Knowledge Transfer for Building Practice

The central mission of the Fraunhofer Information Center for Planning and Building IRB (abbr.: Fraunhofer IRB) is to ease the access to required expertise information for its users so it can be applied effectively and efficiently.

Main users from the building practice are:
- building surveyors, civil engineers, architects as well as builders and building contractors
- small and medium-sized enterprises (SME)
- university libraries

The Fraunhofer IRB structures and indexes all relevant expertise information and makes it accessible to a broad specialist public. The Fraunhofer IRB Verlag (publishing house) supports the knowledge transfer and provides professional products and services:
- scientific books
- scientific journals
- databases and other electronic media

Events which are held by Fraunhofer IRB itself or together with partners are another way to transfer expert knowledge.

Thus the Fraunhofer IRB is the central support facility for the national and international transfer of expertise in the field of building in Germany – from research to practice.

Additionally, the institute runs its own building specialist library with a literature and information service.
The **Fraunhofer IRB Verlag** sees its task in analyzing the demand for literature for building – and identifying and closing gaps in the content. Together with renowned authors, it develops **scientific books**, **scientific journals** (*Der Bausachverständige*, *Bausubstanz* and *Bauen*) and **electronic media** tailored to target groups with following topics:

- redevelopment and renovation
- sustainability and energy efficiency
- building technology and building physics
- urban and spatial planning
- building research

In addition, together with partners, practice-related knowledge is indexed and made applicable in practice. Thereby the Fraunhofer IRB Verlag not only complements its own publishing range, by offering e.g. numerous **data sheets, building regulations or research reports**, it also makes an important contribution towards the transfer of knowledge from science to building practice.

The internet portal **www.baufachinformation.de** provides the complete range of offerings of the Fraunhofer IRB Verlag, as well as selected publications of other publishing houses:

- scientific books
- research reports
- data sheets, building regulations
- magazine articles
- national technical approvals and test certificates
- and much more
Through practice-oriented building databases the Fraunhofer IRB offers easy access to current and validated expert knowledge of the entire building industry. Carefully prepared information from all fields relevant for construction is aimed at:

- building experts, civil engineers, architects, craftsmen and builders
- building researchers, scientists, universities and libraries

The different databases are accessible under www.baudatenbanken.de:

- bibliographic databases (RSWB®plus, ICONDA®Bibliographic)
- full-texts (SCHADIS®, BZP®, ICONDA®CIBlibrary)
- research projects (BAUFO®)
- list of experts (Handwerksbetriebe für die Denkmalpflege)

All content, particularly the contents of those databases with bibliographical references, are also available in analog form in our specialist library, which can be visited upon prior appointment. Desired literature can be ordered from the library inventory at any time through our literature service and full-text document delivery service. This service also helps to locate hard-to-find literature.

Fraunhofer IRB’s information service also offers professional searches on customer-specific topics, particularly in literature and full-text databases.
As one of the most important support facilities for building research in Germany, the Fraunhofer IRB is active in several areas:

- research documentation
- monitoring and supporting research projects of the research initiative »Zukunft Bau« (Building Future)
- research activities

For several years now, the Fraunhofer IRB conducts its own project and research works to improve the knowledge transfer along the entire process chain, and to optimally transfer the innovation potential of building research into practice. These knowledge management tasks often include the digital documentation and publication of research findings and results.

A further project follows the open access approach for building research combined with a full-text repository.

The specialist portal www.irb.fraunhofer.de/bauforschung provides the following offers on all aspects of building research:

- research reports (partially free of charge)
- information about ongoing and completed research projects
- information service »Bauforschung aktuell«
- and much more
The Fraunhofer IRB also fulfills its role as science service provider within the Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft. The aim is to optimally and comprehensively support the entire scientific research and publication process.

Main users of these Fraunhofer internal services are:
- departments of the Fraunhofer headquarters
- Fraunhofer institutes, groups, alliances and networks
- Fraunhofer libraries and specialized information managers
- Fraunhofer research scientists

The services are covered by the Competence Center and the Fraunhofer Verlag (publishing house). The Fraunhofer Verlag publishes specialized scientific publications of Fraunhofer scientists and Fraunhofer institutes. The Competence Center Research Services & Open Science provides publishing support for Fraunhofer scientists and Fraunhofer institutes in the publication processes. Here the implementation of public requirements, intellectual property rights and good scientific practices is as important as exploitation aspects and specific requirements of application-oriented research.

Since January 2018 Fraunhofer IRB is a member of the Fraunhofer Group for Innovation Research. This allows for the contribution of competences in the areas of knowledge transfer and exploitation of research results in a significantly extended environment. In the context of digitalization and increasing demand for transparency in science, open science also plays an important role.
The **Fraunhofer Verlag** supports the Fraunhofer employees in all areas of scientific publishing. In addition to standard publishing services, it offers:

- writing consulting, workshops for scientific writing
- comprehensive consulting on publication project management
- decision-making support in the selection of the suitable medium

The in-house printing division (media services) produce Fraunhofer publications, and furthermore offers, among others:

- Fraunhofer CD-compliant institute-specific office equipment
- consultancy services for particular cases
- quality management of print files

All publications can be easily and conveniently ordered online at [www.bookshop.fraunhofer.de](http://www.bookshop.fraunhofer.de).

The comprehensive knowledge-based services provided by the **Competence Center Research Services & Open Science** for Fraunhofer consist, among others, of the following components:

- fostering of open science (especially open access and research data) and backing its science policy
- consulting on scientific publication processes
- development and provision of publishing infrastructure
- recording of research indicators

The Competence Center provides publication support and a central library information system for Fraunhofer libraries.
Arrival instructions

**By car:** Coming by car you can reach us via the highways A81 or A8. When you reach the Stuttgart interchange (»Autobahnkreuz Stuttgart«), turn onto the A81/A381 following the signs to Stuttgart-Zentrum (city center). Continue until the exit »Universität«.

**By train:** From Stuttgart main station (»Hauptbahnhof«) all suburban trains (S-Bahn) depart from platform 101 in the subway station (»Stuttgart Hauptbahnhof tief«). Take S-Bahn S1 in direction to »Herrenberg«, S2 in direction to »Filderstadt« or S3 in direction to »Flughafen« (airport). Get off at stop »Universität«.

**By air:** From Stuttgart airport take the S-Bahn (suburban rail) S2 or S3 in the direction »Hauptbahnhof«. Get off at stop »Universität«.