URL UR Library Services
www.ur-library.de

UNIVERSITY LIBRARY
OF REGENSBURG

Database Information System
Annual Report 2024/2025

Regensburg, February 2026

DBIS Datenbank Infosystem
dbis.ur.de

EZB Elektronische Zeitschriftenbibliothek
ezb.ur.de

RVK Regensburger Verbundklassifikation
rvk.ur.de

This annual report summarizes developments in 2024 and 2025 of the Database Information System (DBIS). Unlike in previous years, when the report was deliberately kept concise and primarily focused on figures, we would like to expand it this time: In addition to key figures, we also provide a comprehensive insight into important innovations, publications, and other events that have shaped DBIS over the past two years.

The past two years have been particularly groundbreaking for DBIS. With the completion of the project “Expansion, consolidation and optimization of the nationwide database information system DBIS” (duration 2020–2024; DFG 440516279), a significant milestone was reached. The aim of the project was to adapt the system of the University Library of Regensburg, which has been in place since 2002, to the current and future requirements of a modern scholarly information infrastructure.

The project was successfully completed with the launch of the new DBIS version on October 15, 2024. The updated platform ensures that DBIS will remain a central tool for academic research in the future while also being flexible enough to accommodate future developments.

The period leading up to the end of 2025 was marked by intensive collaboration within the DBIS community. The new functionalities were presented, discussed, and further developed together in numerous training courses and community workshops. In addition, several supplementary releases were provided, including new interfaces that further improved exchange and integration with other information systems. Particularly noteworthy is the committed and constructive cooperation of the community, which has led to a lasting increase in the quality and timeliness of DBIS data.

Another important milestone was the appointment of new members to the EZB-DBIS Advisory Board. The inaugural meeting took place on July 2, 2025. The representatives from libraries and specialist circles represent the requirements of the participating institutions. They advise the University Library of Regensburg on strategic issues, provide suggestions for optimization, and give impetus for the further development of EZB and DBIS services. Thirteen external experts are involved in the EZB-DBIS Advisory Board for the term of office from May 1, 2025, to April 30, 2028:

- Christine Baron (hbz – North Rhine-Westphalian Library Service Center)
- Dr. Kathrin Behrens (Bayerische Staatsbibliothek (BSB))
- Markus Fischer (Swissconsortium)
- Prof. Dr. Klaus Gantert (Hochschule Hannover – University of Applied Sciences and Arts / Filminstitut Hannover)
- Friederike Glaab-Kühn (University Library of Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin)
- Jessica Hubrich (German National Library (DNB))
- Wolfgang Mayer (Vienna University Library)
- Dr. Elisabeth Müller (ZB MED – Information Centre for Life Sciences), until November 30, 2025
  Dr. Klaus Lippert (ZB MED – Information Centre for Life Sciences), from December 1, 2025, onwards
- Dr. Tamara Pianos (ZBW – Leibniz Information Centre for Economics)
- Stanislava Tokarova-Traub (Max Planck Digital Library)
- Dr. Alexander Wagner (German Electron Synchrotron DESY)
- Dr. Andreas Weber (University and City Library of Cologne)
- Simon Xalter (University Library of Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München)

The DBIS Conference 2025, which took place as a virtual event, was also of great importance and achieved an exceptionally high response with an impressive number of 270 administrators participating. This broad participation underscores the community's great interest in and strong connection to DBIS and shows how lively the exchange within the network continues to be.

1. General

1.1 Stock

In 2025, DBIS once again showed a positive trend in its total holdings. Following a temporary decline in 2023, the segment of freely available databases in particular recorded a significant increase again. The number of licensed databases also continued to grow steadily. At the end of 2025, DBIS comprised a total of 14,882 titles, including 6,343 freely accessible databases. This continues the long-term trend of establishing DBIS as a comprehensive and dynamically growing reference infrastructure for scholarly databases.

