International Knowledge Platform on Accident Prevention and Occupational Safety

prevention forum+ uses AI-based search technology from IntraFind

On behalf of prevention forum+, a cooperation of several international accident insurers, BG BAU carried out a relaunch of the website "prevention forum+" – significantly improving the existing modern knowledge portal for occupational health and safety. The iFinder search solution is a key technological component of the platform. It enables users of the portal to access information from international websites, databases, and specialized information sources in a coherent and easy-to-understand way.

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The Challenge

Occupational health and safety is a top priority for the German Social Accident Insurance association (abbreviated DGUV in German). In order to create a modern and up-to-date knowledge platform containing all relevant information on this topic, DGUV initiated a project to relaunch the existing website "prevention forum+." In addition to DGUV itself, the Austrian General Accident Insurance Institution (AUVA), the Swiss Accident Insurance Institution (SUVA), and the Joint Committee in Construction (PKB) from South Tyrol were also involved in the international project. The partners engaged the German employers' liability insurance association for the construction industry (abbreviated BG BAU in German) to carry out the project.

"The aim of the entire project was to pool content from international websites and databases in a central location with assured quality and enable users to find the information they need quickly and reliably with the help of an Al-driven search engine," explains Professor Karl-Heinz Noetel, head of the DGUV Cooperations department at BG BAU. "We wanted to provide visitors to the platform with extensive research opportunities. These should give the visitors an overview of important national policies and regulations related to the occurrence and prevention of accidents and illnesses at work and the prevention of work-related health hazards. Not only did the portal need to be available in six languages, but it also needed to adhere to accessibility standards."

The Solution

The iFinder search solution from IntraFind was a key technology component in the relaunch of "prevention forum+." Around 190 websites, as well as various internal databases and specialized information sources in the fields of environment, hazardous substances, and health prevention were linked to it. An editorial system for creating and maintaining additional information is also linked to it. Databases, specialized information sources, and additional editorial content were indexed using special connectors and IntraFind's web crawler.

prevention forum+

The knowledge platform is a joint project from several international accident insurers:



Project implementation: BG BAU - Berufsgenossenschaft der Bauwirtschaft

iFinder offers visitors a wide range of options to conduct comprehensive research in all these sources. These include, for example, specially designed criteria to filter by legal area or publisher and a preview function within the list of results. Artificial intelligence ensures that people's names are automatically recognized in the documents, enabling the use of another search filter. These proper names are not existing metadata but are detected via Al procedures. This is what is known as content enrichment, which is an important building block for high data quality and automatically connecting information.

Project Overview

Industry: Public sector

Challenge: Providing a state-of-the-art knowledge portal with fast, user-friendly, and accessible real-time search across more than 190 websites and connected databases

Solution: AI-based search software iFinder using a web crawler

https://www.praeventionsforum-plus.info

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Another highlight of the platform is the info area. The info area acts as a knowledge graph and, in addition to the results list, provides further information and knowledge, for example from regulations and databases, and can interact seamlessly with the search engine. With a simple click, users can initiate new searches directly from the topic cluster. If visitors log on to the platform with their personal login, an expanded range of features is available to them. This includes, for example, a dashboard with saved search queries and documents from previous searches.

The accessible version of iFinder enabled BG BAU to design the platform in accordance with the current provisions of Germany's Federal Disability Equality Act (abbreviated BGG in German). For this purpose, the website and especially its search interface were comprehensively expanded. Additional features include the ability to operate the interface via keyboard, highlighted active buttons, contrast optimization, and borders around selected fields. Users with visual impairments can also have content read aloud to them by screen readers. The platform has been certified pursuant to BITV 2.0 (Germany's accessibility ordinance for information technology), confirming that it is accessible.

Key Benefits

- Comprehensive information on accident prevention and occupational health and safety is easy to access
- More than five million documents from international websites, databases, and specialized information sources are linked and interconnected
- + Extensive search options guide users to the desired information with just a few clicks
- + AI technology enables automated information linking, for example in knowledge graphs
- + Available in six languages
- + Certified accessibility
- + Easy to use on mobile devices

"Thanks to the iFinder search, we were able to meet all the requirements of a modern knowledge portal: an easy-to-use platform that delivers fast, up-to-date results with quality-controlled content – it's a fun way to conduct research!"

Michael Kirsch Deputy General Manager of BG BAU



The Benefits

The platform's search index currently encompasses more than five million documents and pieces of content and is constantly being expanded. iFinder makes it possible to access information from this pool of nationally and internationally fragmented sources in a coherent and easy-to-understand way. The web crawler checks the sources for new and changed documents at regular intervals. Thanks to the web crawler's automatic duplicate detection, the search index is systematically cleared of duplicate content. This ensures that users enjoy an efficient search experience.

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Users are provided an easy-to-use, accessible interface that allows them to access the information they need with just a few clicks. Thanks to its responsive design, users can also easily use the search functionality on mobile devices.

With features such as displaying semantically related, correlated terms or suggesting synonyms for search terms that are no longer up to date, the solution helps users quickly find the right results. In addition, it takes the different meanings of technical terms in different countries into account and can assign search results to legal areas specific to a country. It also allows users to filter their searches for specific file formats, such as PNG pictograms.

"Thanks to the iFinder search, we were able to meet all the requirements of a modern knowledge portal," concludes Michael Kirsch, deputy general manager of BG BAU. "An easy-to-use platform that delivers fast, up-to-date results with quality-controlled content – it's a fun way to conduct research!"

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