

## History of

### FIV – The Information Network

#### International Relations and Area Studies

- 1973 Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik - German Institute for International and Security Affairs (SWP) starts to develop a database for the field of international relations and area studies (IBLK).
- 1975 As part of the German Federal Government's 1974 information programme, the Federal Foreign Office and the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) establish a planning group for the Information System "Area Studies". Members are the German National Library of Economics (Kiel Institute for the World Economy) the Deutsche Stiftung für Internationale Entwicklung (DSE), the German Overseas Institute (DÜI), the Institut für Auslandsbeziehungen (ifa), the Staatsbibliothek Preußischer Kulturbesitz and the Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik (SWP).
- 1978 The SWP and the Federal Institute for Russian, East European and International Studies, Cologne (BIOst) agree to cooperate on the development of the SWP's database, the starting point of the FIV.
- 1980 Use of the database system DOMESTIC, a product of KTS Informations-Systeme, Munich commences.
- 1983 The Otto Suhr Institute for Political Science joins the FIV, followed by the German Overseas Institute, Hamburg (DÜI).
- 1984 The German Federal Ministry for Research and Technology finances a three-year project to merge the separate databases of the SWP and the DÜI. The project is initiated and coordinated by the SWP
- 1986 The decision is made at a meeting in the Federal Chancellory, attended by representatives of seven federal ministries, to continue the development of the FIV and provide the financial means to enable further institutes to participate.
- The fifth FIV member is the Deutsch-Französisches Institut, Ludwigsburg (dfi).
- 1987 The Federal Foreign Office takes over the continuous financing of the FIV as an ongoing project.
- Sixth FIV member is the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Auswärtige Politik / German Council on Foreign Relations, Bonn (DGAP).
- 1989 Introduction of the jointly developed thesaurus "International Relations and Area Studies" in the two network databases (SWP and DÜI)
- The Institut für Auslandsbeziehungen, Stuttgart (ifa) joins as the seventh member.

- 1990 SWP and DÜI give up their decentralised minicomputers. Access for all members becomes available via a common network to an external host computer (IBM 3060) in Düsseldorf. The two database segments are merged into an integrated database.
- 1991 The Südost-Institute (SOI), Munich joins as the eighth member.
- 1992 First issue of the fortnightly Current Bibliography IRAS, which lists new entries to the Database
- Public access to the database available for the first time under the name "World Affairs Online" (WAO) via the host European Space Agency (ESA/IRS)
- Start of the FIV's European cooperation in what was later to become the European Information Network on International Relations and Area Studies (EINIRAS), a network of European research institutes and international organisations. The aim of EINIRAS is to explore the possibilities for establishing a European network and start on the necessary standardisation projects.
- 1993 The thesaurus "International Relations and Area Studies" is published in German, French and English.
- The ninth FIV member is the Hessische Stiftung Friedens- und Konfliktforschung /Peace Research Institute, Frankfurt (HSFK).
- 1994 The Bonn International Center for Conversion (BICC) joins the FIV.
- 1995 Public access to World Affairs Online (WAO) available as part of the Gesellschaft für Betriebswirtschaftliche Information's WISO-Database packet.
- 1996 The Federal Ministry of Research and the Federal Chancellory finance a review of FIV organisation and management by the management consultancy firm Arthur Andersen. The outcome is positive for the Network and also for its planned European expansion.
- Subscription to World Affairs Online (WAO) on CD available from GBI (Software: Silverplatter). (CD production ceases in 2004, and is replaced by WISO-net).
- 1998 Statute passed which establishes the FIV's organizational structure with executive committee, chairperson and annual general meeting of members. The SWP is named as coordinating institute. The FIV remains an unincorporated organisation.
- 2000 The SWP moves from Ebenhausen/Isar to Berlin and merges with the Federal Institute for Russian, East European and International Studies, Cologne (BIOst) and the Südost-Institut, Munich's contemporary affairs section.
- Previous project financing is replaced by an annual grant from the Federal Chancellory, anchored in the SWP's budget.

The EINIRAS Database Network (EDN), a publicly accessible database of journal articles in which seven European databases (IBLK, COE, SIPRI, RIIA, FIIA, CIDOP, IIR Prague) participate is installed on the Council of Europe's server with a meta search interface to enable simultaneous searching in all seven databases.

2001 Tenth FIV member is the Institute for Peace Research and Security Policy at the University of Hamburg (IFSH).

2002 With financial aid from the DFG (German Research Foundation), access to the database becomes available through the Karlsruhe Virtual Catalogue (KVK). The database forms part of the IBLK-Meta-catalogue, together with the OPACs of the German union catalogues.

2003 Several DÜI member institutes utilise the IBLK database to participate in the establishment of virtual libraries (Menalib, Cibera).

2004 The FIV is the first EINIRAS member to switch over to the multilingual European Thesaurus International Relations and Area Studies.

The European Centre for Minority Issues, Flensburg (ECMI) is the FIV's eleventh member.

2005 FIV founder and long-standing spokesman Dietrich Seydel is succeeded by Michael Kluck, who takes over as spokesman and head of information services at SWP.

In April, the Nordic Institute of Asian Studies (NIAS) begins with input in the FIV database.

The database is switched to a MySQL database version of DOMESTIC, a product of KTS Informations-Systeme, Munich.

2006 Deutsches Institut für Entwicklungspolitik (DIE) - German Development Institute (Bonn) joins the FIV as 12th member institute.

The FIV member German Overseas Institute (DÜI) is renamed in German Institute of Global and Area Studies (GIGA).

After a long period of cooperation, the Danish Nordic Institute of Asian Studies with headquarters in Copenhagen becomes associate member of FIV. This cooperation ends in 2008 as a result of changed priorities in NIAS.

2007 The European Thesaurus on International Relations and Area Studies, a co-production resulting from the cooperation of European partner institutes in the framework of EINIRAS, is now available in a multilingual printed version.

Current bibliographic references from subject relevant journals can now be researched in the recently presented Current Contents Service for International Relations and Area Studies. This service is part of the GBV product Online Contents Special Subject Collections (OLC-SSG).

2008 IREON - The subject gateway for International Relations and Area Studies Online starts as a new, freely accessible gateway of FIV. IREON makes possible a simultaneous, parallel search of bibliographic references in WAO - World Affairs Online as well as in further subject databases.

The European Thesaurus on International Relations and Area Studies, now in nine languages, is integrated in IREON and can be used online for literature research.

In addition, IREON is accessible through the German science gateway *vascoda*.

2009 FIV member institutes contribute with selected parts of the database WAO - World Affairs Online to a number of virtual subject gateways, such as *Cibera*, *CrossAsia*, *ilissAfrica*, *MENALIB*, *vifanord*, *VifaPol*, and *Vifarom*.