In the first issue of zbNEWS we briefly reported about the release of the swMATH prototype. In our second issue we want to present the project and its features in more detail.

The goal of the swMATH project is to create a novel information service for mathematical software. Funded by the Leibniz Association, swMATH is a joint project of the Mathematisches Forschungsinstitut Oberwolfach and FIZ Karlsruhe with support from ZIB, MATHEON, and WIAS in Berlin and the Felix Klein Center for Mathematics in Kaiserslautern.

swMATH not only offers open access to a comprehensive database with information on mathematical software; it also provides a systematic collection of references to software-relevant publications: each software package in swMATH is linked to relevant peer-reviewed mathematical publications in zbMATH. By systematically connecting mathematical software with publications, swMATH provides valuable information on the actual usage of a certain package. Moreover, developers benefit from the systematic collection of literature references to their work by an independent institution.

Building and maintaining a fairly complete and up-to-date software database is a very difficult task due to the dynamic character of software development and the heterogeneous quality of the available metadata. Feedback from the community is thus very much needed and highly appreciated.

We therefore kindly ask you to visit www.swmath.org and to evaluate the swMATH prototype. In order to gather feedback on the needs of the mathematical software community, we created an online questionnaire available at https://de.surveymonkey.com/s/swMATH-survey.

Thank you for participating in this survey by May 31. The official release of the swMATH service is scheduled for December 2013. Until then, a couple of tasks have still to be accomplished: further improvement of the data quality, completion of the web interface, implementation of update strategies. The last point is crucial for the long-term perspective of any software service since information about software quickly become out-dated. Therefore we are working on the implementation of tools (e.g. automatic homepage verifier) and processes to keep swMATH up-to-date and to assure a consistently high data quality. In this respect, swMATH benefits from being embedded in the technical, logistical and personal infrastructure of FIZ Karlsruhe. Recently, a process has been established which ensures the detection of new mathematical software packages by the editors of zbMATH.

Contact: contact@swmath.org

The vast amount of information available in zbMATH motivates the need for an intuitive-to-use, powerful, and visually appealing interface. A redesigned webpage for zbMATH is in the making and will be launched very soon. Stay tuned!