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The Electronic Journals Library EZB: a successful model of international collaboration

The Electronic Journals Library - in German called Elektronische Zeitschriftenbibliothek abbreviated as EZB - is a cooperative library service for the effective use of electronic journals. With more than 40.000 titles it is the largest databases for scholarly and academic full text journals in the world.

The EZB has been developed and managed by the Regensburg University Library in Germany. The Regensburg University Library provides the technical and organisational infrastructure of the EZB and is responsible for further developments of this service. At the present time (November 2008), the EZB is used by 487 libraries in Germany and several other European countries. All EZB member libraries are working together. They are taking part in collecting the titles and the maintenance of the bibliographic and other metadata which are needed for the access of the e-journals. They are working together to enlarge the title extent of the EZB by sharing the bibliographic records and are in common responsible for keeping them up-to-date. One important aim of this collaboration is to facilitate user access and to provide users with a large and well updated collection of e-journals.

A special trademark of the EZB is its presentation of access rights following traffic light symbols. By this system, access rights for electronic resources are displayed for all participating libraries. One of the actual important developments is the networking of the EZB with other digital library services, e.g. by the means of article linking. The EZB is very popular with its users, as the usage statistics reveal. In 2007 the EZB recorded a total of nearly 17 million clicks on journal titles. This high usage shows that the EZB is really a successful model of international collaboration.

The Electronic Journals Library EZB can be found on the internet for free at: <http://ezb.uni-regensburg.de/>

Dr. Evelinde Hutzler has been a University Librarian at the University of Regensburg in Germany since 1995. Before, she has studied education, sociology and psychology and graduated with a PhD from the University of Regensburg in 1993. She is head of public services department and head of the Electronic Journals Library.