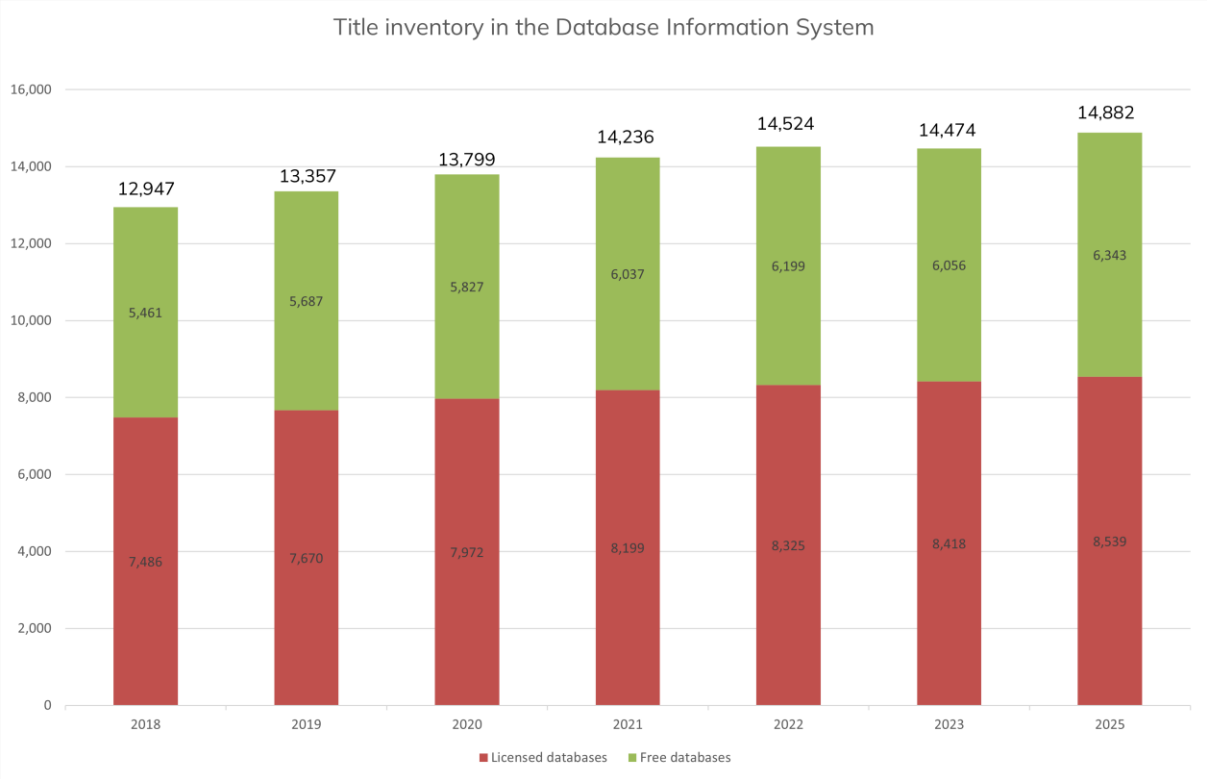

Figure 1: Development of the title portfolio in DBIS as a percentage of the total portfolio in the years 2018-2025 (excluding figures for 2024: Due to the switch to the new DBIS version and the associated technical adjustments, it was not possible to collect reliable portfolio figures in the 2024 reporting year.); status at the beginning of 2026

With regard to the database holdings of the individual subjects that were already listed in DBIS prior to the new DBIS version, there were only minor changes in the number of freely accessible and licensed databases compared to previous years. However, there were major innovations in the subjects themselves. For the new DBIS version, some subjects were merged or renamed in line with the subjects in the EZB, based on the main groups of the Regensburger Verbundklassifikation (RVK). For example, “Classical Philosophy” became the subject “Classics, Byzantine Studies,” analogous to the name of main group F in the RVK. One example of a merger is the combination of the subjects “Biology” and “Process Engineering, Biotechnology, Food Technology” to form the new subject “Biology, Biotechnology.” This brought the system into line with the RVK and the EZB. The following subjects were added: “History of Education,” “Health Sciences,” “Mechanical Engineering,” “Military Science,” and “Nature Conservation, Environmental Protection.” The databases were initially assigned to the new databases automatically, so that some databases were already included when the new DBIS version went live.

Subject	Number of titles in total	Number of licensed titles	Number of freely available titles
Agriculture and Forestry, Horticulture, Nutritional and Domestic Science	458	244	214
Anthropology	432	226	206
Archaeology	323	137	186
Architecture, Civil Engineering	524	219	305
Art History	858	403	455
Biology, Biotechnology	948	591	357
Business and Economics	1579	1148	431
Chemistry and Pharmacology	682	492	190
Classics, Byzantine Studies	350	238	112
Computer Science	294	230	64
Education	457	307	150
Electrical Engineering, Electronics and Communications Engineering	252	191	61
Energy Technology	428	276	152
English, American Studies	765	590	175
General and Interdisciplinary Databases	2863	1630	1233
General Science	324	226	98
Geography	540	266	274
Geosciences	349	187	162
German, Dutch, and Scandinavian Studies	939	426	513
Health Sciences	133	86	47
History	2828	1108	1720
History of Education	25	7	18
Jurisprudence	1540	1136	404
Librarianship and Information Science	431	159	272
Linguistics and Literature	839	485	354
Materials Science and Manufacturing Engineering	413	316	97
Mathematics	185	135	50
Mechanical Engineering	77	66	11
Media and Communication Studies, Communication Design	732	445	287
Medicine	987	660	327
Military Science	45	31	14

