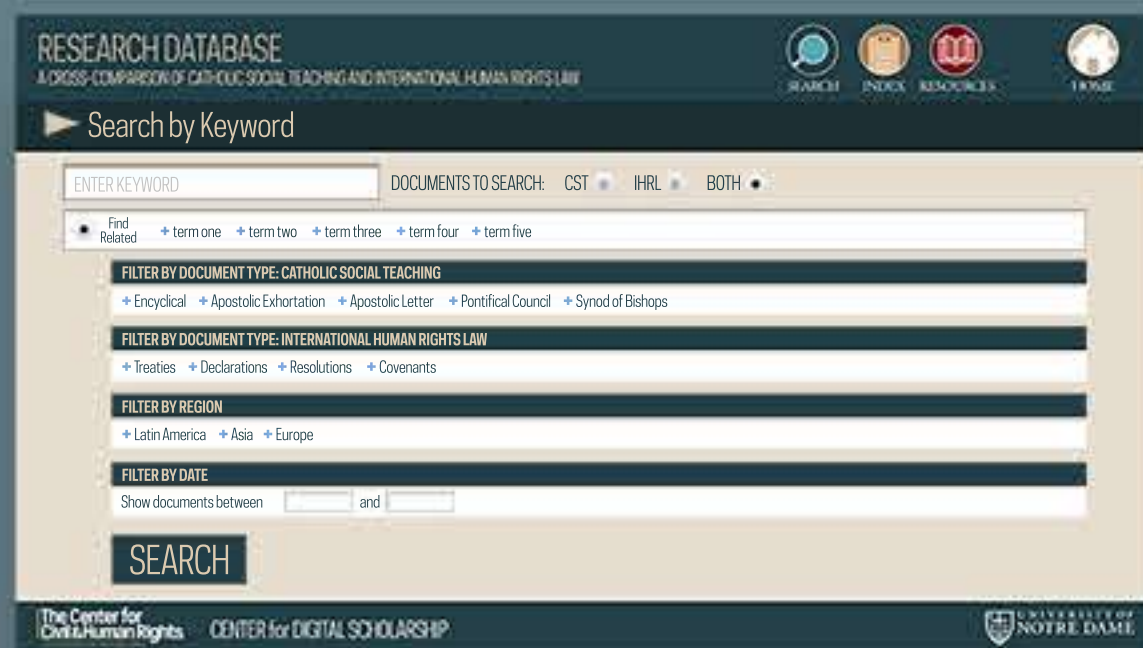


CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING

SEARCHING THE DATABASE



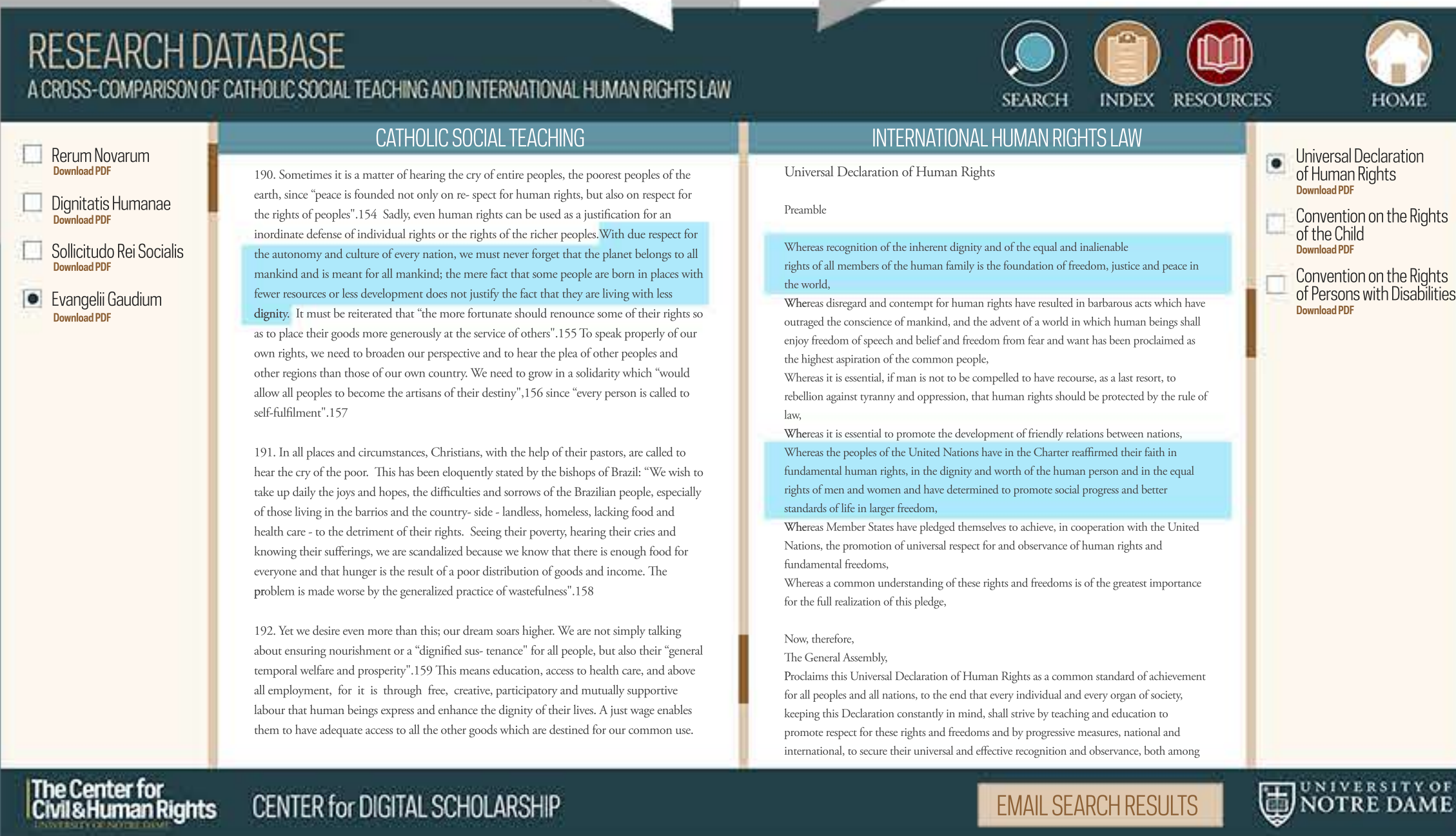
1

Users may search the database by keyword (shown above) or by pre-defined topics. In both search options the user will have the ability to further refine the search through a variety of filters, including document type, region, and date.



2

Search results are displayed side by side. Users may expand the results for more information, download search results for later review, and choose which results to display as full documents.



3

Chosen documents are displayed in the “Notebook,” which highlights the true innovation of the project. In the Notebook, one can open various documents which have been saved from either a topic or keyword search. On the left side of the screen one can scroll within a selected Catholic social teaching document. On the right side of the screen one can scroll within a selected international human rights law document. Navigating both document types on a dual screen allows the user to easily compare texts, in an effort to understand points of convergence and divergence between the two fields.^{1,2}

ABSTRACT

The Center for Civil and Human Rights, in cooperation with the Center for Digital Scholarship of the Hesburgh Libraries at the University of Notre Dame, has invested in the creation of an online research tool that will facilitate the searching of Catholic social teaching documents alongside instruments of international human rights law. This project aims to bring Church teaching into conversation with international law, fostering interdisciplinary dialogue on human dignity and facilitating research on the Catholic Church's understanding of human rights, while also responding to the Church's emphasis on using technology and the means of social communications for the creative evangelization of culture.

This free online database will help scholars, students, practitioners, advocates, public officials, diplomats, ministers, pastoral agents, and concerned citizens to identify convergences and divergences between Catholic social teaching and international human rights law. The database will make digitized documents accessible in their totality, as well as searchable by topic or key words for purposes of comparison. The online database, designed for a diverse audience and built upon an interdisciplinary framework, will gradually expand to include not only primary sources but also secondary sources such as articles on the overlap between Catholic social teaching and human rights, topical reference guides for educational purposes, recommended bibliographies, profiles on geographical regions, etc.

