence stressed that it is only one among many key qualifications that students today must acquire. At some universities seminars on information competence and scientific research



methods are already part of the curriculum. Opinions were divided at which point these seminars are best included in the coursework and what the contents to be taught should be; and the attendees debated vigorously. The instructions currently on offer range from working with a library catalogue through general search strategies and instruction for subject-specific

databases to individual tutorials for students' assigned coursework.

The librarians all agreed on the need to design their own products and services as transparently as possible, in order to render training courses unnecessary, and affirmed their willingness to do so.

### Study Group Libraries of the Leibniz Association: Annual Meeting at the ZBW

On 17 and 18 September, this year's annual meeting of the [Study Group Libraries and Information Institutions of the Leibniz Association](#) took place in the Hamburg branch of the ZBW. Lectures discussing Open Access, Copyright Law, Digitisation as well as new developments and services were the order of the day. Once again, the annual conference offered chances for stimulating debates and exchanges of experience. By now, the Study Group counts libraries and information institutions



from 76 Leibniz institutions as members. Christina Süssenbach represents the ZBW in this study group and also as one of the ten members of the Speakers' Council.

### **ECONIS – update online**

On 27 August the new version of the ZBW's online catalogue [ECONIS](#) went live. New functions simplify searches and allow the sorting of result lists by several criteria.

It is now possible to search with terms that only resemble the correct denomination, for example because of typing errors (the so-called "approximate search" or "fuzzy logic"). This kind of search is useful if the exact name of a concept is unknown.

Another new function is the "Analyse Set". It provides an overview as to how many titles of the set are books, periodicals, journal articles, online documents or microforms. Another option is to sort the result lists according to language or country of publication.

Another new feature is the option to sort the result lists by year of publication, author or title. However, for approximate searches sorting by relevance is the only option.

### **EconBiz forms international partnership**

Since July EconBiz has been a strong partner of Resources for Economists on the Internet – [RFE](#). This is an information service sponsored by the [American Economic Association](#), ranging from online glossaries through economics blogs to link lists and an [events calendar](#) similar to the one offered at EconBiz. RFE and EconBiz have agreed a division of labour whereby suggestions for events are collected and entered into the respective databases of both providers: colleagues in the US cover events in the Americas whereas EconBiz collects information about conferences in all other countries.

### **ZBW as provider of scientific services for the Global Economic Symposium**

More than 300 international leaders from science, business and politics – including several Nobel prize winners – attended the [Global Economic Symposium](#) (GES) in Plön/Schleswig-Holstein on 5 and 6 September. The Kiel Institute for the World Economy and the government of Schleswig-Holstein hosted this international conference for the first time. In various panels and working groups the participants discussed some of the world's most important issues: climate change, securing access to energy, poverty, social inequality and globalisation. Conceived as a forum for solutions, not discussions, the GES will shortly publish its "Plön Manifest" outlining potential solutions. These will be submitted to international decision-making bodies.

To ensure that the symposium's participants had access to the latest economics literature and statistical data, the ZBW undertook the task of Knowledge Partner for the GES. In the run-up to the symposium it provided bibliographies (ECONIS Select) of recent research contributions covering the themes to be discussed, which ranged



from "Global Policy Responses to Climate Change" through "Fighting Corruption in Developing Countries" to "The Crisis of Water Management – Focus on Developing Countries".

## Summer Seminar Modelling the Spatial Economy at the ZBW

From 3 to 5 July 2008, the Gesellschaft für Regionalforschung (GfR), the German section of the Regional Science Association International (RSAI), held its [summer seminar](#) at the ZBW in cooperation with the August Lössch Association and the Kiel Institute for the World Economy. Almost 100 international participants shared their recent research experiences in quantitative modelling of the spatial economy. At the conclusion of the conference, Frédéric Robert-Nicoud of the London School of Economics and Political Science received the August Lössch Prize in recognition of his scientific achievements in the field of New Economic Geographics.

## Exhibitions in the ZBW

From 28 July until 25 August, visitors to the ZBW in Kiel could view the colourful paintings of Helga Tobiesen, Marlis Sigel and Maïke Bock. Helga Tobiesen is one of several colleagues who have presented their art at their place of work.

Subsequently Annemarie Rubinke from Kronshagen showed her paintings of "People who don't exist" at the ZBW in Kiel from 2 until 26 September. Both exhibitions were opened with a private view.

## Selected external engagements of ZBW staff members

### Conferences, workshops

- 16 July, Hamburg: [32<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting of the German Classification Society](#), Dr Manuela Gastmeyer, Kirsten Jeude, Karin Wortmann
- 01 and 02 September, Berlin: Conference "Industrial policy – Germany in international comparison", Dr Brigitte Preissl
- 10 and 11 September, Berlin: [Conference of the Common Library Network](#); six participants from the ZBW attended
- 18 and 19 September, Bremen: [Workshop of the Helmholtz Association](#) "How to handle research data", Jan Weiland

### Fairs

- 10 until 15 August, Quebec: World Library Information Congress: [74<sup>th</sup> IFLA General Conference and Council](#). The ZBW was represented by a joint stand of the German National Libraries
- 27 until 31 August, Milan: Annual Meeting of the [European Economic Association and the Econometric Society](#) (EEA-ESEM); joint stand with the Kiel Institute for the World Economy, Hermann Dick, Ralf Flohr





- 04 and 05 September, Plön: Global Economic Symposium, Almuth Gillam, Birgit Gummersbach
- 24 until 26 September, Graz: [Annual Meeting of the Verein für Socialpolitik](#), Hermann Dick, Dr Brigitte Preissl, Karin Wortmann, Cora Wacker-Theodorakopoulos

### **Lectures**

- 25 and 26 September, Berlin: TU – [Autumn Workshop of the IuK Initiative](#). Jan Weiland read a lecture entitled “Research Papers in Economics. RePEc – a subject-specific repository?”. Other participants from the ZBW: Susanne Schäfers, Olaf Siegert

### **Announcement**

Uwe Jean Heuser, head of the economics department of the “ZEIT” newspaper, will be at the ZBW in Hamburg on 22 October at 18:00 to read from his latest book “[Humanomics](#)”, about the human factor in economics. Using exciting and understandable examples, Heuser explains the new perspectives which recent findings from neuroscience, games theory and psychology have opened up to economics.

