

# Letter of Intent

Renewal Proposal 2025



## Text+

Language and text-based research data  
infrastructure

**Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft**

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## 1 Binding letter of intent as advance notification of a full renewal proposal

x	Binding letter of intent (required as advance notification for renewal proposals in 2025)
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## 2 Formal details<sup>1</sup>

<b>Name of the consortium</b>	Text+: Language- and Text-Based Research Data Infrastructure
<b>Acronym of the consortium</b>	Text+

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<sup>1</sup> Changes from phase 1 to phase 2 highlighted in bold in all tables.

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[Academy of Sciences and Literature Mainz](#)

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[Deutsche Schillergesellschaft e.V. Deutsches Literaturarchiv Marbach](#)

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### **3 Objectives, work programme and research environment in the second funding period**

#### **3.1 Research area of the proposed consortium (according to the DFG classification system)**

1.11-02 Ancient Cultures (partly); Greek and Latin Philology 1.14 Linguistics; 1.15 Literary Studies; 1.16 Social and Cultural Anthropology, Non-European Cultures, Jewish Studies and Religious Studies (partly); 1.18 Philosophy; 1.25 Jurisprudence (partly)

#### **3.2 Concise summary of the consortium's main objectives and task areas**

Textual data, from historical manuscripts to digital corpora, is a central cultural asset and the foundation of human communication, knowledge transfer, and societal interaction. Textual data exists in many forms and is increasingly vital to research across the humanities and social sciences. Ensuring its availability, accessibility, and long-term preservation has become a central concern for academic communities. Text+ addresses this by building a specialized infrastructure for text- and language-based research data.

In its second funding phase, Text+ aims to both consolidate and institutionalize this infrastructure and tackle new challenges posed by the growing influence of AI, particularly large language models. As AI reshapes how we interact with and analyze text, questions of ethical responsibility, data governance, and academic freedom become urgent. Sovereignty over data and technology, especially concerning cultural heritage, is crucial for maintaining independent and transparent research environments.

To meet these challenges, Text+ emphasizes the importance of providing sovereign, legally compliant access to AI tools and infrastructures, as well as ensuring adherence to CARE principles (Collective Benefit, Authority of Control, Responsibility, and Ethics), particularly when

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dealing with sensitive or culturally significant data. Grand Challenges such as data sovereignty, access to cultural heritage, and the development of open knowledge structures (e.g., annotation frameworks, graphs, and linked open data) are central to the Text+ agenda and are additionally supported by the strategic themes: Textification (Exploring how textual representations are becoming a dominant interface for all forms of data — and how Text+ must evolve to support this shift.), Structurification (Investigating the dynamic interplay between structured and unstructured data.) and Humanification (Re-centering human values, interpretability, and justice in AI-driven environments of language and text processing — and ensuring technology serves research and society, not the reverse).

Text+ is an integral part of Germany's NFDI infrastructure, integrating established discipline-specific centers to lay the groundwork for a digitally sovereign and socially responsible research ecosystem in the humanities and beyond.

The work programme builds on the successes and the infrastructure components developed during the first funding phase. Proven elements of the project structure have been retained and thoughtfully adapted to meet emerging needs and evolving requirements. To this end, the project relies on the close integration of specific research data and domain-specific expertise (specifically through the Text+ Centers) with the infrastructure provided for the community, which enables access to, use of, and archiving of research data. In particular, providing research-driven tools and methods within the Text+ infrastructure is essential for effective data use. The interplay between data domains and infrastructure is coordinated by the two task areas, Administration and Infrastructure/Operations, and is closely aligned with the community. Through this structure, Text+ makes the concept of a research data infrastructure tangible.

Data domain-specific expertise, including the availability, provision, delivery, archiving, and enrichment of research data, is contributed in conjunction with IO and administration by the four data domains: **Library Holdings as Research Data, Language Corpora and Elicited Data, Lexical Resources, and Editions**. The data domains integrate the Text+ centres and the expert community, and within the Text+ service portfolio, they are particularly responsible for science-driven application scenarios and services. To simultaneously ensure both domain specificity and the integration of offerings, the data domains rely on uniform measures in their work programs: (1) Federated Research Data Infrastructure, (2) Enabling Text and Language Data for AI, (3) Interfaces between data from data domains, (4) Implicit and Explicit Structures of Language Data, and (5) Communities.

**Infrastructure/Operations (IO)** is central in enabling Text+ to support the core usage patterns of an infrastructure addressing language- and text-based research data in the Humanities, such as re-use, development, preservation, or machine processing of research data. To achieve this, IO focuses on the following objectives: (a) Providing, maintaining, and enhancing the Text+

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portal as a user interface for the resources of Text+, (b) Ensuring a coherent Text+ service portfolio adhering to state-of-the-art standards, (c) Encouraging partners to adhere to user experience and user requirements engineering, (d) Supporting the linkage and integration of other resources and services in the NFDI and beyond (e.g. EOSC), (e) Providing means for a reliable and sustainable operation of the infrastructure, and (f) Providing the project collaboration environment.

**Administration** ensures collaboration across all task areas. Emphasis is placed on the interoperability of Text+ within the NFDI ("One NFDI", Base4NFDI), with other research infrastructures (ERICs, EOSC), and especially with the user community (scholarly societies and stakeholders). Administration ensures adherence to agile, participatory, and implementation-oriented working methods.

With the exemption of Administration all task areas will continue to rely on Coordination Committees as the main link to the community as stakeholders of the Text+ infrastructure.