Musicology	528	263	265
Nature Conservation, Environmental Protection	190	109	81
Philosophy	485	970	115
Physics	321	224	97
Political Science	1078	649	429
Psychology	351	284	67
Romance Studies	561	346	215
Science (Academic Discipline), Research, Higher Education, Museology	250	97	153
Slavonic Studies	300	139	161
Sociology	894	556	338
Sports Science	115	81	34
Technology	503	362	141
Theology and Religious Studies	912	577	335

Table 1: Breakdown by number of databases in the individual subjects in the total inventory, as of the beginning of 2026

1.2 Usage

In 2025, over 12 million database calls were recorded via DBIS – a significant increase compared to previous years. We have deliberately chosen not to provide a detailed breakdown of the access statistics at this point. We would like to point out that the access figures recorded may include automated accesses, such as those by bots or, increasingly, AI crawlers, in addition to actual user requests. Bots are automated programs that collect data or access websites to index information, for example. AI crawlers collect mass data to train large language models and other AI systems. For data protection reasons, we do not store the IP addresses of the requesting computers, which means we cannot reliably filter out bot or crawler requests. While mass requests from individual IP addresses are automatically blocked by DBIS for IT security reasons, it is very difficult to restrict excessive numbers of requests from different IP addresses. As a result, activities that are irrelevant to usage statistics can also be reflected in the access figures, causing them to fluctuate significantly in some cases or distorting usage statistics.

1.3 DBIS Participant Libraries

As part of the DBIS project, a comprehensive review and update of participating organizations was carried out. In the course of this, several previously uncounted test libraries were transferred to regular user status. At the same time, all organizations inactive in DBIS were contacted. These are now either commencing work in the new DBIS version, as requested, or will be removed from the group of participants following the provision of feedback.

The revision is expected to continue until 2026. It can therefore be assumed that the number of participating libraries will continue to be adjusted and that the recent increase may be slightly relativized as a result. DBIS currently comprises 459 user organizations. This growth can be attributed to both to the current status of the revision process and, in particular, to the integration of specialist information services as independent organizations in DBIS.

