NFDI4Memory Consortium Progress Reports National Research Data Infrastructure (NFDI)

B-1 Progress Report Part 1, for publication

1 General Information

Name of the consortium: NFDI4Memory
Research domains:

Ancient History	111-03
Medieval History	112-01
Early Modern History	112-02
Modern and Current History	112-03
History of Science	112-04
Asian Studies	1.16-02
African, American and Oceania Studies	1.16-03
Islamic Studies, Arabic Studies, Semitic Studies	1.16-04
Religious Studies and Jewish Studies	1.16-05
History of Philosophy	1.18-01
General Education and History of Education	1.21-01
Economic and Social History	1.24-07
Archival Studies	
Library Studies	
Museum Studies	

Website: https://4memory.de/
Repository used for publishing output: Zenodo (4Memory Community)

2 Summary

4Memory is driving the **digital transformation of historical research** in Germany and beyond by building a **sustainable**, **FAIR-compliant** infrastructure connecting **archives, museums, libraries, researchers and data services** across the historically oriented humanities. With 11 applicant and co-applicant institutions and 74 participants, we are among the largest NFDI consortia, representing diverse institutional types to serve its entire community. Through constant exchange, we have tailored our work programme to our community's needs, developing a community-specific agenda that also contributes to the NFDI as a whole. Key objectives are **improving the handling of historical research data**, **deepening relationships between data providers and users** and **redefining research data management (RDM)** by providing services, resources for knowledge dissemination and professional consultations. Led by established institutional leaders and supported by the German Historical Association (VHD), our consortium has achieved a substantial degree of embeddedness in our community. Building upon our community's many contributions, we have achieved significant visibility in a field that is undergoing substantial digital transformation but still relies heavily upon analogue sources and methods. Through **active outreach** into the different sectors of our community, **support for researchers** at all stages of their careers and **a broad palette of services**, 4Memory is now a significant force shaping the future of historical studies. Our consortium has **remained very stable**, with only minor changes due to external factors, such as the DFG's eligibility criteria, as well as changes within the NFDI, such as an increasing focus on services, which led to the creation of a new post ("Services Manager") in our coordination office. We have grown through the **"Incubator Funds" process**, which integrated twelve new projects and four new participant institutions by the end of 2025.

4Memory engages in extensive collaboration within the NFDI. We are represented at **all levels of NFDI governance** and participate in four of the five NFDI sections. By contributing to these "cross-cutting topics" 4Memory helps to build "oneNFDI" while ensuring its community's specific perspectives are represented. We also collaborate on **Base4NFDI services**, contributing to substantive work on projects like DMP4NFDI, PID4NFDI, and TS4NFDI. We have taken a **lead role in initiating exchanges** with other consortia regarding effective coordination, in particular with the three other humanities consortia under the **Humanities@NFDI** framework. **Beyond the NFDI**, the consortium employs a **decentralised internationalisation strategy**. This includes heavy involvement from the **German Historical Institutes (GHIs)** abroad, participation in European research infrastructures like **DARIAH-EU and EOSC**, and collaborative projects with international institutions. We also utilize **FactGrid**, a Wikibase instance designed for global, multilingual research collaboration. 4Memory's vision centres on **enabling the digital transformation** of historical research by developing urgently needed digital methods and RDM tools. Key components of this vision are:

- **The 4Memory Data Space:** A core infrastructure intended to link over 224,000,000 datasets via a knowledge graph, enabling researchers to reuse data through both traditional and innovative methods.

- **Cultural Transformation:** Fostering a shift in the discipline through **data literacy training**, support for early-career researchers, and the promotion of **FAIR and CARE principles** specifically adapted for historical data.

- **Ethical and Multiperspectival Standards:** Developing data-ethics frameworks that account for **non-European perspectives**, colonial history, and the challenges of **multilingual data processing**.

- **AI Adaptation:** Empowering researchers to navigate the opportunities and challenges of **artificial intelligence** in handling historical data.

The intensive collaboration of those working in 4Memory in our first three years has enabled us to build up a highly motivated and active network. Among our **successes** have been:

- Despite expanding demands on our resources related to contributing to the NFDI and the changing needs of our community, our **key milestones and deliverables remain on-target** and we have made a substantial part of our **service portfolio** operational.

- We developed **new projects and services** through enabling new **contributions from our community** and our annual **Incubator Funds**.

- We established effective **collaborative relationships** with other consortia, particularly our fellow Humanities@NFDI colleagues, across various activities, whether in the context of constructively shaping the discussion about the development of the NFDI, joint presentations of our activities at conferences or in the provision of services.

There have been a few key **challenges**:

- To adapt to **the NFDI's evolving governance and reporting landscape**, we restructured our coordination office, enhancing efficiency and responsiveness to community needs.

- To deal with the **financial challenges** of rising wage costs and the uncertainties related to the future of the NFDI, we have had to find new efficiencies and shift resources.

