The databases of the Institute for Applied Training Science (IAT, Leipzig, Germany) on the internet: http://www.iat.uni-leipzig.de

Task and Structure of IAT

The Institute for Applied Training Science ("Institut für Angewandte Trainingswissenschaft – IAT") was founded in 1992 and is the central research institute for German top-level performance sport. The task of the researchers working at IAT is the process-accompanying training and competition research for German performance sport with the goal of identifying and utilising the performance potential of German elite athletes.

Figure 1: IAT entry page
IAT supports about 1,000 athletes and their coaches from 17 summer and six winter sports. The basis of this cooperation is long-term agreements with 19 top-level sport federations. In cooperation with its partners, IAT ensures the scientifically based counselling of coaches and enables the innovative control of training within coach-counsellor networks. IAT provides scientifically based training recommendations as well as sports-medical health and therapy recommendations. In addition to this, IAT develops measuring and information systems and passes the information and knowledge on to sport practitioners.

IAT is a part of the Scientific Network System for Performance Sport and cooperates with the Institute for the Research and Development of Sports Equipment (FES), the Coaches Academy in Cologne as well as with the German Olympic Training Centres, the Federal Institute of Sport Science (BISp) and the sport-science institutes at German universities.

IAT consists of seven departments
1. Department for Endurance Sports,
2. Department for Strength and Technical Sports
3. Department for Technical and Tactical Sports
4. Department for Sports Medicine
5. “MINT” (Mathematics, Informatics, Sciences, Technology)
6. Department for Performance Sport of Young Athletes

IAT Databases

The IAT databases are run by the Department for Sports Information and Communication. In the databases information about sport and training science is provided.

The following databases are available by clicking first the “Service” button on the top left of the entry page and then the “Datenbanken” button.

Archive of Performance Sports

For this database, more than 2,500 articles from the German-language magazine Leistungssport (“Performance Sport”) have been digitised and are now searchable. So far, about 500 of these articles have been released by the authors and database users can access them in full-text format. This database is a joint venture with the German Olympic Sports Confederation (DOSB) and Philippka publishers.

SPONET database

SPONET is a training-specific search engine that was developed by IAT especially for sports scientists, coaches and athletes. Every month about 250 new internet sources are evaluated and analyzed for professionals.

Figure 2: Archive of Performance Sports search fields
ViFa Sport

IAT is one of the five producers of the Virtual Library (ViFa) of Sport Science. ViFa Sport is a comfortable-to-use, centralized portal for sport-science information on the Internet. It includes both print media and electronic information resources of sport-science relevance. All resources made available through ViFa Sport are indexed and in most cases direct access is possible. (The ViFa Sport database will be dealt with in more detail in future issues of NSA.)

SPOWIS database

SPOWIS is a sports literature database that includes 120,000 literature documents on sport science and applied training science published before 1996. This makes SPOWIS the second-largest publicly accessible sport-science database in the world (behind SPOLIT, see NSA 3+4/2011). The main focus of SPOWIS is on results of sport-science research in the former GDR.
**Sportbox**

This database includes books about sport science and sport technique published in German speaking countries. The focus of the database is on kinesiology and exercise science, physical education, medicine, history, psychology and sociology. Sportbox is operated jointly with almost 250 German publishers and is edited by WVM publishers in Oepfershausen/Rhön (Thuringia, Germany). Currently, Sportbox includes almost 2,500 titles.

**TUPL database**

For this database, all articles published in the German-language magazine *Theorie und Praxis Leistungssport* ("Theory and Practice of Performance Sports") and its successor *Training und Wettkampf* ("Training and Competition") have been digitized. This means that about 3,500 articles are now searchable and viewable in full-text format.

**Competition Results database**

This freely accessible database includes all results at Olympic Games (since 1896), World and European Championships (since 2001) in all sports that are currently part of the Olympic Games. Currently, more than 121,000 individual results are available.

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*Figure 5: Overview of current competition results and competitions that will take place in the near future*
Most databases produced and provided by IAT may be of interest for track-and-field coaches and athletes. It should also be considered that three of the IAT databases have a German-language focus (Archive of Performance Sports, Sportbox, TUPL). However, the other databases are of international character.

Reviewed by Jürgen Schiffer