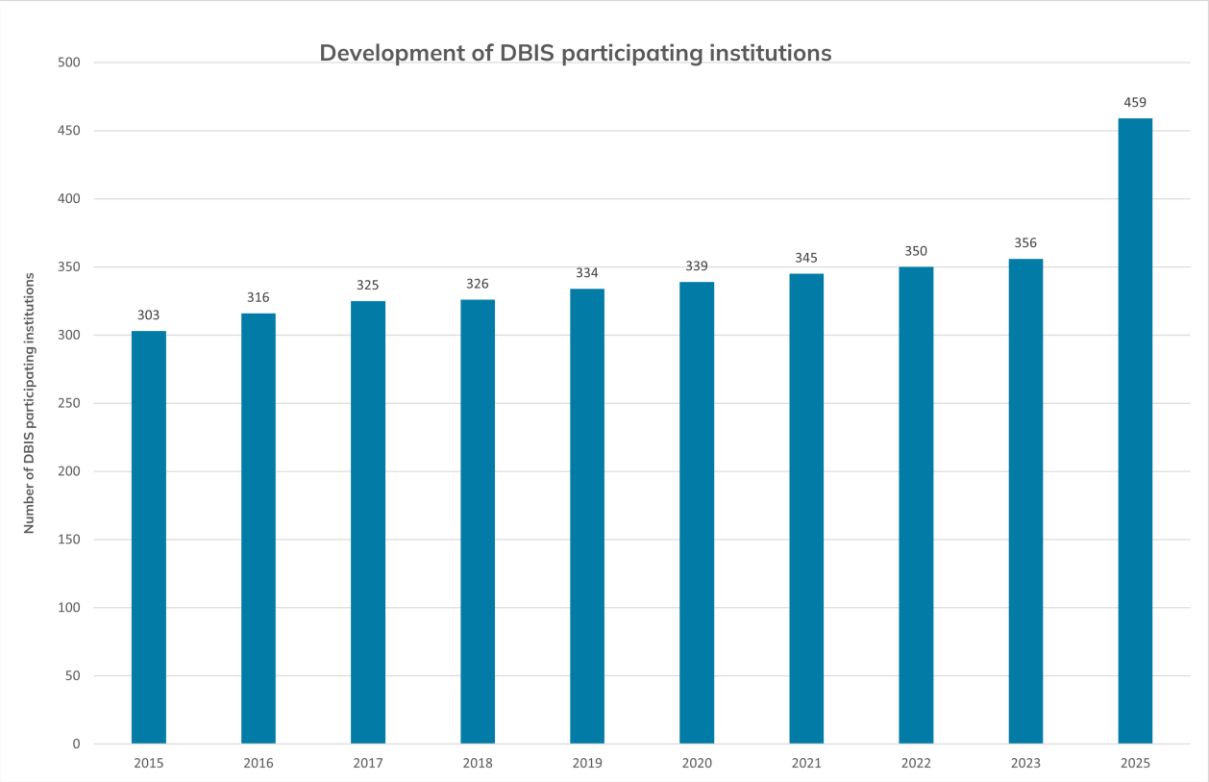

Figure 2: Development of DBIS user libraries and research institutions in the years 2015–2025 (excluding the figure for 2024: Due to the switch to the new DBIS version and the associated revision of the user libraries, it was not possible to collect reliable figures for the reporting year 2024.)

DBIS was in use at 459 libraries and research institutions in 2025. These include 412 institutions in Germany. The remaining 47 DBIS institutions are spread across various other countries. Globally, DBIS is used on three continents.

Country	**Number of participants**
Germany	412
Austria	33
Switzerland	4
Italy	3
Great Britain	1
Poland	1
France	2
Japan	1
USA	1
Lebanon	1

Table 2: Breakdown of DBIS participants by country; status at the end of 2025

2. Innovations in DBIS

2.1 Completion of the DBIS Project 2024

The DFG-funded further development of DBIS aimed at sustainable expansion in line with current requirements. DBIS is now available in both German and English and offers a new, intuitive user interface. A traffic light symbol system—based on the EZB model—clearly visualizes availability in the participating organizations. The new structure clearly organizes content into metadata, licenses, and access.

A modern administration interface with a differentiated rights system was developed for management purposes. With the go live of the new DBIS version on October 15, 2024, the technical transition was successfully completed. Extended functionalities, such as linking databases, as well as a wide range of export options for further reuse round off the offering.

Numerous events were offered to provide the community with the best possible support for the new DBIS version. Between July and August 2024, numerous registration and topic consultation hours took place. In 2024 and 2025, the community was supported in the transition to the new DBIS version through training courses on switching to the new DBIS version, community workshops focusing, for example, on joint data cleansing or linking actions, and consultation hours.

Since then, the revised platform has formed a stable basis for ongoing operations and ensures that DBIS can be used reliably as a central service for scholarly research. At the same time, the new system architecture creates the conditions for future expansions and further developments.

2.2 Further Improvements

Following the major milestones that marked the introduction of the new DBIS version in 2024, several further improvements were implemented in the course of 2025, which contributed significantly to the stabilization, quality assurance, and expansion of the system.

Numerous data and structures from the old system were migrated during the year. Functional enhancements included, in particular, the introduction of striking access labels and the newly introduced price type, as well as improvements to the search technology. At the same time, numerous minor and major bugs were fixed, including those that only became apparent with more intensive use after the go live. This continuous bug fixing contributed significantly to the stability and reliability of the system.

As already emphasized at the beginning of the annual report, the dedicated cooperation of the community was a decisive factor in the further development of the system. Particularly noteworthy is the commitment of many libraries in updating their organizational data and adapting their institutional views and data holdings in the new DBIS – already in 2024 before the official launch and continuing in 2025.

The numerous improvements made in 2025—from technical enhancements, bug fixes, and post-migration tasks to intensive training and workshops—have significantly strengthened DBIS overall. The ongoing collaboration of the community was particularly valuable in this regard, as it contributed significantly to further improving data quality, functionality, and user-friendliness.

2.3 Interfaces

DBIS user organizations have been able to approve data sharing in the admin interface since May 2025. Library-specific data can be retrieved using the JSON REST API with this approval.
All endpoints that return their data as JSON were recreated during the code revision and have been the recommended way to query DBIS data since July 2025, especially for data-intensive queries.
The JSON REST API is intended for technical use so that the endpoints can be connected via script. A tool is available in the DBIS interface for easily pulling data via csv download.
In addition, the XML interface has been adapted. All endpoints that return their data as XML were created to ensure as much backward compatibility as possible with the old DBIS system. The XML output can be reused to recreate an organization's own DBIS view.

