

ARBEITSGEMEINSCHAFT FÜR GERMANISTISCHE EDITION

Sprecher: Prof. Dr. Bodo Plachta
Niesertstraße 34
48145 Münster
Tel.: 0251 36606
Mail: b.plachta@t-online.de

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

Münster, 10. September 2020

Dear Professor Hinrichs,

The *Arbeitsgemeinschaft für germanistische Edition* (*AgE*, Association for Scholarly Editing – German Textual Scholarship) and the commission *AgE-DH* for Digital Scholarly Editing (DSE) and Digital Humanities (DH) hereby state their support for the *Text+* consortium envisaged as part of the National Research Data Infrastructure (NFDI) program, funded by the German Research Foundation (DFG). *AgE* and *AgE-DH* are welcoming *Text+* as a DH research data project which will support creation, operation and sustainability of digital text-based collections, dictionaries and scholarly editions (SCC's) as part of the NFDI infrastructure. Scholarly editions, also DSE, are at the heart of the academic interest and long-term research endeavors of *AgE* and *AgE-DH*, which is why we see our collaboration with *Text+* as a strategic investment in our research and development activities. *AgE* and *AgE-DH*, which represent textual scholars from a wide range of humanities disciplines, are looking forward to the collaboration with *Text+* and are willing to support it with the expertise, knowledge and methodological skills aggregated in this academic association as well as through active collaboration on matters related to sustainable DSE's and digital textual scholarship.

The *Arbeitsgemeinschaft für germanistische Edition*, founded in 1986, constitutes a research network that brings together around 150 international experts specialized in scholarly editing and textual scholarship across many humanities disciplines (modern and medieval literature, philosophy, theology, history, law, musicology, and, with *AgE-DH*, digital humanities). The *AgE* has strong ties with the *European Society for Textual Scholarship* (ESTS), the French *Institut des textes et manuscrits modernes* (ITEM) and the International Research Network *Genetic Criticism and Digital Humanities* (DIGEN). The *AgE* organises conferences biennially, edits the yearly periodical *Editio. Internationales Jahrbuch für Editionswissenschaft* (de Gruyter, since 1987), and supports various scholarly editing projects. The *AgE* has been formative for philological research and methodological development of scholarly editing in the German-speaking countries and research contexts. Next to its board, *AgE* established four

commissions: a) the commission for *Allgemeine Editionswissenschaft* (general scholarly editing research), b) the commission for the edition of medieval and early modern texts, c) the commission for the edition of texts since the 18th century and d) the commission for digital scholarly editions (DSE) and digital humanities (DH) in the context of scholarly editing (*AgE-DH*).

With this background, *AgE* and *AgE-DH* are able to provide *Text+* with the wide range of expertise and experience in scholarly editing research and methodology, access to experts in the various individual disciplines and sub-disciplines of the field (e.g. editions in musicology, diplomatic editions, digital editing, etc.), facilitated access to publishing in the peer-reviewed journal *Editio*, as well as to experts who are currently developing DSE's and current work on sustainable standards for DSE's in the context of *AgE-DH*.

AgE and *AgE-DH* are committed to developing, discussing and maintaining scholarly standards for editions of historical texts and media. Therefore, *AgE* and *AgE-DH* have an intrinsic interest to cooperate with *NFDI* and *Text+* in order to facilitate and ensure the implementation of the highest quality, standards-compliant and long-term sustainable digital scholarly editions (DSE's) as research data in the *NFDI* context. A successful cooperation would also enable *AgE-DH* to advise and facilitate expert scholarly editors if they choose to implement digital editions or sustainable long-term versions of digital editions in *NFDI*. The cooperation with *Text+* will enable *AgE* and *AgE-DH* sustainable solutions for digital research data (editions and mass-digitized textual corpora) and will improve visibility and availability of scholarly editions as well as text-based research data in the scholarly community.

We will therefore be delighted to collaborate with the *Text+* consortium as an active partner in planned activities by playing the role of an active expert interlocutor in the individual boards and working groups, facilitating expert consultations and taking part in other activities (e.g. conferences). The continuous exchange between *Text+* and *AgE* will give us the opportunity to communicate the scholarly needs, standards and most important issues of current DSE research, and also disseminate and facilitate use of the innovation and development of *Text+* within the *AgE* and *AgE-DH* community.

Sincerely,



Bodo Plachta

Spokesperson *Arbeitsgemeinschaft für germanistische Edition*



Thorsten Ries

Spokesperson commission *AgE-DH* for Digital Scholarly Editing (DSE) and Digital Humanities (DH)



Stefanie Acquavella-Rauch

Vice-Spokesperson commission *AgE-DH* for Digital Scholarly Editing (DSE) and Digital Humanities (DH)