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## Letter of Support for the NFDI-Initiative *Text+*: Language- and Text-based Research Data Infrastructure

With this letter, the *Deutsche Gesellschaft für Volkskunde (dgv)* gladly and explicitly supports the efforts of the NFDI consortium *Text+* to develop future-oriented, sustainable and needs-based concepts in matters of research data infrastructure.

As a registered, non-profit society in the form of a scientific professional association, the *Deutsche Gesellschaft für Volkskunde (dgv)* represents the interests of its 1,200 members who are active in the field of empirical cultural studies/folklore studies in the entire German-speaking world. The *dgv* was founded in 1963 and continues the work of the *Verbandes der Vereine für Volkskunde* founded in 1904. Members include more than 120 institutions and corporations from the discipline of European ethnology, empirical and comparative cultural studies and cultural anthropology in the tradition of folklore studies. In addition to university institutes, these are primarily (cultural-historical) museums and collections, state and other research centers for cultural studies, regional associations and local initiatives. Examples include the *Zentralarchiv der Deutschen Volkserzählung* (Marburg), the *Wossidlo-Forschungsstelle für Europäische Ethnologie/Volkskunde* (Rostock), the *Europäische Märchengesellschaft* (Rheine), the *Brüder-Grimm-Gesellschaft* (Kassel) and the *Zentrum für populäre Kultur und Musik* (formerly *Deutsches Volksliedarchiv*, Freiburg). Furthermore, this professional association organizes the activities (working conferences, workshops etc.) of 15 thematically focused commissions/working groups which represent the entire range of professional interests, for example the *Kommission für Erzählforschung* (Commission for Narratology) or the *Kommission für Digitalisierung im Alltag* (Commission for Digitization in Everyday Life).

These and numerous other actors from our professional community are involved in a wide variety of research relationships and, on the one hand, have access to the contents of collections, some of which have grown over decades, and, on the other hand, command intensive experience in the collection, archiving and provision of

multimodal research data generated from qualitative, historically well-founded and contemporarily relevant research into everyday culture. Connecting elements of the professional community whose members are undertaking research in heterogeneous subject areas can be found not least in a common portfolio of methodological orientation in which hermeneutical and discourse-analytical approaches play a prominent role. The challenges of progressive digitization and the demands for increased forms of public science are being met constructively and actively. A special focus has always been on questions of research ethics (such as the reflexivity of the process of research, efforts towards pseudonymization, the problematization of the 'principle of the informant').

The data collected in the research project under the umbrella of our professional association are derived on the one hand from material relics/artefacts, from historical source material as well as from multimodal sources collected in the context of ethnographic fieldwork. Accordingly, the infrastructural and theoretical-conceptual challenges regarding the sustainable archiving, digitization and future provision of this data are extensive and diverse. In recent years, the professional association has, for example, devoted itself intensively to those questions of research ethics which are also being discussed in the Text+ consortium. The *dgv* will gladly contribute its expertise in this area but also hopes that a close cooperation will provide central stimuli for the successful management of research data.

The same applies to the historically oriented research projects within the association. Here, too, questions of research ethics are sometimes involved; however, to a far greater extent, it is also about questions of copyright. Particularly with regard to the focus "collections" of the consortium, the *Deutsche Gesellschaft für Volkskunde* sees the potential for important synergy effects, since numerous scientific institutions which are organized in our professional association have extensive and in part highly heterogeneous collections, ranging from the collection of historical field names to photo archives (with the corresponding contextualizing sources which are relevant to life histories), audio recordings of biographical interviews to sources of an interdisciplinary folk song research. Here, the professional association hopes for especially fruitful possibilities for cooperation with the consortium by, on the one hand, being able to feed the current approaches to processing research data into the discourse in the sense of best practice examples, and on the other hand, by implementing innovative models which are developed in the context of the consortium into the work of our members.

The *Deutsche Gesellschaft für Volkskunde* is looking forward to being part of a transdisciplinary network for the future development of research data infrastructures as an active partner, and is highly interested in an intensive exchange with the participating actors and in contributing our specific expertise to the processes and discourses of the NFDI consortium Text+. Specifically, the professional association will be happy to be involved in the *scientific coordination communities* and actively participate in the innovative scientific governance of the consortium.

The professional association hopes that this cooperation will lead to sustainable and innovative models for the management of research data in cultural studies.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Markus Tauschek', written in a cursive style.

Prof. Dr. Markus Tauschek  
(chairman)