3. Cooperative Projects and Networking

3.1 UR Library Services

The three cooperative services of the University Library of Regensburg – Database Information System (DBIS), Electronic Journal Library (EZB), and Regensburger Verbundklassifikation (RVK) – have been presented as UR Library Services on a joint website since November 2025: www.ur-library.de .

For existing and new users – including libraries, research institutions, data recipients, and other partners – the new website offers a structured introduction to all essential information. This includes current news, upcoming events, descriptions of the services and interfaces offered, and central contact options.

The three services DBIS, EZB, and RVK have been key components of the national and international information infrastructure for many years. Their merger into the UR Library Services product family in 2022 created a strategic basis that will strengthen their joint development in the long term. Even then, the product family was given a consistent visual appearance with a coordinated design and corresponding logos. The new website now serves as a joint information portal for all three offerings and clearly highlights the close connection within UR Library Services.

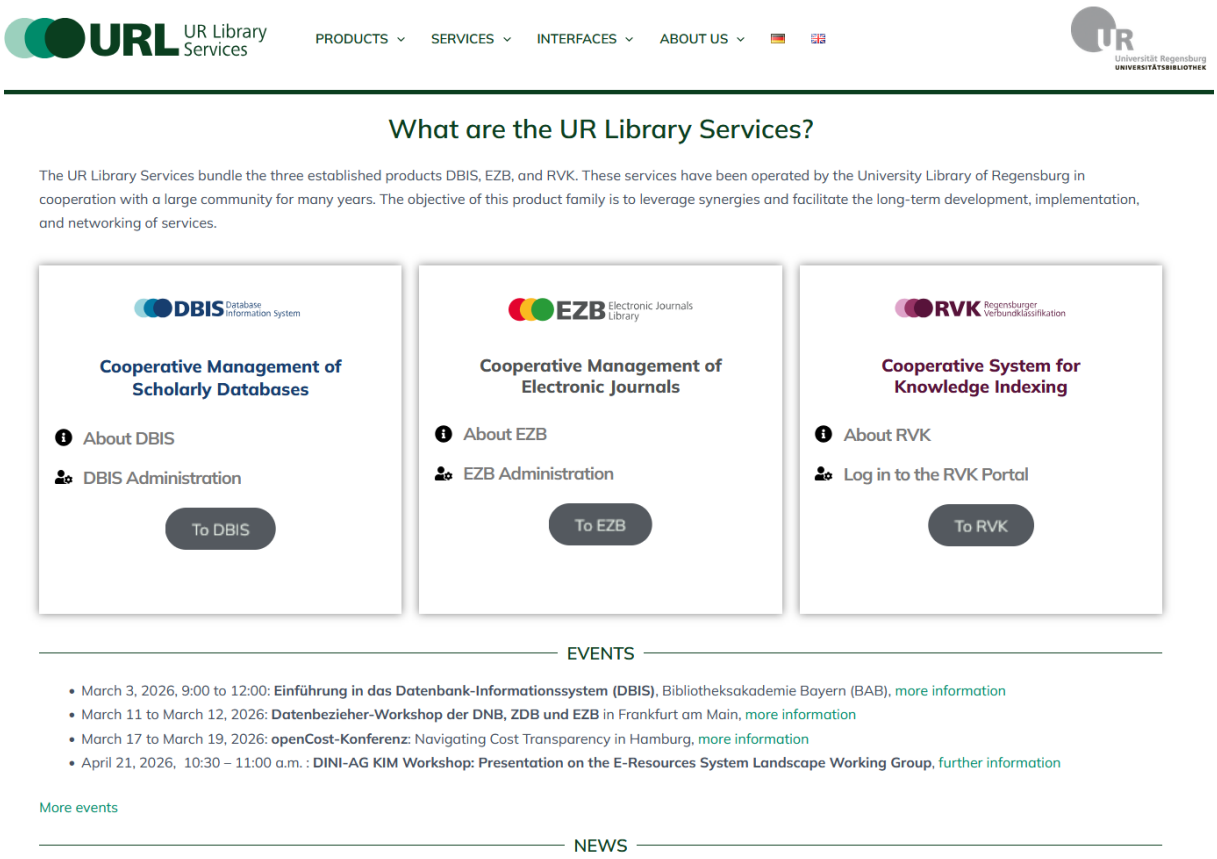

Figure 3: Screenshot of the UR Library Services website

3.2 Listing on Infra Finder

The UR Library Services has registered the three services DBIS, EZB, and RVK in the international directory Infra Finder. Infra Finder is a non-profit platform based in the US that bundles freely accessible digital research services and makes them visible with standardized information. The aim is to improve the findability and comparability of open infrastructures, thereby promoting their use and international networking.

