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

Dear Professor Hinrichs,

on behalf of the team of the Library of Anglo-American Culture & History (Fachinformationsdienst Anglo-American Culture, FID AAC) we thank you and your colleagues for inviting us to collaborate with the Text+ initiative within the National Research Infrastructure (NFDI) and for updating us on the grant proposal which will be submitted to the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG) later this month.

The FID AAC offers services to improve access to specialised literature and information for researchers in Germany in the following academic fields:

- English Studies, British and Irish Studies
- American Studies
- Canadian Studies
- Australian and New Zealand Studies
- Anglophone Literatures and Cultures / Postcolonial Studies

Our activities are tailored to the specific needs of the respective research communities and the individual characteristics of a wide variety of disciplines such as cultural studies, literary studies, linguistics, history, medieval studies, law, media studies, gender studies, social sciences and political sciences.

The project is managed by Göttingen State and University Library (SUB Göttingen) in cooperation with the Library of the John F. Kennedy Institute for North American Studies (University Library of the FU Berlin) and is funded by the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG) as part of its "Specialised Information Services" programme.

Among the FID's main objectives are collection building (acquisition and licensing of research literature and primary source materials, including a digitization-on-demand service) and offering support services for Open Access publishing. Our subject repository The Stacks (thestacks.libaac.de) provides long-term preservation and discoverability of digital publications of different kinds (including 'grey literature' such as conference programmes and course syllabi).

Since there is a growing demand for support regarding the management of research data in the humanities, the proposed NFDI services constitute valuable supplements to the services offered by the FID AAC, especially in the area of long-term data storage of 'text as data' such as data associated with specific research projects as well as large text corpora. While research questions are often very specific, there are central problems which many projects need to tackle, ideally before starting to build, gather and encode corpora or other materials. Specifically, there is a need for support regarding questions of copyright for researchers working with contemporary textual materials which cannot be shared digitally without restrictions. It would also be very useful to establish support services within the NFDI for assigning persistent identifiers to data (such as Digital Object Identifiers / DOIs).

While the various DFG-funded FIDs are points of contact for specific research communities, building a sustainable national infrastructure and support network for managing and storing research data is an important goal that can only be achieved through cooperation with other institutions and consortia. We hope to be able to contribute to the initiative's efforts of developing a national research data infrastructure and to become a part of the network of participating and supporting research and memory institutions.

As a library service geared specifically to the needs of a diverse field of study and a number of disciplines, the FID AAC would be happy to support the Text+ initiative in its community outreach and to keep our research communities updated on the latest developments regarding the NFDI. In addition, we will gladly include Text+ representatives as speakers at our future workshops.

We are happy to hereby give our full support to the Text+ consortium and look forward to future cooperation. Please feel free to use this letter of support as needed to express the mutual engagement between the FID AAC and the Text+ consortium.

Yours sincerely,

Dorothea Schuller, Project Coordination (Göttingen)

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