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29 September 2020

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

Dear Prof. Hinrichs,

The DIPF | Leibniz Institute for Research and Information in Education supports educational research, educational practice, educational policy and educational administration on the basis of scientific infrastructure services and research in and on the educational system. Its aim is to support the success of education and to contribute to the mastering of current and future challenges in education.

One strategic focus of the DIPF is the area of "research data in educational science". This focus is handled by all departments of the DIPF, above all by the Information Center Education (IZB) and its affiliated Research Data Center Education (FDZ Bildung) as well as the BBF | Research Library for the History of Education.

The FDZ Bildung provides qualitative research data of educational research as well as quantitative survey instruments (questionnaires, tests) for the purpose of re- and secondary analyses via a legally secure and user-friendly access. The content profile of the FDZ Bildung is characterized by a special interest on school and classroom research and concentrates primarily on methods of video-based classroom research. Beyond this, a fundamental goal of the FDZ is to address the entire range of empirical educational research in the context of lifelong learning and to consider non-formal and informal learning scenarios in addition to formal learning arrangements. The temporal spectrum of the data sets available at the FDZ Bildung essentially comprises more recent studies, especially those of the last two decades, such as the large national studies "DESI -Deutsch-Englisch-Schülerleistungen-International" and "TALIS - Videostudie Deutschland", but also a historically relevant collection of AV data sets from teaching recordings that were made in the GDR and the Federal Republic of Germany between the 1970s and the 1990s and come from disparately distributed sources.

In detail, the FDZ Bildung offers video-based and textual research data (especially transcripts of observed lessons and conducted interviews), extensive contextual information (blackboard pictures, memos etc.), analysis material (e.g. codings, ratings, rating scales) as well as documentation material (e.g. interview guidelines, videography manuals).

The FDZ Bildung welcomes the fact that the exchange of corresponding metadata will ensure the greatest possible interoperability between the services offered by Text+ and the FDZ Bildung, so that subsequent users can find and use the data stocks relevant to them. Furthermore, the FDZ Bildung is willing to contribute its specific expertise and experience, especially in the field of distributed archiving/documentation, to Text+. This is aimed at the joint identification of data stocks that are available and can be used at different data centers.

The BBF | Research Library for the History of Education in Berlin is a center for research on the history of education. It comprises its own library and archive with outstanding holdings relating to the history of education in Germany. The library presents probably the largest collection of pedagogical literature in Germany. Its holdings date back to the 15th century and comprise about 760,000 items. The historical archive is a collecting special archive for educational science, the history of education and the history of science in education and spans 1,800 meters of shelving. The BBF is located at a crossroads between disciplines as well as between research and information infrastructure facilities and thus promotes the user centered development of the digital scientific infrastructure for the humanities.

For more than 20 years, the BBF has played a leading role in the digitization of sources relevant to the history of education. The digital text collections, which focus on the 19th century, include historical-critical letter editions and unpublished transcriptions of high school graduation essays encoded in TEI/XML. In addition, the BBF operates a repository for historical texts, in which about one million text pages generated by OCR are freely accessible via a Web API (IIIF) (Scripta Paedagogica, <https://scripta.bbf.dipf.de/viewer/>).

The simultaneity of the use of physical and digital sources and the heterogeneity of data and documents is a challenge for research data management in the humanities. It is faced with specific workflow modeling and by providing a publishing site, bildungsgeschichte.de, for data papers relating to the history of education. Against this background of the described interdisciplinary experiences and competences as well as the existing infrastructures, the BBF will contribute with data and experts and expertise to NFDI Text+.

The aspired consortium Text+ intends to establish a research data infrastructure focused on linguistic and textual data, initially concentrating on digital collections, editions and lexical resources. These are of high relevance for all language and text-based disciplines, especially for linguistics, literary studies, philosophy, classical philology, anthropology, non-European cultures and languages as well as language and text-based research in the social, political and historical sciences. These resources also offer high points of contact for the educational sciences.

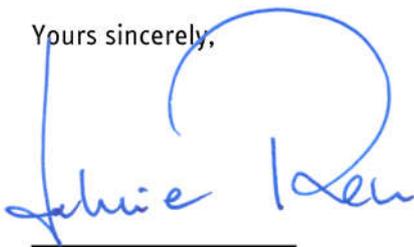
The DIPF is interested in cooperation for the exchange of competencies, the identification of cross-disciplinary relevant fields of action as well as the exchange on possibilities for harmonizing services, standards and procedures. The DIPF therefore supports the project and is happy to declare its willingness to cooperate with the project and to provide advice on the planned research and development of the project. For this purpose, the DIPF can contribute its expertise in the field of research data.

In particular, an exchange on the following points is intended:

- Identification of a set of metadata that can form a basis for a uniform and standardized description of the different text-based resources;

- contributing experience in the preparation and provision of complex data sets with different qualitative data material;
- Domain specific use of standards and interfaces (like IIF);
- Survey of requirements/development of tools for processing and re-using research data (e.g. anonymization tools);
- Exchange of experience on research data management tailored to the community in order to promote the general willingness to share and re-use data;
- Exchange on legal and ethical issues.

Yours sincerely,



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Director of the BBF | Research Library for the History of Education



Prof. Dr. Marc Rittberger
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