Guidelines of the VET Repository

Objective

The disciplinary repository VET Repository (VET = Vocational Education and Training) serves as the central reference instrument for literature relevant to vocational education and training. It is aimed at individuals engaged in vocational education research, policy, and practice, thereby supporting both vocational education and vocational education research. The database indexes specialist literature on vocational education topics as well as related disciplines and reference fields.

Thematic Focus

The following topics are of primary importance for inclusion in the repository:

- Dual system, vocational education and training system
- Training placement market and employment system
- Vocational and qualifications research
- Social science and economic foundations of vocational education
- Design and regulation of vocational education and training
- Workplace-based and school-based learning, teaching personnel, trainees
- Digitalization in vocational education, Industry 4.0
- International vocational education and international cooperation in VET
- Transitions, educational behavior, and learning pathways

Indexing Standards

The listed titles are catalogued with bibliographic metadata according to the Resource Description and Access (RDA) standard. Content indexing is carried out using keywords from the Vocational Education Thesaurus, which is developed and maintained by the Federal Institute for Vocational Education and Training (BIBB), as well as the Classification System for Vocational Education. Each title is further described by an abstract.

Data Collection and Document Types

The VET Repository indexes monographs, anthology contributions, journal articles, conference papers, grey literature, and academic qualification theses. Approximately 200 ongoing online and print journals are reviewed for this purpose. The annual increase in titles is around 1,000 records. The current holdings include about 67,800 titles dating back to 1988. The repository functions both as a full-text and reference database. Its core collection originated from the previous database "Literature Database Vocational Education (LDBB)", which was integrated into the VET Repository in 2019. In addition to bibliographic references, the VET Repository contains a steadily growing collection of Open Access publications. Currently, around 18,000 titles are either linked to or directly stored as full texts in the repository.

Advantages and Services

Researchers can self-archive their academic publications free of charge in the VET Repository. After evaluation of content relevance and formal quality, a decision is made on whether to include the publication. The VET Repository ensures that the hosted publications are discoverable through various disciplinary and interdisciplinary search tools and aggregators, including:

- Google Scholar
- Catalogue of the German National Library
- FIS Bildung (Education Information System) within the Fachportal Pädagogik
- BASE – Bielefeld Academic Search Engine

Full texts within the VET Repository are permanently accessible and citable via persistent identifiers. For each full text, a cover page, title page with abstract, and imprint are created, including a citation recommendation and license information. To maximize discoverability in search engines, publications are described both formally and semantically through metadata. In this way, the repository enhances the visibility and accessibility of vocational education research outputs.

The VET Repository is freely available on the web for research. Most of the indexed literature is Open Access, ensuring free access to the materials.

Organization and Contact

The VET Repository is created, maintained, and continuously developed by the Publications and Scientific Information Services Unit of the Federal Institute for Vocational Education and Training (BIBB), with support from the Vocational Education Research Network (AG BFN). Several specialist information services are built upon the repository. For example, all publications by BIBB employees are documented in the annual bibliography. The newsletter "Aktuell und Lesenswert: Neues aus dem VET Repository" provides updates on new publications within the vocational education community. Additionally, thematic literature compilations, known as selected bibliographies, are available for more than 40 topics in vocational education research.

For questions or suggestions, please contact: repository@bibb.de

Bonn, July 2025
VET Repository Team