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## ZB MED opens up nationwide access to e-books

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New service for registered library users

**ZB MED – Leibniz Information Centre for Life Sciences has expanded its services by giving registered users the opportunity to access certain e-books at home and on the road.**

“Starting today, our users will be able to access e-books from a range of publishers without leaving the comfort of their own home,” says Mareike Grisse, a licensing specialist at ZB MED. This has been achieved through a framework agreement with the owners of the ProQuest platform, which provides digital content worldwide to academics and researchers, libraries, businesses and schools. Library licences are usually tied to a specific location, for example a university campus. That’s why ZB MED users could previously only access electronic media licensed by ZB MED while they were actually on Cologne University’s campus.

But now an initial selection of 150 e-books has been opened up for external access. “We will gradually be increasing the number of available items by adding nationwide access to e-books and e-journals from other providers, too,” says Grisse, explaining ZB MED’s plans for the future.

To use the electronic media off-campus, users will need a valid ZB MED library card. This is available to anyone who is resident in Germany. It is also necessary to install a proxy server. One way to do this is by using a browser add-on, and you can find instructions on how to set up one of these add-ons at <http://ow.ly/Zg6qg>. Once the proxy server is properly configured, users can easily access the e-books through the ZB MED search portal LIVIVO.

“Our users are spending more and more of their time online while on the road, and they want direct access to the items they need. This new service helps them achieve that,” says Ulrich Korwitz, Director of ZB MED.

### **Background information: ZB MED – Leibniz Information Centre for Life Sciences**

ZB MED – Leibniz Information Centre for Life Sciences is Germany's central service centre for specialist information and research support in the field of life sciences. It evolved from the world's largest library in the subject combination of medicine, health, and nutritional, environmental and agricultural science. ZB MED's primary goal is to support researchers, students and key disseminators and multipliers working in these disciplines. To achieve that goal, ZB MED offers literature and specialist information in

both digital and print formats, both on-site and through its semantic-based search portal LIVIVO. ZB MED has its own open access portal – German Medical Science (GMS), and its registration service assigns Digital Object Identifiers (DOIs) to ensure articles and research data are kept permanently available online. ZB MED has two sites, one in Cologne and one in Bonn. As a member of the Leibniz Association, ZB MED helps provide the information infrastructure required for scientific research and plays a major part in maintaining Germany's status as a key player in the world of science and research.

Find out more by visiting the following website: [www.zbmed.de](http://www.zbmed.de).

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