

Proposal Preparation Instructions

Project Proposals in the Area of Scientific Library Services and Information Systems (LIS)



Disclaimer: The English translation of this document is provided for informational purposes. In the event of a discrepancy between the English and the German versions, the German text takes precedence.

Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft

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These guidelines apply to project proposals in the DFG's Scientific Library Services and Information Systems (LIS) Programme. **Please note that you need to choose between the different LIS funding programmes.**

To learn more about a programme's formal requirements and specifications, please refer to the relevant **guidelines (in some cases, guidelines with supplementary instructions)** or, for time-limited funding opportunities, the call for proposals (generally referred to in the following as the **"programme guidelines"**). If you need advice, please contact the members of staff named in the programme guidelines.

A proposal consists of the following three parts:

- A Proposal Data and Obligations
- B Project Description
- C Attachments

To complete an electronic proposal form and to transmit your proposal data and related documents securely, please use elan, our electronic proposal processing system:

elan.dfg.de

Proposals can only be submitted via elan. If you do not have an elan account, please register for one and allow at least 48 hours for authorisation. Proposals can only be submitted once registration has been completed.

If you cannot find the appropriate programme opportunity in the elan portal for your proposal, please contact a staff member in the Scientific Library Services and Information Systems division.

Proposals may be submitted either in German or in English.

A Proposal Data and Obligations

In section A, you are asked to enter information on the project, participating institutions and individuals, and to accept the required formal obligations.

Please enter this information via the DFG's electronic proposal form provided in elan:

elan.dfg.de

When writing your project summary in section A, please note that if funding is awarded, the summary will be published on the DFG website, including the GEPRIS database. It should therefore be comprehensible to a general audience and should not exceed 3,000 characters in length. The summary should characterise the project as a whole and not only the activities during the proposed funding period.

Please give the title of the proposed project in section A (a maximum of 300 characters with no special characters) and the summary in German and English.

B Project Description

For the description of your project, please use the appropriate template in German or English provided in elan. Your project description **may not exceed 15 pages in length for sections 1 to 3. A maximum of an additional 10 pages is available as of section 4.**

The template formatting should be retained. In particular, the font should not be smaller than Arial 11 point, with line spacing of no less than 1.2. For the section Project- and subject-related list of publications, the font should not be smaller than Arial 9 point. In sections 1 and 2 you may refer to an unlimited number of your own works and those of others that are publicly available. Please list the publications you cite here in the Project- and subject-related list of publications (section 3).

Indicate clearly throughout the proposal whenever you are referring to your own work or that of other researchers. The absence of any such indication may constitute a breach of good research practice, and in individual cases may constitute scientific misconduct according to the Rules of Procedure for Dealing with Scientific Misconduct (VerfOwF). Your own preliminary work, if publicly available, is to be listed with the date of publication. If this preliminary work was based on DFG funding, please refer to the respective stage of a funding period in the text of the proposal.

If, in preparing your proposal, you used artificial intelligence (AI) in the form of generative models for text and image creation, please disclose this fact in a scientifically appropriate manner in your proposal. For more information, see the [“Research Integrity” portal](#).

When describing your project, please indicate the LIS funding programme or the call under which you would like to submit your proposal and note the **instructions given in the programme guidelines**, particularly sections I (Programme Information) and II (Proposal Modules/Funding).

Template instructions (numbered as in the template):

1 Starting point

State of the art and preliminary work

For new proposals, please explain briefly and precisely the state of the art and your preliminary work in their direct relationship to the infrastructure project you are planning.

This explanation should demonstrate why you want to undertake the project and the developments or experience from which it is derived. Please give details in particular of how it addresses proven needs of the scientific community and how these needs have been determined.

Explain where you situate your own research or that of your institution and in what areas you or your institution intend to make a unique, innovative, and promising contribution beyond a local or regional scope. You should also explicitly describe any relevant international developments or circumstances. This description must be concise and understandable without referring to additional literature.

For renewal proposals, please also describe the work you have already done on this project and the results you have obtained. Please attach a detailed interim report. This information and the interim report must be understandable without references to additional literature. In the case of projects seeking to establish information infrastructures (portals, databases, etc.): if these are not yet publicly accessible at the time of submission of the renewal proposal but are available in a beta version, please provide the access data for the reviewers.

