Easy Access to Open Access
Integration of Open Access publications into the EZB Linking Service

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Agenda

1. Electronic Journals Library (EZB) and the EZB Linking Service

2. Functionality of the EZB Linking Service

3. Usage of the EZB Linking Service

4. Integration of Open Access publications into the EZB Linking Service

5. Conclusion
Electronic Journals Library (EZB) and the EZB Linking Service

- **Electronic Journals Library**
  - World's largest database for scholarly and academic electronic full text journals (contains 80,800 journals from all areas of research)
  - Provided by the University Library of Regensburg in Germany since 1997
  - More than 600 participating libraries (125 international institutions, including the Library of Congress)

- **EZB Linking Service**
  - A link resolver that checks the availability of full texts in electronic journals (considering the holding information stored in the EZB) and offers a link to the journal's content
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Functionality of the EZB Linking Service

- Incorporated in more than 40 third-party systems, such as in library portals, internet portals, virtual libraries or specialized databases

- When searching articles in one of the participating systems the user can see whether an article is available

- Illustrated by small traffic lights
  - article is freely available
  - article is licensed at her or his library
  - article is not accessible (has no subscription)
Schematic illustration of the functionality of the EZB Linking Service

1. Request URL based on OpenURL
2. Parsing the metadata of incoming URL
3. Checking the availability based on EZB data
4. Response in HTML, XML or as icon

Third-Party Systems (library portals, internet portals, virtual libraries, specialized databases etc.)

EZB Linking Service
Output options of the EZB Linking Service

**HTML output**


**XML output**

```xml
<OpenURLResponse status="ok">
  <OpenURLQueryInfo>
    <hrid>EZB</hrid>
    <hrid>univ-bibliothek-regensburg</hrid>
    <laag>xml</laag>
    <source_identifier>urn:issn</source_identifier>
  </OpenURLQueryInfo>
  <OpenURLResult>
    <result>
      <available_status>sure</available_status>
      <level>fulltext</level>
      <LinkToURL>
      </LinkToURL>
      <SrcSet>
        <LinkToJournal>
          http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/journal/10.1111/(ISSN)0884-2175
        </LinkToJournal>
        <LinkToEZB_Frontpage>
        </LinkToEZB_Frontpage>
      </SrcSet>
    </result>
  </OpenURLResult>
</OpenURLResponse>
```
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Distribution of the results of the availability checks in 2014

- For more than 30 million requests the EZB Linking Service could respond with the availability of the inquired resources (on basis of the existing data in EZB).

- Over 11 million links could be offered to freely available (green) or licensed (yellow) journals:
  - Green journals (freely available): 7,395,531
  - Yellow journals (licensed): 4,049,292
  - Red journals (not accessible): 19,029,769

No linking to the content of red journals
Distribution of the offered links for licensed and freely available journals in 2014

- **yellow journals** (licensed)
  - Links to full texts
  - Links to tables of contents, tables of issues and tables of volumes
  - Links to journal websites
  - 71.1% of requests lead to journal websites

- **green journals** (freely available)
  - 9.7% of requests lead to journal websites
  - 88.0% of requests lead to other sources

Most of the requests to freely available journals lead to the journal website.
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Integration of Open Access publications into the EZB Linking Service

• Extension of the EZB Linking Service is part of a project funded by the German Research Foundation (DFG)

• Integration of parallel publications (articles published in academic journals and also in institutional repositories)

• One project result is to merge different publication types of full texts in academic journals and institutional repositories into one service

• Different publication types will be offered to users as alternative article links
  → Fast and easy access to Open Access publications for users
  → Increases the range of parallel publications

• Cooperation with the Bielefeld University Library by using BASE (Bielefeld Academic Search Engine, www.base-search.net)
Output after the Integration of Open Access publications into the EZB Linking Service

Case I:
Request to red journal which is not accessible

Case II:
Request which does not lead to the full text
Result of the OA added EZB Linking Service is a higher range of parallel publications.

Institutional repositories

Over 40 third-party systems

OA added EZB Linking Service

Virtual libraries

Library portals & Internet portals

Special databases

Journals Online & Print

more
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Conclusion

• EZB Linking Service, an actively used service provided by the University Library of Regensburg

• EZB Linking Service is based on the data of the EZB, a database for academic electronic journals

• Integration of Open Access publications into the EZB Linking Service is planned to find Open Access publications easily and free of cost in different repositories

• Goal is to improve the acceptance and the usage of open access publications provided by institutional repositories
Thank you for your attention!

Any questions?

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