Use MariaDB Connector

Context and Problem Statement

JabRef needs to connect to a MySQL database. See Shared SQL Database for more information.

Considered Options

- Use MariaDB Connector
- Use MySQL Connector

Other alternatives are listed at https://stackoverflow.com/a/31312280/873282.

Decision Outcome

Chosen option: "Use MariaDB Connector", because comes out best (see below).

Pros and Cons of the Options

Use MariaDB Connector

The MariaDB Connector is a LGPL-licensed JDBC driver to connect to MySQL and MariaDB.

- Good, because can be used as drop-in replacement for MySQL connector

Use MySQL Connector

The MySQL Connector is distributed by Oracle and licensed under GPL-2. Source: https://github.com/mysql/mysql-connector-j/blob/release/9.x/LICENSE. Oracle added the Universal FOSS Exception, Version 1.0 to it, which seems to limit the effects of GPL. More information on the FOSS Exception are available at https://www.mysql.com/de/about/legal/licensing/foss-exception/.

- Good, because it stems from the same development team than MySQL
- Bad, because the "Universal FOSS Exception" makes licensing more complicated.