

Integrating Brill's Primary Source Collections into a library's OPAC

The collections in Brill's Primary Sources Online collections currently contain almost 1,000,000 image files. With an average of almost two pages per image, this means that the total set comprises almost 2,000,000 pages of carefully selected materials organized into 35 collections.

With such a wealth of primary source material available, we are committed to ensuring that scholars are able to access the information they need as easily as possible, and to helping librarians integrate the material into their OPACs.

We are pleased to be able to offer MARC 21 records *free of charge* for documents contained in many of the Primary Source Collections published under our IDC imprint. A MARC 21 record is available for every title that can be accessed through www.primarysourcesonline.nl. The record includes a link to the online resource and is derived from the microfiche edition of the title¹. The MARC 21 records can be loaded on to most OPACs. In some cases a conversion might be necessary. Brill's bibliographic staff can assist with this. An example of a MARC 21 record, including the link to the facsimile copy of the title that is online available is given hereafter. The link to the online version is specified in the 856 Marc field.

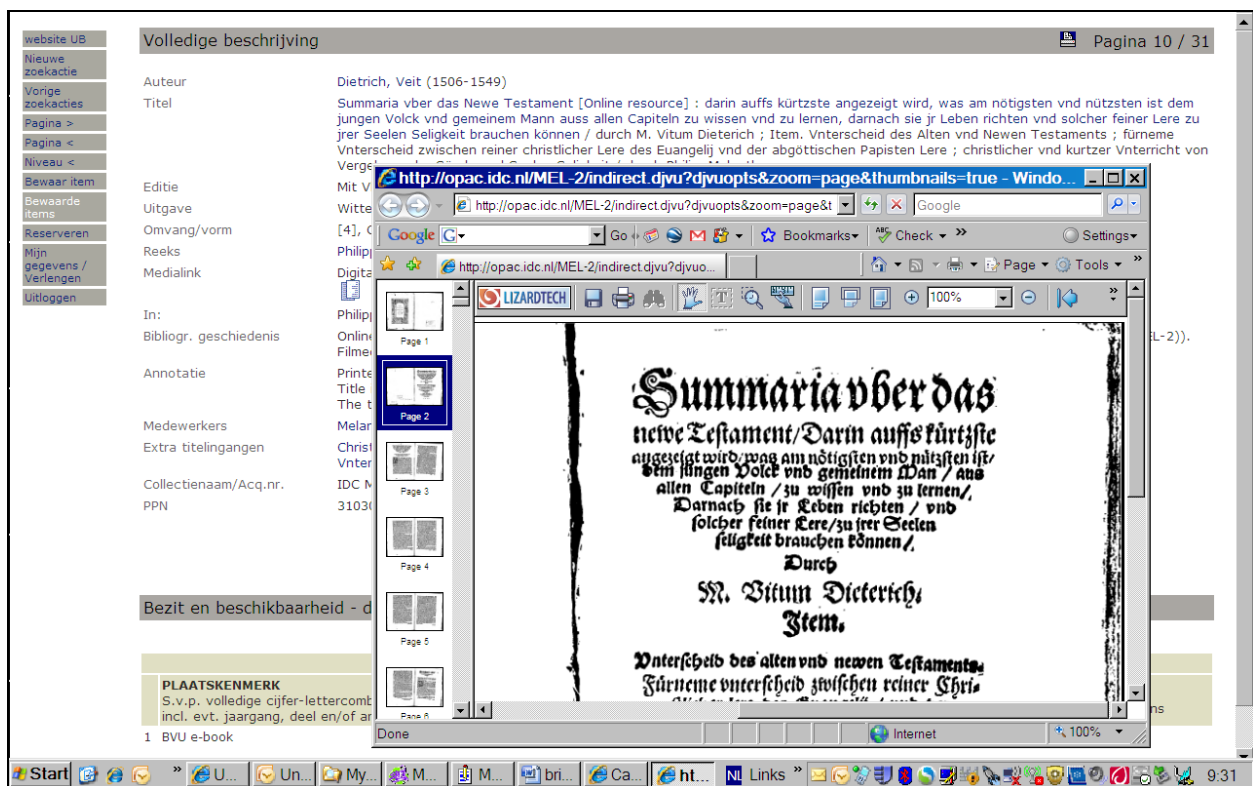
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=LDR 02365nam 2200373 a 4500
=001 IDC1737
=003 IDC
=005 19990317095501.0
=007 he\amb020bacp
=008 990317s1550\||gw|||||b|||||||0\ger\d
=035 \\\$a(CStRLIN)GAETO31445074-B
=035 \\\$a(GEU-T)(Sirsi)o31445074
=040 \\\$aEMT$cEMT$dNeLeIDC$edcbr
=043 \\\$ae-gx---
=099 \\\$aMEL-2$c90.00$df
=100 1\|$aDietrich, Veit,$d1506-1549.
=245 10$aSummaria vber das Newe Testament$h[microform] :$bdarin auff k{uml}urtzste angezeigt wird, was am n{uml}otigsten vnd
n{uml}utzsten ist dem jungen Volck vnd gemeinem Mann auss allen Capiteln zu wissen vnd zu lernen, darnach sie jr Leben richten vnd solcher
feiner Lere zu jrer Seelen Seligkeit brauchen k{uml}onnen /$cdurch M. Vitum Dieterich ; Item. Vnterscheid des Alten vnd Newen Testaments ;
f{uml}urneme Vnterscheid zwischen reiner christlicher Lere des Euangelij vnd der abg{uml}ottischen Papisten Lere ; christlicher vnd kurtzer
Vnterricht von Vergebung der S{uml}unde vnd Seelen Seligkeit / durch Philip. Melanth.
=250 \\\$aMit Vleis von newem vbersehen, gemehrt vnd gebessert.
=260 \\\$aWittenberg :$bDurch Veit Creutzer,$c1550.
=300 \\\$a[4], CCCLX, [21] leaves ;$c22 cm. (4vo)
=500 \\\$aPrinter from colophon.
=500 \\\$aThe two items by Melanchthon were originally published in Nuremberg by J. von Berg & U. Newber in 1549. Cf. VD 16, M 4387.
=500 \\\$aTitle in red and black; initials.
=533 \\\$aMicrofiche.$bLeiden :$cIDC,$d2001.$e9 microfiches.$f(Philipp Melanchthon, theologian and humanist ; MEL-2)$nFilmed from the
original held by: Melanchthonhaus, Bretten.
=630 00$aBible.$pN.T.$vOutlines, syllabi, etc.
=700 12$aMelanchthon, Philipp,$d1497-1560.$tChristlicher vnd kurtzer Vnterricht von Vergebung der S{uml}unde vnd Seelen
Seligkeit.$f1550.
=700 12$aMelanchthon, Philipp,$d1497-1560.$tVnterscheid des Alten vnd Newen Testaments.$f1550.
=740 02$aChristlicher vnd kurtzer Vnterricht von Vergebung der S{uml}unde vnd Seelen Seligkeit.
=740 02$aVnterscheid des Alten vnd Newen Testaments.
=752 \\\$aGermany$dWittenberg.
=773 0\|tPhilipp Melanchthon, theologian and humanist$wIDC1730
=830 0\|aPhilipp Melanchthon, theologian and humanist ;$vMEL-2.
=856 4\|3Digital images available at:$uhttp://opac.idc.nl/MEL-2
=963 \\\$D04/06/1999$OMB$1M189$4Available$R1-9$p139$x811
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¹ The MARC 21 records for the microfiche editions can be downloaded from the corresponding collection page at www.idc.nl.

