Libraries in Germany

A very short introduction to the federal system of libraries in Germany

Political structure, funding and administration

Federal **government: 16 states**

culture and education are responsibility of individual states

- No national library law

- No central institution or government agency

- National library only established fairly recently (1912)

- No national catalogue

  ➢ **Municipalities / local authorities** responsible for public libraries

  ➢ **Federal States** responsible for universities and university libraries

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Die Deutsche Nationalbibliothek

1912 „Deutsche Bücherei" (Leipzig)

1946 „Deutsche Bibliothek" (Frankfurt)

1990 merged to
„Die Deutsche Nationalbibliothek"
(„German National Library")
Leipzig & Frankfurt

"German National Library Act" (2006)
function and objectives:

- acquisition
- bibliographical indexing
- long-term archiving
- making available to the public

➢ works published in Germany after 1913

   and

➢ German-languages works published in other countries after 1913

Leipzig

Frankfurt

Die Deutsche Nationalbibliothek

Deutsche Nationalbibliothek Frankfurt, Foto: Stephan Jockel

Die Deutsche Nationalbibliothek

Deutsche Nationalbibliothek am Deutschen Platz in Leipzig mit Bücherturm und Erweiterungsbau. Foto: kunstmann
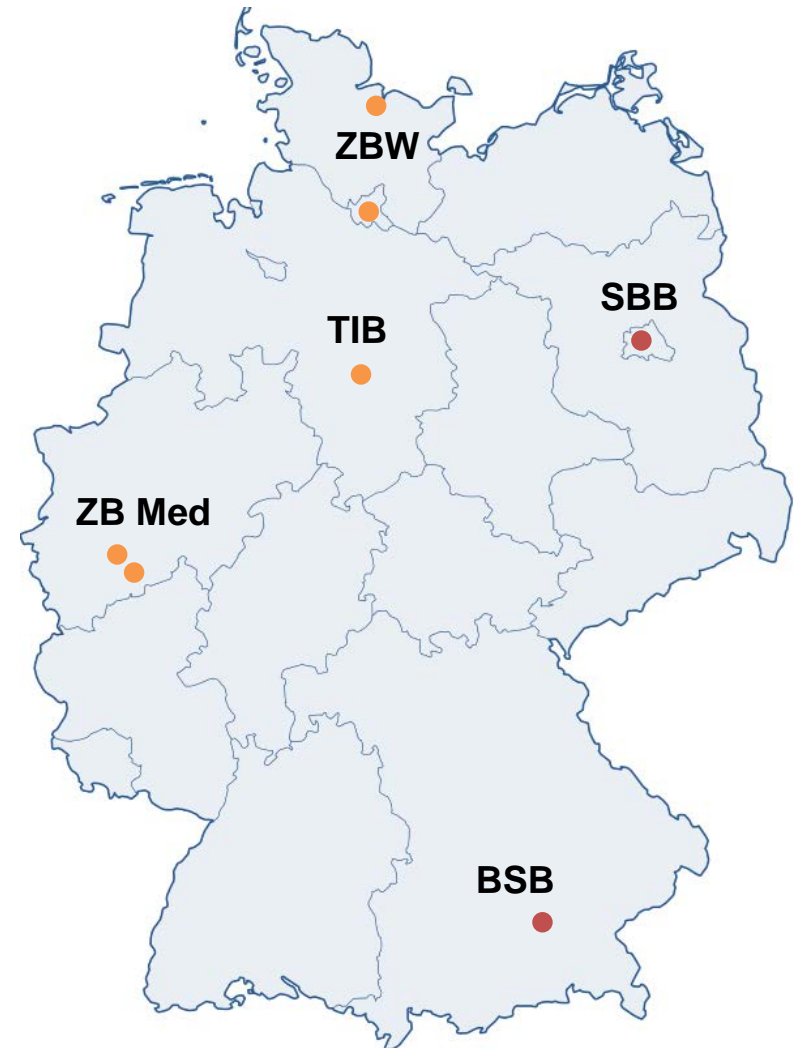
Other libraries of national importance

The **Berlin State Library** (founded in 1661)

The **Bavarian State Library** (Munich) (founded in 1558)

The Central Subject Libraries

- TIB Technische Informationsbibliothek in Hannover

- ZB Med Deutsche Zentralbibliothek für Medizin in Köln (+Bonn)