Following registration, the three UR Library Services are now also listed there:

DBIS https://infrafinder.investinopen.org/solutions/database-information-system
EZB https://infrafinder.investinopen.org/solutions/electronic-journals-library-ezb
RVK https://infrafinder.investinopen.org/solutions/regensburger-verbundklassifikation-rvk

These entries significantly increase the international visibility of the three offerings. Organizations outside the German-speaking region now have easier access to information about the purpose, range of functions, and possible applications of the services, which will strengthen their supraregional perception and use in the long term.

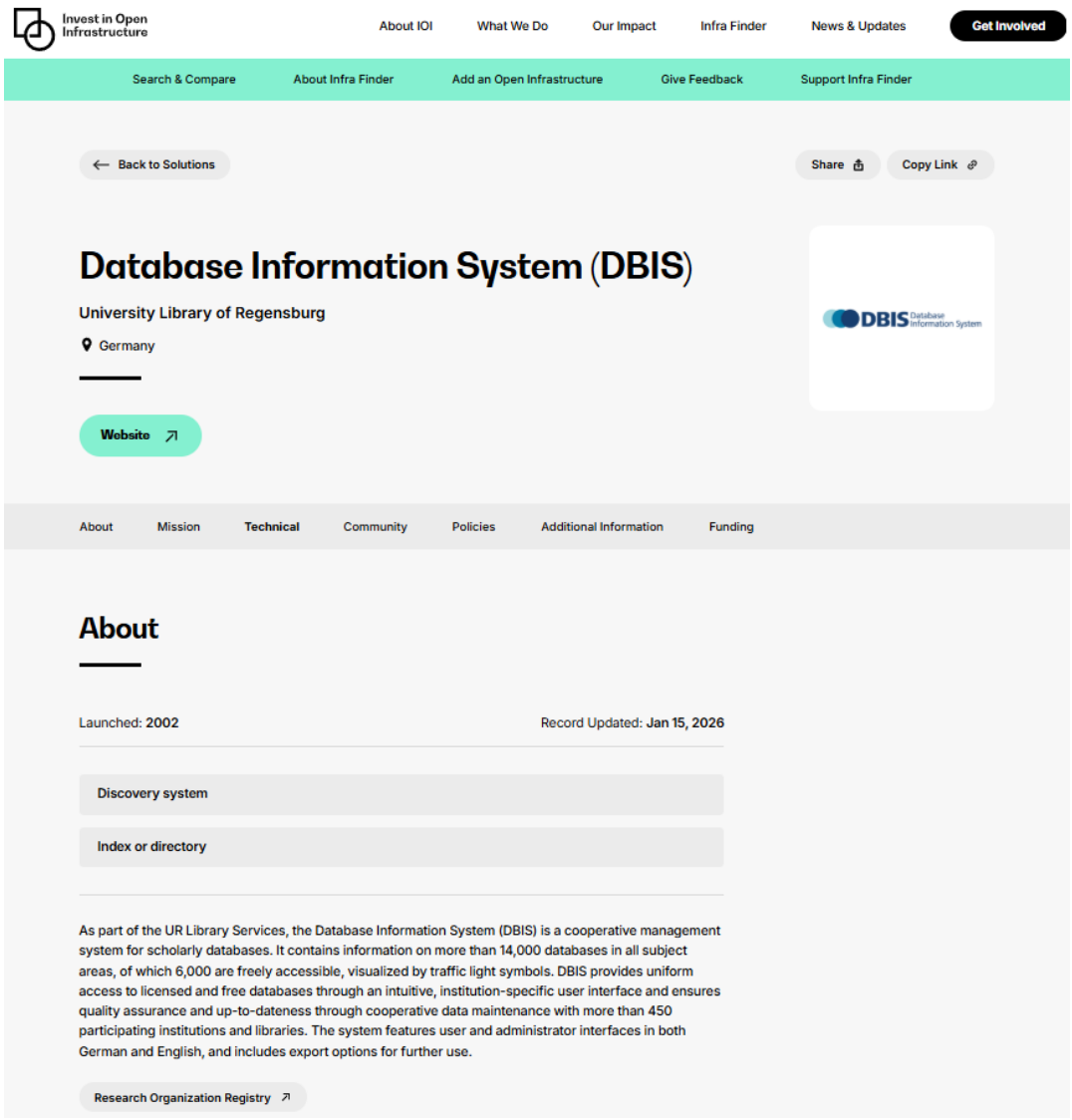

Figure 4: Screenshot of the DBIS entry on Infra Finder

4. Events, Publications, and Lectures

4.1 Information Sessions und Workshops

- *Erste Schritte: Datenbanken erstellen, suchen und bearbeiten* on December 11, 2025. https://doi.org/10.5283/epub.78292
- *Erste Schritte: Organisationsdaten bearbeiten* on Dezember 8, 2025. https://doi.org/10.5283/epub.78304
- *Einführung in die neue DBIS-Version Teil 2* on Dezember 8, 2025. https://doi.org/10.5283/epub.78307
- *Einführung in die neue DBIS-Version Teil 1* on Dezember 4, 2025. https://doi.org/10.5283/epub.78292
- *DBIS-Konferenz* on November 26, 2025. https://doi.org/10.5283/epub.78229

- *4. Community-Workshop zum aktuellen Stand der neuen DBIS-Version* on July 16, 2025. https://doi.org/10.5283/epub.77232
- *Einführung in DBIS für die Rolle Fachreferat* on June 2, 2025 and on June 23, 2025. https://doi.org/10.5283/epub.76807
- *Freie Sprechstunde* on May 19, 2025
- *3. Community-Workshop zum aktuellen Stand der neuen DBIS-Version* on April 16, 2025. https://doi.org/10.5283/epub.76594
- *Freie Sprechstunde* on. April 3, 2025
- *Erste Schritte: Datenbanken erstellen, suchen und bearbeiten* on April 1, 2025
