

# The Osteopathic Research Web

## ... sharing results internationally

by Raimund Engel

### Objectives

Osteopaths are regularly challenged by insurance companies, MDs and other healthcare professionals for not having any scientific research to back up osteopathic medicine. At the same time there is a lot of interesting research done all over the world that is relevant to osteopathy but hardly known.

In addition to this professional research work done by osteopaths and other medical practitioners many osteopathic students write a diploma thesis or Master thesis to finish his/her studies.

These theses - some of which are high quality work - are presented to a jury and a small audience, but after they have been accepted they are neither published nor easily accessible for osteopaths from outside of the respective school.

Our project's goal is to connect those two: The references and abstracts of osteopathic research projects are entered into a database that is accessible via internet from all over the world for free, presenting osteopathic research not just to the osteopathic community but also to the interested public. In addition to osteopathic theses we also integrate projects from other scientific disciplines that are relevant to osteopathic theory and practice.

Osteopaths who are interested in the details of a specific research paper from our database could then mail-order a printed version from the respective university or school. Alternatively the full-text articles could be made available as PDF, as well.

### Benefits

#### For osteopathic students:

- When planning their thesis, the database can help students to find out about similar projects that have already been done, allowing them to build on those past results instead of repeating them.
- Students are more motivated to write a dissertation if they know that their work will add to the profession's knowledge base.
- The database allows to identify areas, which have been neglected by research so the student can work in those areas, rather than doing yet another project on low back pain.

#### For the schools:

- What helps the students in their research also helps the school.
- The research work done at a specific school can become widely known.
- The school can sell copies of the full text of the studies.

#### For the osteopathic community:

- This is most obvious: Osteopaths all over the world gain access to a growing database of osteopathic research that can be referenced in writing, teaching discussion.
- The development of multicentered international research projects can be coordinated with the help of this database.

### What you can do

Have a look at the current version of the database which has been up and running since 1999 and contains more than 500 dissertations from several osteopathic schools.

If you know about any good thesis that you think should be listed in our database please send us the references.

And - most of all - please support our idea by discussing it within the school(s) you are working at, or pass this information on to faculty members or librarians who might be interested.

If you work at an osteopathic school or college you might suggest that any new research projects are made to fit to international research standards by including important parts like an abstract or keywords.

### Who supports the project?

This project is initiated and hosted by the "Vienna School of Osteopathy" - based in Vienna/Austria in cooperation with osteopaths and schools in various European countries and the USA.

In particular we'd like to thank the British School of Osteopathy, the British College of Osteopathic Medicine, the Osteopathic School of Madrid and the German Akademie für Osteopathie for submitting a large number of their theses.

The database is also endorsed by the "World Osteopathic Health Organisation (WOHO)" and the "Osteopathic European Academic Network (OSEAN)"

## Submitting projects

There are three ways for submitting new theses:

### 1. Individual thesis

You are welcome to submit new projects and help our database to grow. However, in order to avoid fun-entries done by "Mickey Mouse" or the like, we would like you to register and get a password first. As soon as you complete the registration (1-2 minutes needed to fill-in the form), you will receive an email with a confirmation link. Then you can log into the site and proceed with the submission.

When you enter the data of your project(s) it would be nice to submit as much precise information as possible. However, it is also possible to submit a project with its very basic data only, because even that might be a great help for other users. That is why some of the fields have an asterisk (\*) meaning the information is optional. The abstract of a thesis in English is required, the abstract in the original language (if not English) and a link to the fulltext are among the optional fields.

### 2. Import from other databases

Please contact us if you already have the research data in the Reference Manager or some other database, which you would like to share with the osteopathic community. It is very likely that there is a possibility of importing this particular data directly into our database, without the need of retyping.

### 3. Use our template

To bring a larger number of theses into a structured format we provide an XLS-template that you can use for your school's theses:

- download a template from the website
- copy and paste your data into the table
- and send the completed form to us by email so we can import it into our database.

## Language

For international use it is essential to have title, abstract and keywords available in English. For national use there are optional fields for title and abstract in the respective original language.

## 10th Anniversary Relaunch .... coming soon

The osteopathic Research Web is celebrating its 10th anniversary with a big relaunch!

During the last few years the site not only started to look "so 90s", but also all the underlying technologies made it very hard to update or extend it. Thanks to some fresh money from the Vienna School of Osteopathy we now were able to rebuild it completely.

Rather than developing everything from scratch like last time, we did a lot of research into existing systems over the last year, looking for

- an open source solution, that can easily be adapted
- a system that is easy to update or extend
- a fast and clean interface

Now we found a new platform that fit all those criteria, rebuilt the site and migrated our data. (Yes, the abstracts you uploaded, should still be there, if not, please let us know!)

## What's new?

- The registration and login procedures for contributors are simplified.
- On the left side you can find a ranking of all the schools, which are sharing their theses here and the most viewed abstracts.
- Automatic Inline Citation and Bibliography Generation
- APA, MLA, IEEE, Chicago, CSE and Vancouver Citation Styles
- Bibutils 3.x Integration
- Publications Import/Export in MODS, RIS, and Bibtex formats

In the near future we might add additional functionality, depending on your feedback (see poll at the right).

We hope the new site will even be more useful for osteopathic students and faculty. Please let us know, what you think - just add a comment on the site, or send me an email!

Raimund Engel