

**Libraries are active partners in the NFDI
Letter of support of section 4 in the dbv (September 2020)**

The German Library Association¹ (dbv) represents libraries of all sectors and supports them in their role and further development in the course of social and technical changes caused by digital change. In addition, the dbv represents the libraries towards politics in order to contribute to the improvement of political or legal framework conditions; in this context, copyright law is one of the most important issues.

Section 4 of the dbv² organizes the academic universal libraries (state and regional libraries, university libraries, libraries of universities of applied sciences). The activities of Section 4 focus on the exchange of experience and information, positioning and strategies for the further development of academic librarianship and mutual cooperation. Section 4 is well networked in the scientific community.

In its position paper "Scientific Libraries 2025"³ (2018), Section 4 addresses research data management and NFDI (p. 14): The distributed National Research Data Infrastructure (NFDI) with subject-specific consortia and networks as well as corresponding developments on a European and international level are jointly developed by infrastructure and science. This maximizes the visibility and transparency of research. The re-use of data helps to avoid duplication of work, enables new insights and is a key driver of scientific competitiveness. Research data is a valuable asset of academic institutions and is increasingly taking on the importance that publications have had and continue to have.

Against this background, Section 4 expressly welcomes the fact that Section 4 libraries participate in NFDI consortia in various functions and roles. The libraries participating in NFDI consortia contribute significantly to the establishment and further development of important information structures in the spirit of Open Science. In this context, the implementation of the FAIR principles, competence development for and standardization of metadata, professionalization and qualification in the field of data science, long-term availability and long-term archiving are particularly important.

Section 4 will therefore support libraries that assume tasks or roles in NFDI consortia within their possibilities and give them the opportunity to present, discuss and disseminate development results. Furthermore, Section 4 could contribute to further networking by founding a working group on "NFDI information infrastructures".

The NFDI is a great opportunity for the establishment and expansion of distributed digital information infrastructures, which are jointly designed, developed and supported by infrastructure institutions and the scientific community. Section 4 libraries, which are involved in NFDI consortia, make it possible to participate in and shape these developments. Section 4 strongly supports the outreach of these structures and their requirements.

¹ <https://www.bibliothekerverband.de/>

² <https://www.bibliothekerverband.de/fachgruppen/sektionen/sektion-4.html>

³ <https://www.bibliothekerverband.de/fachgruppen/sektionen/sektion-4/publikationen.html>