

Union of the German Academies of Sciences and Humanities | Jägerstr. 22/23 | 10117 Berlin

Prof. Dr. Erhard Hinrichs
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The President

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Letter of Support for the NFDI initiative Text+: Language- and text-based Research Data Infrastructure

Dear Professor Hinrichs,

The German Academies of Sciences and Humanities have been for decades the key players in the field of foundational research in the humanities and cultural sciences. The Academies Programme with 140 current projects as well as the 150 projects completed during the last 40 years produces extremely relevant digital research data in the field of our cultural heritage. On this basis, the academies offer intensively used digital information systems, research data services, and software solutions for the data of numerous historical epochs and humanities disciplines.

The academies are in close cooperation with each other as well as with digital infrastructures and research networks on a national, European and worldwide level. For this reason, they responded early to the impulses of the Council for Information Infrastructures (RFII) to establish a national research data infrastructure (NFDI) and underlined its future significance for the humanities and cultural sciences in a position paper.

In the eyes of the academies, the establishment of a reliable national research data infrastructure is the key to the use of digital methods and thus to the future viability of the humanities as a whole. Without such an infrastructure, future research in the humanities will always be burdened with concerns about the loss of digitally stored knowledge of our cultural heritage. For this reason, the academies are strongly committed to the establishment of NFDI consortia that take into account the specific needs and requirements of foundational research in the humanities. Against this background, the academies, through their dual role as research institutions as well as infrastructure providers, are particularly well

placed both to know exactly what is needed in the field of research data management and, building on this, to develop needs-based, infrastructural solutions.

The research data dealt with in the Academies' Programme can be grouped into two clusters that are closely related: text- and language-based research materials (e.g. files, letters, prints, codices, manuscripts, inscriptions, papyri, charters, etc.) and material and immaterial cultural assets (e.g. artefacts such as bronze or ceramic finds, coins or seals, medieval stained glass or baroque ceiling paintings, sculptures, monuments, buildings, but also performative objects such as music, theatre and dance). In order to ensure the best possible coverage of the entire spectrum of the various research objects and the associated research data, the academies participate in the two humanities consortia "Text+" (philology and linguistics) and "NFDI4Culture" (musicology, art history, theatre and media studies). The consortium proposal "NFDI4Culture" received a positive recommendation by the NFDI Expert Committee in the first round and funding will start this year.

With the aim of developing a science-driven research data infrastructure for the management of research data in the three areas of editions, text collections and dictionaries, the concerns and objectives of the Text+ consortium are of paramount importance for the Academies represented in the Union and their philological and linguistic research projects. The Academies participate strongly in Text+ with their data collections, information infrastructures and software solutions and are willing to make a comprehensive and sustainable contribution to the establishment and long-term operation of the consortium. On behalf of the Presidium of the Union of the German Academies of Sciences and Humanities, I would like to express our sincere thanks for your work and promise our continued strong support for your project.

With best regards,



Hanns Hatt

President