2 Objectives and work programme

2.1 Anticipated total duration of the project

Please state

- the project's intended duration and how long DFG funds will be necessary,
- for ongoing projects: since when the project has been active.

2.2 Objectives

Please give a concise description of your project objective, relating it directly to the **objectives given in the programme guidelines**. Explain what specific results can be anticipated by optimising the information infrastructure, how they fit into existing national or international structures, and how these will benefit research.

State to what extent the project should be seen as a model or a pilot project and what needs would be met beyond those of your own institution.

Please indicate if you anticipate results that, as well as improving the information infrastructure, may be relevant from both research and non-research related perspectives (such as science policy, technology, the economy or society).

2.3 Work programme and proposed research methods

Please give a detailed account of the steps you are planning to take during the proposed funding period and describe the methods you will use. Indicate which methods are already available and what relevant standards and best practices must be observed. Also detail any assistance that will be required from outside of your working group or institution.

If relevant, explain any alternative approaches to the research methods. Where possible, explain any factors which, in your view, represent a risk to the implementation of the project. Where relevant, explain how you plan to avoid these risks and handle such situations.

List the steps planned for each applicant and draw up a clear overview of the structure and a schedule of work for those participating in the project.

The quality of the work programme is critical to the success of a funding proposal. The work programme should clearly state how much funding will be requested, for what period, why the funds are needed and how they will be used, providing details on individual items or your own financial contributions under item 5.9 where applicable.

2.4 Relevance of sex, gender and/or diversity in the research project

Where applicable, please describe whether and if so to what extent the sex, gender and/or diversity

- of persons under study,
- of individuals affected by the implementation of research results,
- of animals under study,
- with regard to samples taken from humans or animals,
- of researchers,
- or in other respects

is relevant to the research project (methods, work programme, objectives, etc.).

The relevance may vary depending on the subject area, project topic or methods and according to the different stages of the research project (ranging from the development of research questions through to application), for instance.

Additional information is available at:

www.dfg.de/diversity_dimensions

3 Project- and subject-related list of publications

This list should **only** contain those works that you **cited** in sections 1 and 2.

The font used for the publication list should not be less than Arial 9 point.

For both new proposals and renewal proposals, you can refer to your own works and those of others; there is **no limit to the total number of publications listed**. Works which are not in the public domain are not considered publications and cannot be cited. An exception is made for papers that have already been accepted for publication, in which case the manuscript and the editor's confirmation of acceptance must be enclosed.

A maximum of ten of your own publications that are most relevant to the project can be highlighted in bold or some other way. Even if there are several applicants, the maximum of ten highlighted works may not be exceeded.

Note that reviewers are not required to read any of the works you cite. This also applies to review sessions that are held by reviewers on site. Here it is possible to provide manuscripts and publications created prior to the review session in order to be able to explain progress reports at the meeting so that reviewers can view them if necessary. However, reviews are only ever based on the text of the actual proposal.

Please note the “Guidelines for Preparing Publication Lists” (DFG form 1.91):

www.dfg.de/formulare/1_91

In the following sections, we ask you for information regarding important topics in research. In keeping with the relevance of each topic for your proposed research project, please provide a concise but sufficiently comprehensive explanation.

If any of these topics are of central importance to the research question of your proposed project, discuss them in context under sections 1 and 2 and reference them accordingly in the following sections.

The following sections (as of section 4) must not exceed 10 pages in total

4 Supplementary information on the project context

4.1 General ethical aspects

Taking into account the discipline-specific standards and ethical regulations relevant to your project, indicate whether you anticipate any risks and/or harm to individuals or groups and/or the potential for other negative effects that might be posed by your research. If so, how do you intend to address these issues within the project?

In general, applicants should examine whether their projects require a statement by an ethics committee.

4.2 Considerations on aspects of ecological sustainability in the planning and implementation of the project

Use this space to reflect on how sustainability considerations are taken into account in your proposed project or are relevant to it. Quality is the pivotal factor for the funding decision, however, so this is the priority in terms of planning the project; for this reason, resource-saving and emission-reducing measures should not result in restrictions in the desired project results. If increased funding is required due to more sustainable research approaches, this can be taken into account when applying for funds. For further information, see the cross-disciplinary catalogue of guiding questions:

www.dfg.de/reflection_sustainability

4.3 Measures to meet funding requirements and handle project results

Describe concisely your approach to meeting the **funding requirements described in item I.2.2 of the programme guidelines**, irrespective of whether you are applying for funds for the aspects in question. For projects that are focussed on building up longer-term nationwide structures, illustrate your sustainability plan.

