
Prof. Dr. Erhard Hinrichs
Spokesperson Text+
Leibniz-Institut für Deutsche Sprache
R-5, 6-13
68161 Mannheim

Digital Humanities im deutschsprachigen Raum e.V.
c/o Prof. Dr. Christof Schöch, President
University of Trier
Am Universitätsring 15 (FB II / DM 321)
54296 Trier, Germany

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**Letter of intent
of the
Verband Digital Humanities im deutschsprachigen Raum e.V.
(Association for Digital Humanities in the German-speaking regions)
concerning the proposed NFDI-Initiative
Text+: Language- and Text-based Research Data Infrastructure**

The DHd association¹ is a scholarly association that was founded in 2012, and which currently represents more than 300 researchers active in the field of Digital Humanities in Germany, Austria, Switzerland, and beyond. As such, we support scholarship in the Digital Humanities through a wide range of activities. Since 2014 we have run a highly successful annual conference which has attracted up to 650 researchers in recent years. Through our members, and by way of a number of very active working groups, the DHd association brings together a wide range of expertise in key areas of the Digital Humanities. This includes one working group, the AG „Datenzentren“, that is of particular relevance to the NFDI because it is concerned with the role of data centres for Digital Humanities research. It has published its own vision of the structure and relations of humanities NFDI consortia and has discussed it broadly with the community. The DHd association published a first position paper on the NFDI as early as July 2017. It was among the coordinators of the workshop series „Wissenschaftsgeleitete Forschungsinfrastrukturen für die Geistes- und Kulturwissenschaften“ in 2018. In late 2018, it launched, and has since then been moderating, the „Forum geisteswissenschaftliche NFDI“² that brings together more than 20 scholarly associations in the Humanities and functions as a platform for exchange and coordination between the scholarly associations and the proposed Humanities-related NFDI consortia.

Against this background, we believe that the DHd association is able to contribute a unique perspective and important expertise for the successful work and governance of the NFDI consortia for the Humanities. The overarching goals of the DHd association in this context are:

- to ensure that the consortia develop in a complementary manner, meaning that together, they cover the broadest possible range of research data-related needs across all disciplines of the Humanities;

1 See <http://dig-hum.de>.

2 See <https://nfdi.hypotheses.org>.

- to ensure that the researchers in the Humanities are given a strong voice and representation in the governance of the consortia;
- to promote values such as openness and transparency as key components both in the decision-making processes of the consortia and in their technical service portfolios.

Specifically regarding the Text+ consortium, the DHd association wishes to express its willingness and eagerness to play an active part in the consortium governance, notably by sending representatives to the Scientific Coordination Committees. The representatives will strive to work for the benefit of the many researchers represented in the DHd association as well as the Text+ consortium. We are convinced that many of our members will be highly active and competent users and beneficiaries of the services offered by the Text+ consortium.

We will support Text+ in its mission to further develop its portfolio of services and offers in a way that is led by researchers and thus benefits them as much as possible. We will also use the trans-disciplinary nature of the DHd association and our leading role in the „Forum geisteswissenschaftliche NFDI“ to guarantee that the aims of complementarity, inter-connectedness and interoperability between the humanities-related NFDI consortia will be realised.

Beyond this specific role of DHd representatives in the governance of the Text+ consortium, the DHd association encourages the consortium to submit proposals for papers, posters and workshops to the annual conference of the DHd association, which is an excellent venue for dissemination and community engagement. Additionally, we encourage the Text+ consortium to take advantage of the DHd's network and communication structures, particularly the DHd mailing list.

In conclusion, the DHd association would like to express its strong support for the Text+ consortium's application. We firmly believe that the humanities-related consortia, whether already funded or applying in the current round of the NFDI grant, will be able to make essential and complementary contributions to the goals of the NFDI, have much to offer to the NFDI as a whole, and will be essential components in a diverse, open and inter-connected NFDI that fosters and supports innovative research.

With my best regards,



Prof. Dr. Christof Schöch
President, Verband Digital Humanities im deutschsprachigen Raum e.V. (DHd)