The Electronic Journals Library (EZB): An international internet service with features for the integration into the scientific information environment

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The Electronic Journals Library - in German called the Elektronische Zeitschriftenbibliothek, abbreviated to EZB - is a cooperative library service for the effective use of scholarly and academic e-journals. The EZB has been developed and managed by the University Library Regensburg in Germany since 1997. The Regensburg University Library provides the technical and organizational infrastructure of the EZB and is responsible for further developments of this service. Currently the EZB is used by more than 570 libraries in Germany and nine other European countries. The internet service EZB offers an integrated, cross-publisher platform for the fast and professionally structured use of scholarly full text journals. With more than 60,000 titles, the EZB is the worldwide largest database for e-journals. The Electronic Journals Library works as a cooperative service. The participating research institutes and libraries share the task of collecting titles and administering the data in a central database. The international collaboration of the member institutions of the EZB is a main reason for the high quality of this service. A special trademark of the EZB is its presentation of access rights using traffic light symbols. Using this system, access rights for electronic resources are displayed for all member institutions of the EZB. The usage rates reveal that the EZB meets user demands: in 2011 more than 17 million title accesses were counted.

One of the most important developments is the possibility to connect the EZB with other scientific information systems. There are different ways to integrate the EZB into other information portals. One option is the XML interface provided by the EZB. Using the XML interface, the EZB can be integrated as a module for the comfortable use of e-journals within other information portals. Another possibility of connecting the EZB with other information systems offers the EZB linking service even providing direct article linking. Based upon the open URL technology, the University Library Regensburg has developed an EZB linking service offering to the user within the respective context, e.g. a scholarly internet portal or a literature database, direct access to the full text being published in a scholarly e-journal. The EZB can link directly to articles appearing in about 18,000 journals published by more than 40 publishers/suppliers. Offering the direct article linking, the EZB could create an additional access to full texts of e-journals for the users of other digital information services and therefore enhance access to scholarly scientific content. In Germany the EZB is connected to a great number of scientific information systems. Therefore – among other reasons - the EZB has become an important part of the national scientific information infrastructure. However, the EZB is open to join further collaboration on the European level.

If you have any queries or if you want to join us, please don’t hesitate to contact us:

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