Deutsche Gesellschaft für Namenforschung e. V.

Der Vorstand

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Letter of Support for the NFDI Initiative Text+

The German Society for Onomastics (Gesellschaft für Namenforschung e.V., GfN), based at the University of Leipzig, is a non-profit scientific society for the promotion of onomastic research. Founded in 1990 by German philologists, Slavists and historians under the name of "Gesellschaft für Namenkunde e.V.", it is today the largest scientific society of its kind in the German-speaking area.

As an international society, the GfN offers scientists, students, independent researchers and the interested public from various countries a platform for subject-related and personal exchange in the area of onomastics. It offers a great variety of informational services related to onomastics, organizes scientific workshops and conferences and is involved in the development of scientific infrastructures in the area of onomastic data collection and curation. The GfN also runs a blog on onomastics with the help of which expert scientists can network and exchange ideas (www.onomastikblog.de/), and it also issues, together with the University of Leipzig, the open access journal "Namenkundliche Informationen", which is subject to peer review (www.namenkundliche-informationen.de/).

Die GfN has about 120 members (among them some institutions) and represents a variety of DH projects in the area of onomastic research, among them the following, in which members of the management board are directly involved:

- Strukturmodell digitaler Ortsnamendatenbanken (Wartena/Ederberg/Zschieschang): Development of a data model which is tailored to the acquisition, processing, analysis and presentation of toponomastic research data, which allows links among different projects and enables the input of data into interdisciplinary research contexts (even including information systems for the wider public).

- ortsnamen.ch (Bickel/Graf): Open-access information platform at which research data from completed and recent onomastic projects in Switzerland are continuously

published in an online database. This goes along with a geo-referencing representation of the research data via different map systems.

- Korpus Alpenwort (Rampl): Linguistically annotated corpus of the journal of the Austrian Alpine Club (1869-2010) with special markings of toponyms and persons' names.

- Familiendatenbank CH (Berchtold/Graf): Onomastic acquisition and etymological processing of family names around 1800 in German-speaking Switzerland.

- FLUNA (Degeen): Field name data bank in North-Western Switzerland (cantons Basel-Stadt, Basel-Land, Solothurn, Bern): Development of a relational cantonal toponomastic database with GIS-application.

- Datenbank des Zürcher Namenbuchs (Siegfried/Studer): Conception and development of a relational online database on the place names of the canton Zürich with GIS-application and interfaces to other databases (e.g. Topoterm).

- Neuer Förstemann/Bayern (Janka/Prinz): Development of an information system for the archiving, publication and analysis of historical-toponomastic data on the basis of the Bavarian Förstemann database.

- onohub (Prinz/Siegfried): Project development of a toponomastic information system with comprehensive (i.a. lexical, cartographical, archival) options for access and processing for the entire German-speaking area.

- Flurnamenerhebung des Bundeslandes Tirol (Rampl): Development of a database and GIS-application for the micro-toponomastics of the state Tirol.

The GfN explicitly welcomes the initiative Text+, especially with regard to its provision of an infrastructure which caters to the needs of both researchers and the interested public, and would like to accompany and work within Text+ as an active partner. Especially the development of a data portfolio, which enables open access to various data collections and secures them long-term, is also a goal of our professional association. In order to establish a transregional network and in order to secure the data quality, we are willing to work within the Governance and to contribute our expertise from various onomastic DH projects. As onomastic data collections (e.g. in the area of place names and persons' names) are also frequently used by the interested public, we would like to contribute our experiences in this area to the Text+ initiative and assist in respective working groups.

Yours sincerely,

(Dr. Inga Siegfried, Vorsitzende)