

Press release, July 9, 2007

GIGA Journal Family turns Open Access

The well-respected area studies journals published by the GIGA German Institute of Global and Area Studies will become freely accessible for scholars around the globe. In a project supported by the DFG (German Research Foundation) the GIGA Journal Family will be turned into open access publications. As Open Access democratizes the diffusion of publicly funded research, this becomes all the more important for research on areas who are largely part of the Third World with the subsequent lack of access to publications in the traditional subscription model. Here, open access provides a new quality for the dialogue between the international scholars and the academic communities in the research areas themselves.

The project will be implemented in cooperation with Hamburg University Press, the online publisher of the Hamburg State and University Library (SUB) who guarantees the incorporation of the GIGA journals into major international search engines and library services according to highest technical standards. The online open access version will not replace the established print journals, but rather complement them. All GIGA journals will continue to be available in the usual printed form. The OA project will build on and expand the existing structures that ensure the high quality of the journals, notably the independent review process and monitoring by an international academic advisory board. The GIGA Journal Family is expected to go online in late 2008, and will then be gradually expanded.

The GIGA German Institute of Global and Area Studies is a member of the Leibniz Association, which is a signatory of the so-called "Berlin Declaration", which supports open access as the prime form of publishing for non-commercially funded academic research. By transforming established subscription-based journals into open access publications GIGA will be at the forefront of OA diffusion in the social sciences.

The GIGA Journal Family includes the following journals: *Afrika Spectrum*, *Lateinamerika Analysen*, *China aktuell – Journal of Current Chinese Affairs*, *Japan aktuell – Journal of Current Japanese Affairs*, *Südostasien aktuell – Journal of Current South East Asian Affairs*. For more detailed information on the journals see <http://www.giga-hamburg.de/giga-journal-family>.

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