- *Erste Schritte: Organisationsdaten bearbeiten* on April 1, 2025
- *Einführung in die neue DBIS-Version Teil 2* on March 13, 2025
- *Einführung in die neue DBIS-Version Teil 2* on März 13, 2025 (different time)
- *Einführung in die neue DBIS-Version Teil 1* on March 11, 2025
- *Erste Schritte: Datenbanken erstellen, suchen und bearbeiten* on March 10, 2025
- *Praxisbeispiele zum 2. Community-Workshop* on March 7, 2025
- *2. Community-Workshop: Datenbanken verknüpfen* on February 19, 2025. https://doi.org/10.5283/epub.75075
- Praxisbeispiele zum 2. Community-Workshop on March 7, 2025. https://doi.org/10.5283/epub.75027
- *Erste Schritte: Organisationsdaten bearbeiten* on February 17, 2025
- *Einführung in die neue DBIS-Version Teil 1* on February 13, 2025
- *Erste Schritte: Datenbanken erstellen, suchen und bearbeiten* on November 2024
- *Einführung in die neue DBIS-Version Teil 2* on November 22, 2024
- *1. Community-Workshop: Dubletten-Bereinigung* on November 20, 2024. https://doi.org/10.5283/epub.59766
- *Erste Schritte: Organisationsdaten bearbeiten* on November 18, 2024
- *Einführung in die neue DBIS-Version Teil 1* on November 18, 2024
- *EZB-DBIS-Konferenz* on November 12, 2024 in Regensburg. https://doi.org/10.5283/epub.59653
- *Erste Schritte: Datenbanken erstellen, suchen und bearbeiten* on October 31, 2024
- *Erste Schritte: Organisationsdaten bearbeiten* on October 31, 2024
- *Freie Sprechstunde* on October 30, 2024
- *Einführung in die neue DBIS-Version Teil 2* on October 29, 2024
- *Einführung in die neue DBIS-Version Teil 1* on October 28, 2024
- *Freie Sprechstunde* on October 17, 2024
- *Freie Sprechstunde* on October 16, 2024
- *Erste Schritte: Datenbanken erstellen, suchen und bearbeiten* on October 14, 2024
- *Erste Schritte: Organisationsdaten bearbeiten* on October 14, 2024

