

The International Vexillological Index (IVI) Project

Why Create an Index?

- 📖 An index is a tool used to find content in a variety of publications.
- 📖 Many scholarly disciplines have specialized indexes to allow researchers to locate books and articles published on their subjects.
- 📖 International Vexillological Index is a proposed project to create a shared database to index the world's vexillological literature.
- 📖 An index has many advantages over relying on a web search index such as Google.
- 📖 Publications will be indexed by vexillologists who are knowledgeable about flags.
- 📖 A searchable database will index not only online publications about flags, but also books and other print materials.

What will be indexed?

- 📖 Books about flags, heraldry, symbolism, and other topics of interest to vexillologists.
- 📖 Articles and papers in journals, magazines, newsletters, conference proceedings, and other publications related to vexillology and heraldry.
- 📖 Web sites, web pages, and other online information about flags and related topics.

How Will This Work?

- 📖 The Flags of the World (FOTW) website has proven that a group of volunteers can build a valuable tool for all the world's vexillologists to use.
- 📖 The International Vexillological Index will be built as a collaborative project of vexillological associations and individual vexillologists.

Full Text and Copyright Considerations

- 📖 International copyright laws must be followed at all times.
- 📖 Indexing of publications is allowable by copyright law. However, we will seek permission to include complete indexing of any organization's publications.
- 📖 Full text will be hosted by the publishing organizations and linked from the International Vexillological Index. The IVI project will not be digitizing any publications. Instead, it will be a tool to identify sources of vexillological information.

Languages

- 📖 English will be the common indexing language for the International Vexillological Index.
- 📖 Titles and subject terms will be entered in the original publication language and in English translation.
- 📖 Author names in languages which do not use the Latin alphabet will be entered in original language and in Latinized transliteration.
- 📖 The initial search screen interface will be in English. Once 100 records have been entered in a language, we will add a search screen for that language if a volunteer is available to provide assistance with translation.

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Partners and Contributors

- Partners will include vexillological organizations that agree to have their publications indexed in the International Vexillological Index. We currently have 10 partners.
- Contributors will include individual vexillologists who volunteer to add records to the database.
- Partner organizations can use the International Vexillological Index as an index to their own publications through the use of a selective search feature. This is a benefit of partnership.
- Partner organizations and contributing individuals will be acknowledged on the IVI website.
- Contributors will use a common set of data entry standards to promote consistency in the database. Initial entry will be completed using Excel spreadsheets.

How You Can Help

- Encourage your organization to participate in the project as an International Vexillological Index partner.
- Help your organization create a digital library of its publications for its website. The IVI Project manager can assist with guidelines and standards.
- Volunteer to help contribute records to the database:
 - Including citations for articles in your organization's publications
 - Including citations to books and other materials published in your country or in a language you know
- Lend your language expertise to help us make the International Vexillological Index truly international by indexing materials in a variety of languages and assisting with translation.

Project Status

- We currently have 10 partner organizations which have agreed to allow complete indexing of their publications.
- We have experimented with a prototype database to help further define project requirements.
- We are converting the Raven and NAVA News index from static HTML pages to a database. This data will be the initial data set for the project.
- We have defined the required data fields for several document types.
- We are ready to have volunteers begin indexing data. The goal is to collect spreadsheets from contributors by 31 December 2014 to create the initial database.

Questions?

Contact:

Annie Platoff

- IVI Project Manager
- Director of NAVA's Digital Library
- annie.platoff@platoff.net

Computer programming for the International Vexillological Index Project is being donated by Platoff Consulting, Inc. (Goleta, California).