This project addresses a current gap in Catholic and human rights dialogues. Through a powerful exchange of ideas this innovative educational tool will have broad appeal and impact, transforming work in various fields. For example, social science and religion teachers in Catholic high schools might direct their students to the website to learn about migration, or catechists might consult it to prepare educational talks on social justice and refugees in their parishes. NGOs engaging in advocacy, Vatican diplomats addressing the United Nations, and college professors designing curriculum could all benefit from the unique resources of this project on Catholic social teaching and international human rights law.

METHODOLOGY

- Scholars in both legal and theological fields will offer textual analysis at the paragraph or article level of the document.
- Computational textual analysis will assist in assigning key words to the rest of the texts.
- Research of topic lists in both individual fields will be used to compose a unique topic list that will highlight both convergences and divergences of the two fields.
- Extensive review of textual analysis and the topic list will be conducted by a panel of experts.

INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS



TIMELINE

Phase 1: Alpha Testing (November 2015)
Testing of the database by a small focus group of scholars for initial feedback. Interface will be developed enough so that a user can search the database both by keyword or by pre-defined topic.

Phase 2: Beta Testing (February 2016)
Testing of the website for both basic function and usability. Most of the project should be available in a user-friendly format. Changes or problems that arose from alpha testing should be addressed by this point. Project complete except for the addition of some basic content pages to be added at a later day.

Phase 3: Soft Launch (April 2016)
Soft launching of the website campus-wide for internal review and assessment. Problems identified during beta testing will be addressed by this point. Basic content pages will be up and available for use.

Phase 4: Public Launch (Summer 2016)
Feedback from the soft launch will be addressed and the website will be open for public use.

Phase 5: Growth (Spring 2017)
We anticipate much growth and development in the project over the years. Basic growth will include the addition of more documents along with continued refinement of the topic list and metadata key words associated with documents. In addition to basic growth, we envision growth to include, but not be limited to, the addition of content pages and the potential for an interactive geographic map used for searching documents.

PROJECT SUPPORT

- Institute for Scholarship in the Liberal Arts
- Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies
- Libreria Editrice Vaticana

¹ Pope Francis, *Apostolic Exhortation Evangelii Gaudium*, Vatican: the Holy See, Vatican Website, Libreria Editrice Vaticana, 24 November 2013.

² UN General Assembly, *Universal Declaration of Human Rights*, UN Website, 10 December 1948, 217 A (III).