Describe measures to safeguard and disseminate the project results and to feed them back into the information sector and scientific communities; name the institutions/facilities that will be responsible for this.

If research data will be systematically produced using DFG project funds and such data is suitable for reuse, describe what measures have been or will be implemented to ensure their management, curation and long-term preservation for future reuse. Please regard existing standards and data repositories or archives where appropriate.

Further suggestions and examples of best practice can be found at:

www.dfg.de/proposal_process/research_data

If applicable, please also state what kind of data and information management support will be provided by the participating institutions.

4.4 Formal assurances

Formal assurance must be given that specific conditions of funding will be met. These depend on the funding programme and can include long-term provision of project results, compliance with specifically named standards, or the amount of the applicants' own financial contributions (see Proposal Structure in the relevant programme guidelines or call text).

Copy the relevant assurances and declarations explicitly required in the **programme guidelines**.

5 People/collaborations/funding

5.1 Employment status information

For each applicant, state the last name, first name, and employment status (including duration of contract and funding body, if on a fixed-term contract).

5.2 Composition of the project group

List only those individuals who will work on the project but will not be paid out of the project funds. State each person's name, academic title, employment status, and type of funding.

Please list separately the individuals paid by their institution(s) and those paid using other third-party funding (including fellowships).

Please give appropriate consideration to diversity when composing the members of the project group (regardless of the individual funding sources). For additional information, see:

www.dfg.de/diversity/en

5.3 Institutions or researchers in Germany with which/whom you have agreed to cooperate on this project

If you will be pursuing your project jointly with researchers working in Germany and have shared responsibility for the conduct of the project, list the names of these individuals under co-investigators. The term co-investigator refers to individuals who are eligible to submit proposals but who neither request nor receive project funding.

In addition, list the names of researchers in Germany with whom you will be collaborating on the proposed project but who will not share responsibility for the conduct of the project. Any such agreements must be attached to the proposal.

5.4 Institutions or researchers abroad with which/whom you have agreed to cooperate on this project

If you intend to pursue the project in close collaboration with researchers or institutions based outside Germany, state the names of these individuals or institutions and please state

- whether the project will be conducted as part of an agreement between the DFG and a partner organisation,

www.dfg.de/internationales/partner

Please note the individual country information provided.

- Whether, and if so, to what extent your cooperation partners in a partner organisation are applying for DFG funding.

A corresponding signed letter of commitment must be submitted in the attachment to your proposal.

5.5 Institutions and researchers with which/whom you have collaborated scientifically within the past three years

This information will assist the DFG's Head Office in avoiding potential conflicts of interest during the review process.

5.6 Project-relevant cooperation with commercial enterprises

If you will be conducting your project in cooperation with a commercial enterprise, please note the EU guidelines on state aid.¹ Depending on the circumstances, it may be necessary to conclude a contract with the company or submit a declaration to the DFG. Please refer to DFG form 4.02 "Guidelines on the Participation of Commercial Enterprises in Research Projects". If applicable, please contact your research institution in this regard.

www.dfg.de/formulare/4_02

If you are planning to cooperate with an application partner on a transfer project, i.e. a project that tests the results generated by a DFG-funded research project or develops basic-research findings into prototypes or exemplary applications, note the supplementary instructions contained in DFG form 54.014.

www.dfg.de/formulare/54_014

5.7 Project-relevant participation in commercial enterprises

Please indicate if you are the owner of a commercial enterprise or a stakeholder in one (e.g. a director). If so, please state how your research project is linked to the company's production branch or activities. Please refer to DFG form 4.03, "Information on Work Results and Usage Rights in the Event of an Association with a Company".

www.dfg.de/formulare/4_03

5.8 Other submissions

List any funding proposals for this project and/or major instrumentation previously submitted to a third party.

¹ Framework for State Aid for Research and Development and Innovation (2022/C 414/01)

5.9 Financial contributions

State how much funding and what equipment and staff will be contributed to the project by the applicant(s). This information must be provided in detail in the proposal. Please note the **instructions in the programme guidelines** and use the structure and order given in the section “Requested modules/funds” to list the information.