Loading the MARC 21 records on to the local OPAC benefits both the librarian and library patrons ; the librarian can be confident that all the documents contained in a primary source collection enjoy maximum visibility via the OPAC and the user benefits from being able to identify individual documents within a primary source collection via their OPAC, rather than only being able to go to the URL for each primary source collection (a URL which may be unknown to them).

A nice example of this approach at work is the OPAC of the Vrije Universiteit in Amsterdam. The Library has imported the records of several IDC primary source collections, including “Philipp Melanchton, theologian and humanist”.

A library user is able to identify all 31 titles contained in this collection when they search in the OPAC, as illustrated in the screenshot below. If the user clicks on the title of the collection (field called “Reeks” in Dutch), (s)he will obtain a complete listing of IDC’s Melanchton collection. All the library user has to do to access the full text of the document is to click on the ‘medialink’ in the screenshot, leading them to the document illustrated in the screenshot below:



All documents in the primary source collection remain on a central Brill server, and can only be accessed by authorized users.

The metadata can be loaded on any platform or in any format. For example, it is possible to create a title list with hyperlinks to the server where the primary source collections are hosted. Again, these links will provide authorized users with access to the documents.

For archival collections there is a MARC 21 record available that can be loaded in the OPAC. This record has a link to an EAD (Encoded Archival Description) finding aid. This finding aid gives the description of the archive and has the links to the actual documents. Again, after locating the record in the OPAC it is a matter of clicking to open the actual documents.