### **3.3 Brief description of the proposed use of existing infrastructures, tools and services that are essential in order to fulfil the planned consortium's objectives**

An overarching infrastructure integrates the diverse services, tools, and data resources into a coherent and unified service portfolio. The [architecture](#) relies on a federation of data centers and on a range of services and tools as infrastructure components available to academic research. For the [selection of tools](#), care was taken to ensure they reflect all phases of the data life cycle and of the data-driven research process, that they are interlinked and accessible to all, but above all, that they serve community needs and support scientific work. While the importance of the tools depends on the individual research interest, the portal is usually described as the central element and information hub that guides users to the other building blocks as required. For searching and finding, the [Text+ Registry](#) is the central resource in Text+. It lists the holdings of the data centers and other data, with metadata and links. Whereas the registry allows finding of research data through metadata, the [Text+ Federated Content Search \(FCS\)](#) is the second main service focused on search and retrieval in Text+. The FCS, which is an SRU/CQL based development originating with predecessor projects, gathers a growing number of endpoints, allowing a search within the full texts available from the Text+ centres to the community.

In addition, Text+ continues to rely on its structure of a federation of distributed centres. These are partner institutions that focus (partly discipline-specific) on the collection, storage, management and provision of data as well as on the transfer of specialist knowledge. Data is made available in institution-owned, certified long-term archives. These archives are opened to additional community data, with [ingest](#) actively supported in order to promote the availability of

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reusable data (further supported by various long-term archives in Text+, for example one partner's [long term archive](#)). In addition, appropriate training is provided.

The research data made available by the [Text+ Centers](#) and Registry and FCS, in [compliance with the FAIR principles](#), are qualitatively improved in terms of their usability and interoperability through curation and enrichment. Of significant importance is the Gemeinsame Normdatei (GND) [Integrated Authority File], whose data domain-specific application and set up of a [GND agency](#) can be considered a success story of the first funding phase. With the foundations now established, it's possible to scale the enrichment of research data using authority data.

All resources and services made available to the community by Text+ are supported by a wide-ranging support offering ([helpdesk and consulting](#) services). The structure built in Phase 1, and also used by other consortia (KonsortSWD) and initiatives (FIDs), facilitates the integration of new services and topics.

### **3.4 Interfaces to other NFDI consortia: Brief description of existing agreements for collaboration and/or plans for future collaboration**

Among all collaborations, Text+ invests dedicated effort in its partnerships with the [Humanities@NFDI](#) and [Base4NFDI](#). The cooperation with the NFDI consortia from the humanities NFDI4Culture, NFDI4Memory and NFDI4Objects, for which a [Memorandum of Understanding](#) is the base of cooperation since the run-up to the first application. This cooperation has been intensified over the course of the current project phase. Addressing basic services and standards and interoperability in terms of technology and infrastructure, Base4NFDI is the other main cooperation for Text+. The quality of this cooperation is proven through participation by Text+ as a co-applicant in IAM4NFDI, PID4NFDI, Jupyter4NFDI and nfdi.software. Both strands of cooperation are additionally reflected by dedicated measures in the task area IO.

We maintain strong cooperation with the social science NFDI consortium KonsortSWD, formalized by a Memorandum of Understanding. Additionally, we have engaged in numerous activities with other consortia, such as a workshop on language analysis with BERD@NFDI and a workshop on the future of academic publishing in the context of large language models with NFDI-Matwerk, KonsortSWD, NFDI4Chem, NFDI4Earth, and NFDI4DataScience.

Our collaboration extends to all NFDI consortia through various channels: NFDI sections, overarching working groups and task forces, and the management, finance, and communication circles. This broad engagement was highlighted by Andreas Witt, Text+'s spokesperson during the first application phase, who chaired the consortia assembly from 2022-2024.

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We plan to intensify future cooperation with other consortia, particularly those operating or contributing to GND agencies. Further collaboration is expected in basic services, NFDI sections, and cross-cutting topics, especially concerning [Large Language Models](#).

#### 4 International and national networking

Text+ and its partner maintain and strategically evolve close relationships with several projects, networks, and organisations both internationally and within Germany. In particular, noteworthy networking partners are the European Research Infrastructure Consortia (ERICs) CLARIN, DARIAH, and OPERAS, where some Text+ partner institutions are direct members and contribute valuable methods and services. For the [CLARIN](#) network, they provide metadata via standard interfaces and contribute to the development of services. Insights from CLARIN's working groups on ethical/legal issues, standards, and data center certification directly inform Text+'s work. Additionally, ERIC and several Text+ partners are active in [DARIAH](#) working groups, fostering an exchange of results. The European DARIAH conference 2025, to mention an outstanding recent example, was held jointly with the Text+ Plenary in Göttingen and demonstrated the strong interconnection between the two infrastructures, connecting national and European perspectives. Through various ERICs, partners are also involved in the [Social Sciences and Humanities Open Cloud \(SSHOC\)](#): This includes the [Social Sciences & Humanities Open Marketplace](#), which Text+ utilizes via the service API as a data source for service dissemination. As SSHOC was intended as preparation for [EOSC](#), along with the NFDI-association Text+, it is part of the German national EOSC node. This collaboration ensures that developments for EOSC directly influence Text+'s advancements. On a national level, Text+ collaborates closely with the other NFDI consortia representing the humanities within the NFDI: [NFDI4Culture](#), [NFDI4Memory](#), and [NFDI4Objects](#). These four consortia have cooperated closely from the very beginning — even before the formal start of the NFDI initiative. Their collaboration is formalized through a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) and maintained through regular meetings, joint strategic planning, and coordinated infrastructure development.

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