

Free Access to Knowledge

KIT Publishes First Scientific On-line Journal of a German University Press:
e-Journal Promoting Open-Access Idea.



The screenshot shows the homepage of the journal 'New Frontiers in Spatial Concepts'. At the top, there is a search bar and a navigation menu with links for Home, About the Journal, Editorial Board, For Authors, and Imprint. Below the navigation, there are tabs for 'Recent Topic', 'Recent Articles', and 'Recent Comments'. The 'Recent Topic' tab is active, displaying a featured article titled 'Topic "Mobility"'. The article includes a photograph of a truck and a brief text introduction. To the right of the article, there are sections for 'TOPICS' (with a dropdown menu), 'CHAPTERS' (listing Philosophy, Sociohistorical analysis, Spatial concepts, and Transcultural analysis), 'INVITED PAPERS' (with a link for Submitted Invited Papers), and 'BROWSE ARCHIVES'.

Pioneering publisher. The first on-line journal of a German university press comes from Karlsruhe.

Extreme price increases in the publishing sector over the past couple of years have caused universities to found publishing companies of their own. The Karlsruher Universitätsverlag (Karlsruhe University Press) was founded five years ago. Its first on-line journal, "Journal of New Frontiers in Spatial Concepts," is a venture into new publishing territories. Representatives of the media are cordially invited to attend the inauguration ceremony at the University Library (Straße am Forum 2) at 4 p.m. on Tuesday, June 9.

Expanding the range of publications from straightforward book production to a scientific e-journal was unique for a university press in this country, says Regine Tobias, head of Karlsruher Universitätsverlag. She and her staff members at the university press, which is a non-profit organization, consistently pursue the open-access concept: research findings financed by public funds are to be made generally available on the internet free of charge and without copyright restrictions.

**Dr. Elisabeth Zuber-Knost
Press Officer**

Kaiserstraße 12
76131 Karlsruhe, Germany
Phone: +49 721 608-7414
Fax: +49 721 608-3658

**For further information, please
contact:**

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Regine Tobias
Universitätsverlag Karlsruhe
Phone.: +49 721 608-7940
Fax: +49 721 608-4886
Mail: tobias@ubka.uni-karlsruhe.de

The “Journal of New Frontiers in Spatial Concepts“ constitutes a platform for research contributions about spaces inhabited by man, and the transformation those spaces undergo as a result of technical and socio-cultural processes. This also includes the virtual spaces of the internet age and the resultant challenges arising to the way people live together.

The idea of the journal came up in discussions with Rolf-Ulrich Kunze, technology historian and author published by the Universitätsverlag, and Ulrich Gehmann, biologist, economist and management consultant. The actual initiating impulse was provided by the interdisciplinary working party, “Formatierung sozialer Räume“ (Formating of Social Spaces), headed by Kunze and Gehmann. The seminar held in cooperation with the Technology History Department within the university course on the History of European Culture and Ideas (EUKLID) is open to students of all faculties. It is within this framework that they discuss the relevance of technology in modern societies of industrial performance, mass mobility and mass communication. The concept of the “Journal of New Frontiers in Spatial Concepts“ offers young scientists of the working party a possibility to publish their contributions in English for international discussion. The Editorial Board of the journal, together with an international Advisory Board, provide quality assurance. Time to publication is to be as short as eight weeks. “This combination of teaching, research, and public science, combined with a fast scientific communication channel, is a pioneering project of a type existing only at Karlsruhe,” says Regina Tobias.

The new journal, Tobias explains, had not originated at KIT by chance, but continued the tradition of transdisciplinary and interdisciplinary reflection about the importance of technology to society at the Karlsruhe location. This is represented, for instance, by modern historian Franz Schnabel; technology philosopher Simon Moser; sociologist Hans Linde; philosopher Hans Lenk; and philosopher and sociologist Günter Ropohl.

About “Open Access“

The open-access movement is a response by universities and scientists worldwide to the “crisis of science journals,” the marked price increase by more than 10% annually of scientific journals from the mid-nineties on. Open access means that scientific findings financed by the public must be generally accessible on the internet free of charge.

At the Karlsruhe Universitätsverlag, this means that this easy and fast production will allow interested readers all over the world to find the publications by Karlsruhe scientists on the internet quickly and at no cost. Upon request of the author, the publisher in addition offers a low-cost printed-on-demand version. The publisher offers Karlsruhe scientists professional, uncomplicated handling of book projects by competent partners on the spot. The Karlsruhe publishing concept has produced 500 publications so far.

For more detailed information, see <http://uvka.ubka.uni-karlsruhe.de> as well as <http://ejournal.uvka.de/spatialconcepts/> on the internet.

The Universitätsverlag will celebrate the creation of its e-journal in a ceremony to be held at the auditorium of the new university library building (Straße am Forum 2, 3rd floor) starting at 4 p.m. on Tuesday, June 9. Representatives of the media can register for the press conference by the attached form.

The program of the inauguration ceremony:

Words of Welcome

Professor Norbert Henze, Prorektor für Struktur der Universität

„5 Jahre Universitätsverlag Karlsruhe“ (Universitätsverlag Karlsruhe Five Years)

Christoph-Hubert Schütte, Leitender Bibliotheksdirektor

“Räume heute” (Spaces Today) lecture

Ulrich Gehmann, editor

“Karlsruhe als Standort von Technikreflexion“ (Karlsruhe as a Site of Reflection on Technology) lecture

Dr. Rolf-Ulrich Kunze, editor

Presentation of the E-Journal

Regine Tobias, editor

Registration for the Inauguration Ceremony

Replies should be addressed by June 8 to

Universitätsverlag Karlsruhe

Regine Tobias

Fax: +49 721 608-4884

E-mail: tobias@ubka.uni-karlsruhe.de

I will

attend

not attend

not attend, but would like to receive the press releases

the inauguration ceremony of the "New Frontiers in Spatial Concepts" e-journal
at the auditorium of the new university library building, Straße am Forum 2,
building 30.51, 3rd floor, at 4 p.m. on Tuesday, June 9.

I am interested in an interview/sound bites.

Name/First name

Affiliation

Address

Phone/Fax

Date/Signature