Please indicate explicitly if the equipment will be available on site for the project. If you are applying for instruments that are available at your institution, but are not at the project’s disposal, please explain why this is the case in the section “Requested modules/funding”.

6 Requested modules/funds

6.1 Requested modules/funds

Explain each item for each applicant (stating last name, first name).

If the LIS funding programme (or call) selected contains modules for the requested funds (see **programme guidelines**), please follow the instructions on requesting a module.

For electronic proposal submissions, please note that euro amounts will automatically be rounded to the nearest hundred, which could result in slight discrepancies in the staffing amounts.

If you are planning to apply for direct project costs under the category “Other” (DFG form 52.01), which include third-party contracts, please note that adequate market research must be described in detail. At least one quote must be submitted. When submitting more than one quote, give reasons for preferring one quote over another.

If no modules are listed in the programme guidelines but direct information about available funds is provided, use the information in the programme guidelines to sequence the list of funds.

C Attachments

Include all necessary proposal attachments (such as data sheets, quotes, title lists, curricula vitae, publication lists and signed letters of commitment). In general, the number of attachments should be kept to a minimum.

When submitting your proposal electronically via elan, you will be asked to upload all relevant documents prior to submission. Please make sure that the security settings for the PDF documents allow your documents to be read, copied and printed, and note the maximum size of 10 MB per document.

Save PDF documents according to the naming protocol listed at the end of this document to facilitate the processing of your proposal.

Supplementary data sheets

Depending on the LIS funding programme, additional data sheets may be required for the proposed project (see **programme guidelines** "Additional information and data sheets"). Templates for the data sheets are available in elan.

Curricula vitae and lists of the most important scientific results

The proposal must include each applicant's academic curriculum vitae with a list of their most important scientific results. The template provided (DFG form 53.200) must be used for this purpose:

www.dfg.de/formulare/53_200_elan

To enable reviewers to assess an applicant's scientific track record appropriately, applicants may indicate in their CVs any circumstances that might have hampered their scientific work, for example, periods in which they were unable to work continuously due to childcare obligations or due to prolonged serious illness or disability.

Each academic curriculum vitae must include the list of the most important publications or published results of the applicant in question. The information can relate to the person's entire academic career; the publications need not be directly related to the proposed project. The list is to be divided into two parts and each part is to be numbered:

- The first **mandatory** “Category (A) – Articles in peer-reviewed journals, contributions to peer-reviewed conferences or to anthology volumes, and book publications” may contain a maximum of ten publications.
- The number of publications listed in the second **optional** “Category B – Any other form of published results” is likewise limited to a maximum of ten. This may include contributions to non-peer-reviewed conferences, articles on preprint servers, data sets, protocols of clinical trials, software packages, patents applied for and granted, blog contributions, infrastructures or transfer. You may also indicate other forms of academic output here, such as contributions to the (technical) infrastructure of an academic community (including in an international context) and contributions to science communication.

Please note the “Guidelines for Preparing Publication Lists” (DFG form 1.91):

www.dfg.de/formulare/1_91

Additional attachments

Additional attachments can be submitted with the proposal, such as statements from collaborating institutions or quotes for the procurement of equipment or for services by a third party.

Naming Protocol for Proposal Documents

Document (where applicable)	Document name
instrumentation quote (Angebote zu Geräten)	Angebot_<instrument type>_<manufacturer>
additional attachment (Weitere Anlage)	Attachment_<name of attachment>
project description (Beschreibung des Vorhabens) (Part B of proposal)	Beschreibung_des_Vorhabens
proposal data and obligations (Daten zum Antrag und Verpflichtungen) (Part A of proposal)	Daten_zum_Antrag_und_Verpflichtungen
data sheets (Datenblätter)	Datenblatt_<Name_Datenblatt>
staff questionnaire (Fragebogen Mitarbeiter)	Fragebogen_<last name of respondent>
Curriculum vitae with a list of scientific results (Wissenschaftlicher Lebenslauf mit Verzeichnis wissenschaftlicher Ergebnisse)	CV_PubList_<person's last name>
accepted manuscripts (Zulässige Manuskripte; erforderliche Annahmebestätigung)	<year>_<last name_author>_<keyword> Bestätigung_<year>_< last name_author >_<keyword>