- *Erste Schritte: Datenbanken erstellen, suchen und bearbeiten* on October 11, 2024
- *Erste Schritte: Organisationsdaten bearbeiten* on Oktober 10, 2024
- *Einführung in die neue DBIS-Version Teil 2* on Oktober 9, 2024
- *Einführung in die neue DBIS-Version Teil 2* on October 8, 2024
- *Erste Schritte: Datenbanken erstellen, suchen und bearbeiten* on October 7, 2024
- *Einführung in die neue DBIS-Version Teil 1* on October 7, 2024
- *Erste Schritte: Organisationsdaten bearbeiten* on October 2, 2024
- *Einführung in die neue DBIS-Version Teil 1* on October 1, 2024
- *Freie Sprechstunde* on July 16, 2024
- *Freie Sprechstunde* on July 15, 2024
- 14 *Registrierungs-Sprechstunden* between June 18, 2024 and August 21, 2024. https://doi.org/10.5283/epub.75074

4.2 Publications and Lectures

- Weisheit, Silke (2025). UR Library Services: Die neue Website der Produktfamilie RVK/EZB/DBIS. RVK-Konferenz. Virtual on November 18, 2025 https://rvk.uni-regensburg.de/images/stories/Con2025/RVK-Konferenz_2025_URL.pdf

- Doß, Brigitte; Alkofer, Anna (2025). Modernizing the Database Information System (DBIS) for Global Collaboration (Poster). INCONECSS Conference, Berlin on May 15, 2025. https://doi.org/10.5283/epub.76720

- Doß, Brigitte; Alkofer, Anna (2025). Modernizing the Database Information System (DBIS) for Global Collaboration (Poster Pitch). INCONECSS Conference, Berlin on May 15, 2025. https://doi.org/10.5283/epub.76722

- Schweighofer, Bianca; Doß, Brigitte (2025). FAQs zur neuen DBIS-Version April 14, 2025. https://doi.org/10.5283/epub.76573

- Doß, Brigitte; Deinzer, Gernot; Schüller-Zwierlein, André (2025). Abschlussbericht DFG-Projekt 440516279 „Ausbau, Konsolidierung und Optimierung des überregional genutzten Datenbank-Infosystems DBIS“. https://doi.org/10.5283/epub.76489

- Doß, Brigitte (2025). Projektabschluss. Post for the project blog. https://dbis.ur.de/projekt/de/ (German) und https://dbis.ur.de/projekt/en/ (English)

- Doß, Brigitte (2024). UR Library Services: Neuigkeiten zu EZB und DBIS. RVK-Konferenz, Regensburg on November 6, 2024. https://doi.org/10.5283/epub.59516

- Doß, Brigitte (2024). DBIS-ZDB-Kooperation. ZDB-Fachtreffen. Virtual on November 22, 2024. https://zeitschriftendatenbank.de/fileadmin/user_upload/ZDB/pdf/fachtreffen/ZDB_Fachtreffen_online_2024.pdf

- Doß, Brigitte (2024). Einbindung der FIDs in DBIS. 2. Treffen DBIS mit AG FID. Virtual on September 13, 2024. https://doi.org/10.5283/10.5283/epub.75073

- Doß, Brigitte; Hartlmüller, Lisa; Lehenmeier Constantin (2024). Relaunch of the Database Information System DBIS. Open Data, Local Views, Global Collaboration. 112. BiblioCon, Hamburg on June 4, 2024. https://opus4.kobv.de/opus4-bib-info/frontdoor/index/index/searchtype/collection/id/17556/start/0/rows/20/facetNumber_author_facet/all/author_facetfq/Do%C3%9F%2C+Brigitte/docId/19154

- Doß, Brigitte; Hartlmüller, Lisa (2024). Kooperation von ZDB und DBIS. ZDB-Anwendertreffen. 112. BiblioCon, Hamburg am 05.06.2024. https://zeitschriftendatenbank.de/fileadmin/user_upload/ZDB/pdf/anwendertreffen/ZDB-Anwendertreffen_2024.pdf bzw. https://opus4.kobv.de/opus4-bib-info/frontdoor/index/index/docId/18865

- Doß, Brigitte; Hartlmüller, Lisa; Krellner, Cornelia (2024). 18 Articles for the Project Blog. https://dbis.ur.de/projekt/de/ (German) and https://dbis.ur.de/projekt/en/ (English)

- Krellner, Cornelia; Doß, Brigitte (2024). Database Information System: Annual Report 2023. Universität Regensburg. Regensburg. https://doi.org/10.5283/epub.55408
- Krellner, Cornelia; Doß, Brigitte (2024). Datenbank-Infosystem: Jahresbericht 2023. Universität Regensburg. Regensburg. Universität Regensburg. https://doi.org/10.5283/epub.55404