

Centralized Access to Knowledge for All Employees

Faster Searches with AI-based Search Solution from IntraFind

Efficient knowledge management is of vital importance to BGE, Germany's federal company for radioactive waste disposal. The government-owned company under the purview of the Federal Ministry for the Environment wants to ensure that employees can quickly and effortlessly perform digital searches of the extensive knowledge available from a variety of data sources. For this purpose, BGE uses the iFinder search and text analysis software from search specialist IntraFind.



The Challenge

BGE holds a wealth of information in the form of scientific and technical reports that contain knowledge that is indispensable for its employees' work. Up until now, however, it was impossible to search for this data using a single approach, as it was stored in different data repositories. The company also wanted to digitize older documents, some of which were only available in paper form in the archives.

The goal of the project was to preserve knowledge and make it digitally accessible so that employees can use it as the basis for answering important current and forward-looking questions, such as those related to building, operating, or closing a radioactive waste repository.

In this context, the company wanted to make it easy to search not only internal but also publicly accessible knowledge sources, such as national and international websites and online library catalogs, from a central access point.

The Solution

To facilitate efficient knowledge management and reduce research times, BGE now leverages IntraFind's iFinder software as an intelligent search and text analysis tool.

IntraFind deployed the software on BGE's in-house server environment and made the relevant data sources available via interfaces known as connectors. The search specialist has made all of the data searchable and enriched and classified it with further metadata using artificial intelligence. Thus, the search process has been optimized for BGE-specific terms – the

Project Overview

Industry: Public sector

The Challenge: Provision of a state-of-the-art knowledge management solution to make required knowledge quickly and easily accessible to employees

The Solution: Search and analysis software iFinder as the cornerstone of a holistic knowledge management system

Users: Approximately 2,000 employees

Customer Profile

The BGE is mandated by the federal government to perform tasks in the final disposal of radioactive waste. The federally owned company was founded for this purpose in July 2016. The new company was created by a merger of the repository divisions of the Federal Office for Radiation Protection (BfS) as well as the operating companies Asse-GmbH and Deutsche Gesellschaft zum Bau und Betrieb von Endlagern für Abfallstoffe (DBE). (German Company for the Construction and Operation of Waste Disposal Sites).

Since April 2017, the BGE has been the responsible operator of the German repository projects Konrad and Morsleben as well as the Asse mine. Further tasks are the site research for a repository for especially high-level radioactive waste in accordance with Germany's Site Selection Act (Standortauswahlgesetz), and inspection of the products used to store the radioactive waste. More than 2,000 BGE employees at currently seven locations are responsible for the tasks in the repository sector.

software recognizes proper names, such as individuals, institutions, or locations, specialized topics, or even specific abbreviations and extended synonyms.

In addition, it was important to establish a standard for naming documents. This means, for example, that a document from 1908 will also be recognized as such, even if it wasn't digitized until 2021.

The following sources were connected to the search:

- File share documents, some of which had been previously digitized using OCR (optical character recognition). In this case, the software recognizes scanned documents not as images, but as text that can be analyzed.
- The content of 13 national and international websites (the BGE website and websites of radioactive waste repository organizations in other countries such as Finland, Sweden, France, etc.). The iFinder software supports multilingual search and text analysis of documents and thus recognizes the same document content in different languages.
- Library collections such as OPAC catalogs for further searches

The bottom line: Employees can now search all of the desired sources centrally from one point of access without needing to know where a piece of information is stored. Because of iFinder's strong linguistic capabilities, AI-based metadata enrichment, and intelligent filtering capabilities, search quickly yields the relevant results employees need to complete their tasks. The software automatically applies the predefined user permissions so that employees can find only the documents they are authorized to see.

"An amazing tool that really helps me," was the feedback received from one employee, for example.

„The iFinder software's performance is what won us over. IntraFind also impressed us with its resource-friendly hardware requirements and offered the best value proposition overall.“

Dr. Sebastian Wanka
Research Associate / Project Manager BGE

Key Benefits

- + Collect internal knowledge, distribute knowledge, and retain it over the long term
- + Make knowledge from different data sources available without employees having to know where the knowledge is stored
- + Reduce the amount of time employees spend researching
- + Make relevant information available for informed decisions
- + Manage knowledge efficiently – even in the face of growing employee numbers, multiple locations, and extensive internal documentation

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