- ZBW Deutsche Zentralbibliothek für Wirtschaftswissenschaften in Kiel (+ Hamburg)
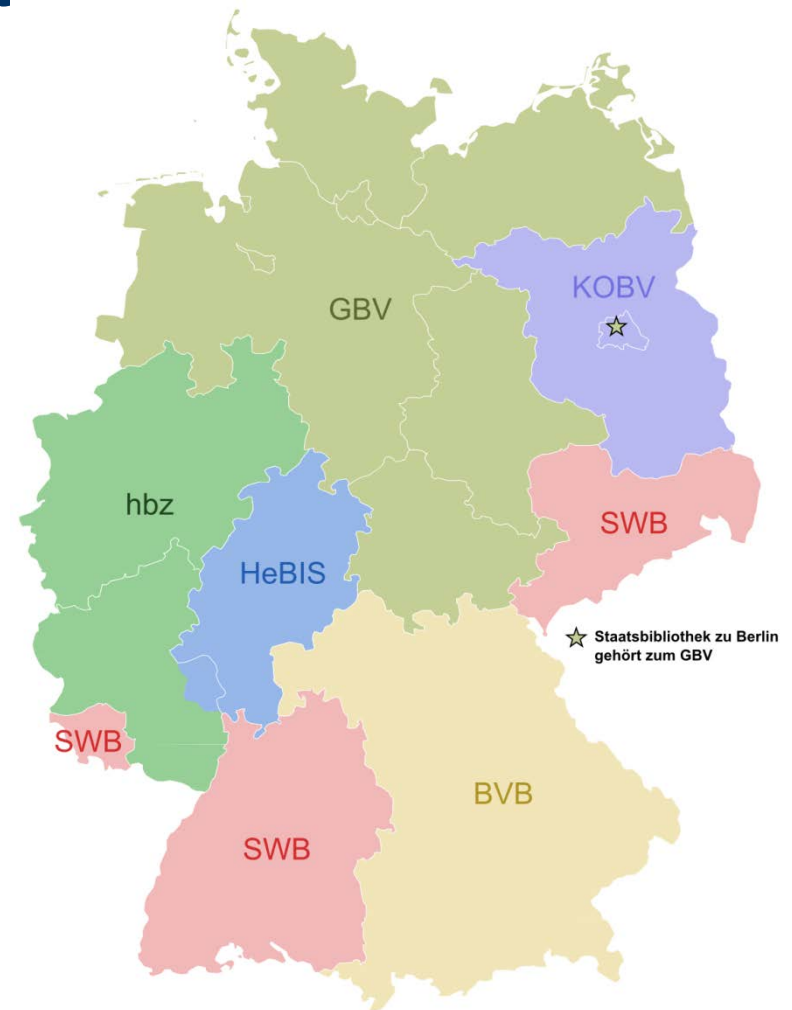
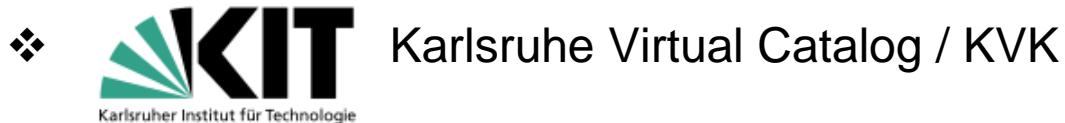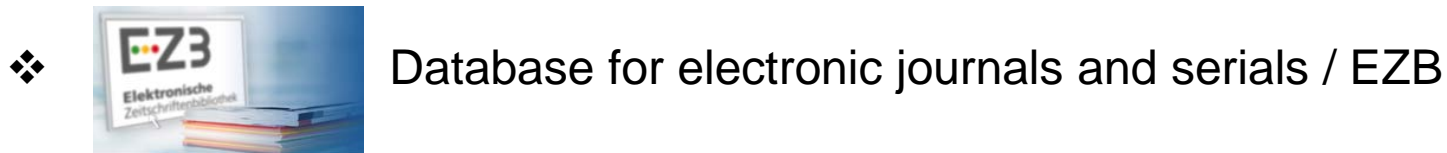# Staatsbibliothek Berlin

Staatsbibliothek Berlin, Foto: http://staatsbibliothek-berlin.de/die-staatsbibliothek/die-gebaeude/

Organization of the Library System: regional library networks

6 regional networks ("Verbünde")

- Regional interlibrary catalogues (cooperation based cataloguing)

- Interlibrary loan

- IT-services and IT-developments

- Hosting services (library systems, repositories, publications systems etc.)

- Organization of cooperations, networking and continuing vocational training

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Catalogs on a national level

❖   Central Journal Database / ZDB

❖   Database for electronic journals and serials / EZB

❖   Karlsruhe Virtual Catalog / KVK

Licensing on national & regional levels

❖ National Licences

- 2004 – 2010

- completed online-databases (humanities, cultural studies)

- access: via public research organisations

- funding: 100% DFG (German Research Foundation)

❖ Alliance Licences

- 2011 – today

- current periodicals, e-books (interdisciplinary)

- access: via consortial partners

- funding: ca. 25% DFG, 75% libraries

❖ Regional consortia

Universities and University Libraries

Universities

- universities (81/113) - universities of applied sciences (105/220)

- educational federalism

- governance aspects:

    - contracts, performance measurement, funding, competition

    - no tuition fees

University Libraries

- institutions within the universities, funded by the universities

- single-tier or two-tier systems

- public service (civil servants/employees)

Literature etc.

- Goethe Institut The Library Landscape in Germany: An Overview
  https://www.goethe.de/en/kul/bib/20365664.html

- Information Brochure of the Consortium of Library Networks (german and english)
  http://www.dnb.de/SharedDocs/Downloads/DE/DNB/wir/agVerbundBroschuere2012.pdf

- Bibliotheksportal (Kompetenznetzwerk für Bibliotheken)
  http://www.bibliotheksportal.de/bibliotheken/bibliotheken-in-deutschland/bibliothekslandschaft.html

- Jürgen Seefeldt and Ludger Syré (2011): Portals to the Past and to the Future –Libraries in Germany
  http://www.goethe.de/z/pro/21-portale/portale_englisch.pdf

- Claudia Lux: The German Library System: structure and new developments, IFLA JOURNAL 29 (2003) 2
  http://webdoc.sub.gwdg.de/ebook/aw/2003/ifla/vortraege/iv/ifla69/article-lux.pdf

- The Education System in the Federal Republic of Germany 2013/2014. A description of the responsibilities, structures and developments in education policy for the exchange of information in Europe
  https://www.kmk.org/fileadmin/Dateien/pdf/Eurydice/Bildungswesen-engl-pdfs/dossier_en_ebook.pdf

- Hochschulrektorenkonferenz: Hochschulsystem
  https://www.hrk.de/themen/hochschulsystem/rolle-der-hochschulen-im-wissenschaftssystem/