How to Log-In

You can use vLib as a guest or as an authenticated user.

- **Guests:** All users are automatically logged in as guests when entering the vLib portal. This access is IP-controlled and does not offer any personalized services.
  
  Note: Although access to vLib as a guest does work from outside Max Planck IP-ranges, please be aware that this will not give you access to licensed resources.

- **Authenticated Users:** Employees of the Max Planck Society may log in to their personal accounts at any time during a vLib session, by signing in using their Ovid user ID and password.

- **Register a user account:** Max Planck users not yet registered may fill out the online application form at http://lotus1.gwdg.de/gwdgdb/DBServ.nsf/Antrag in order to obtain their personal user ID and password.

Remote Access

When logging in to their personal account, registered users can access and use vLib services also from outside Max Planck Society sites, e.g. from home or when traveling. However, this has no effect on publisher services and full text access.

A Collaborative Effort

The Max Planck virtual Library is a collaborative effort of various groups within the Max Planck Society involved in library and information services. It is developed and maintained by the vLib Project Team, bringing together representatives from units such as the

Max Planck Digital Library,
the Max Planck Libraries,
the Information Retrieval Services

The team may be contacted by using the form which is available via the top navigation bar of http://vlib.mpg.de,

Contact

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Introduction

The Max Planck virtual Library (vLib) is a portal to various information resources available to staff and guests of the Max Planck Society. It provides easy access to numerous databases, library catalogs, electronic full texts and other scientific information resources that are owned or licensed by the Max Planck Society, or to selected resources freely available on the web.

Features and functions available:

- **MetaSearch**: Simultaneously search resources (databases, library catalogs, etc.) grouped as predefined sets or selected individually, or access and search resources under their original web interfaces.
- **QuickSearch**: Search predefined sets of resources.
- **Find Database**: Browse or locate all resources available as a pure link list, including resource information.
- **Find e-Journal**: Browse or search e-journals in vLib environment.
- **Personal profile**: Organize basket folders, create sets of resources, re-execute saved searches, save settings.
- **MPG/SFX**: Use the MPG/SFX button to locate full texts (if available), or to use other relevant services.
- **Resource Info**: Detailed information about single resources.
- **Resource Feeds**: Subscribe to feeds that contain lists of vLib resources, and thus integrate them with any environment, such as your browser.
- **Search Plug-Ins**: Add vLib predefined sets to the quick search box of your browser.

Searching

The **vLib MetaSearch** screen allows users to

1. Select information resources for the search. You may choose a predefined set of resources or locate relevant resources according to their subject area, type, name, or other criteria.
2. Enter search terms and execute a search across the resources selected.

The **vLib QuickSearch** screen offers predefined sets of resources which can be searched in parallel by entering search terms and clicking the “GO” button.

Results Display

After submitting a search, results are retrieved from the resources selected, and are presented in the following way:

- **Summary** lists the number of hits found in each database. Additionally, a combined (merged) results set is created.
- **Results List** can be viewed in table or brief format.
- **Full View**: By clicking on the record title link the full bibliographic record of the item is displayed.

Additional Features

- Sorting of combined results sets (by year, rank, author, title or resource).
- Search History to access the results of queries previously executed.
- Refine Search to narrow or broaden a query.
- Handling results by saving records in baskets, or by exporting them to a file or a citation manager program, e.g. EndNote or Zotero.

Help and Support

A context-sensitive help, FAQ, contact form, news, documentation and add-on services are available: [http://vlib.mpg.de/aboutvlib.html](http://vlib.mpg.de/aboutvlib.html)