

MANAGEMENT OF LEGAL KNOWLEDGE.
THE ORGANIZATION OF ACCESS TO LEGAL
KNOWLEDGE AND THE LEGAL REGULATIONS
CONCERNING LEGAL DATABASES IN GERMANY

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In the digital environment of law legal databases are important instruments in the work of lawyers. This applies to every legal employment and every focus of activity. Even the interested public are using legal databases for their own information needs, especially in the times of the corona pandemic. In Hungary the CompLex publishing house (CompLex Kiadó Kft.) is not only publishing professional literature for jurists, but also provides digital information in the form of legal databases. In Germany the publishing house C.H. Beck provides the same range and formats of legal informations via books, e-books and a database. Furthermore legal informations in form of a legal database are provided to German lawyers by the juris GmbH. In contrast to C.H. Beck juris started as legal database and developed since its beginnings additionally more and more publishing activities. The focus of the paper will be on legal online-databases as the aforementioned examples are representative for the main online information sources for legal professionals in Germany. Therefore the following paper intends to give an overview of the legal framework that applies to German online-databases, mainly determined by the Gesetz über das Urheberrecht und verwandte Schutzrechte, whereby the influence of the European law on the German law is likewise considered. The paper intends to end with an overview how the development of legal databases in Germany is driven by the field of tensions between the needs of the legal professions and the technical progress and thereby will give a short outlook for further developments.

Keywords: legal online-database; copyright law; information source; lawyer; Urheberrechtsgesetz