

# vifabio – A guide to biodiversity-related resources in libraries and on the internet

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... available free of charge!  
 ... please visit our demo booth (no. 49)

The Virtual Library of Biology – vifabio – has been established as a biological information portal for research, teaching, and study. This continuing project is conducted by the University Library Johann Christian Senckenberg, Frankfurt/Main with several partner institutions, among them the Botanic Garden and Botanical Museum Berlin-Dahlem (BGBM), the Senckenberg Deutsches Entomologisches Institut (SDEI), and the Natural History Museum Vienna. The comprehensive holdings of biological literature of the special subject collections in Biology, supported by the DFG, form the basis of the content of vifabio.

The project's objective is to create a central access point for various resources for biologists, such as printed materials in libraries, databases and internet sites. The vifabio website [www.vifabio.de](http://www.vifabio.de) was launched in 2007; most of the content is available both in English and German. These are the core elements of vifabio:

❶ The **Virtual Catalogue** integrates libraries with important holdings of biological literature for parallel search. Thereby, vast collections of biological books and journals are retrievable. Data from the Biodiversity Heritage Library enlarges the Virtual Catalogue to cover digitised taxonomic literature. In addition, article databases with data from several million journal articles have been integrated – a document supply service or the electronic full texts being just a few clicks away.



... you can save search results in your bookmark list, and print or download them later

... you can choose target libraries and databases as you wish

... you will find additional information on libraries and databases

❷ The **Internet Guide** is a collection of quality-checked links to biological internet resources. Access is provided via search tools, as well as by browsing through multiple alternative systems of resource arrangement (e.g. subjects/themes, geographic coverage, resource type).

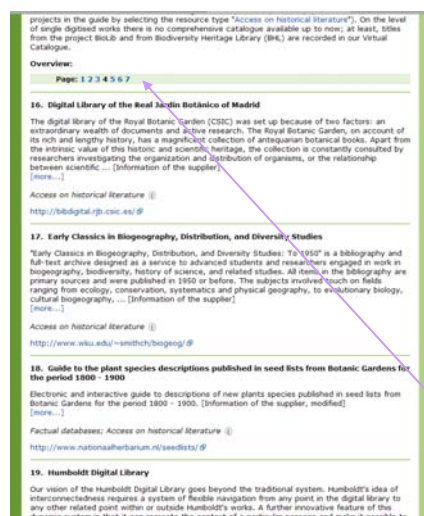
As of May 2009, 1,700+ internet sites have been checked and catalogued, with more to come. Availability of hyperlinked resources is monitored automatically.



... you can easily browse through subject trees

important facts about resources (including abstracts and classification) are shown immediately ...

even more detailed information is at hand ...



❸ An overview of digitisation projects for historical literature summarises those projects that are most important from a biological viewpoint, being based on data from our Internet Guide and updated dynamically. On the level of single works there is no comprehensive catalogue available up to now; at least, titles from the project BioLib and from Biodiversity Heritage Library (BHL) are recorded in our Virtual Catalogue.

... as of May 2009, you can find information and links for more than 30 selected projects

❹ An inventory of important **online databases** for biologists provides access via searching and browsing. This collection comprises bibliographic databases as well as factual and pictorial databases for all sub-disciplines of biology, many of them biodiversity related, totaling about 570 different resources (as of May 2009). For German residents, DFG-funded licences permit nationwide usage of some bibliographic databases, for example, Biological Abstracts 1926-2004.



... you can find several hundred freely available databases

... you can use Biological Abstracts 1926-2004 at no cost (for German universities / residents only)

German residents may search the latest updates – for a moderate fee

Access to electronic journals is enabled through the Electronic Journals Library (EZB – available from many libraries in Central Europe). Lists of new acquisitions of vifabio's partner libraries are provided, as well as other services. Further enhancements of vifabio will include improved search tools, and improved linking features to electronic full-texts as well as integration of more bibliographic databases. A repository for electronic documents, to be established as part of vifabio, shall provide a platform for open access publication.