- To proactively address **the rise of AI**, we have, among other things, increased training on the use of AI in historical data analysis in our workshop series and are currently developing guidelines for the responsible use of AI in humanities research.

3 Composition of the consortium

- Applicant institution

Applicant institution	Location	Duration
Leibniz Institute of European History (IEG)	Mainz	03/2023-02/2028

- Spokesperson

Spokesperson	Institution, location	Duration
Prof. Dr. Johannes Paulmann (0000-0002-1025-1650)	Leibniz Institute of European History, Mainz	03/2023-02/2028

- Co-applicant institutions

Co-applicant institutions	Location	Duration
Baden-Wuerttemberg State Archives (LABW)	Stuttgart	03/2023-02/2028
Bavarian State Library (BSB)	München	03/2023-02/2028
Deutsches Museum of Masterpieces of Science and Technology (DM)	München	03/2023-02/2028
FIZ Karlsruhe – Leibniz Institute for Information Infrastructure GmbH (FIZ)	Karlsruhe	03/2023-02/2028
German Historical Association (Verband der Historiker und Historikerinnen Deutschlands e. V.) (VHD)	Frankfurt a. M.	03/2023-02/2028
Herder Institute for Historical Research on East Central Europe – Institute of the Leibniz Association (HI)	Marburg	03/2023-02/2028
Humboldt University of Berlin (HU)	Berlin	03/2023-02/2028
Martin-Luther-University Halle-Wittenberg (MLU-HistData)	Halle	03/2023-02/2028
Trier University (UT)	Trier	03/2023-02/2028
University of Applied Sciences (h_da)	Darmstadt	03/2023-02/2028

- Co-spokespersons

Co-spokespersons	Institution, location	Task area(s)	Duration
Prof. Dr. Peter Haslinger (0000-0002-5871-137X)	HI, Marburg	TA1	03/2023-02/2028
Dr. Georg Hohmann (0000-0002-2619-6991)	DM, München	TA1	05/2024-02/2028
Dr. Dorothea Sommer (0000-0002-8038-108X)	BSB, München	TA2	05/2025-02/2028
Dr. Katrin Moeller (0000-0003-4090-5667)	MLU-HistData, Halle	TA2	03/2023-02/2028
Prof. Dr. Gerald Maier (0000-0001-9220-3013)	LABW, Stuttgart	TA3	03/2023-02/2028
Dr. Felix Bach (0000-0002-5035-7978)	FIZ, Karlsruhe	TA3	02/2025-02/2028
Prof. Dr. Ursula Lehmkuhl (0000-0003-3100-8809)	UT, Trier	TA4	03/2023-02/2028
Prof. Dr. Stefan Schmunk (0000-0001-9706-9757)	h_da, Darmstadt	TA4	03/2023-02/2028
Prof. Dr. Torsten Hiltmann (0000-0002-6757-6210)	HU, Berlin	TA5	03/2023-02/2028
Prof. Dr. Antje Flüchter	VHD, Frankfurt a. M.	TA5	10/2025-02/2028

- Participants

Participating institutions	Location	Duration
Akademie der Wissenschaften zu Göttingen - Germania Sacra (WIAG)	Göttingen	03/2023-02/2028
Arbeitskreis Provenienzforschung e.V. (AK-PF)	Bremen	03/2023-02/2028

Archivschule Marburg (ArchivSCH)	Marburg	03/2023-02/2028
Bayerische Akademie der Wissenschaften (BAdW)	München	03/2023-02/2028
Bergische Universität Wuppertal (BUW)	Wuppertal	03/2023-02/2028
Berlin History e.V. (BerHis)	Berlin	03/2023-02/2028
Bundesarchiv (BA)	Koblenz	03/2023-02/2028
Clio Online (Clio-online)	Berlin	03/2023-02/2028
Deutsche Nationalbibliothek (DNB)	Frankfurt a. M. / Leipzig	03/2023-02/2028
Deutsches Schifffahrtsmuseum (DSM)	Bremerhaven	03/2023-02/2028
Leibniz-Institut für Bildungsforschung und Bildungsinformation (DIPF)	Frankfurt a. M.	03/2023-02/2028
DMT-Gesellschaft für Lehre und Bildung	Bochum	01/2024-02/2028
Eberhard Karls Universität, Zentrum für Datenverarbeitung (ZDV-T)	Tübingen	03/2023-02/2028
Fernuniversität Hagen (FUH)	Hagen	03/2023-02/2028
Forschungsstelle für Zeitgeschichte in Hamburg (FZH)	Hamburg	03/2023-02/2028
Freie Universität Berlin (FU)	Berlin	03/2023-02/2028
Friedrich-Schiller-Universität (FSU)	Jena	03/2023-02/2028
Generaldirektion der Staatlichen Archive Bayerns (GDA)	München	03/2023-02/2028
Germanisches Nationalmuseum (GNM)	Nürnberg	03/2023-02/2028
Georg-Eckert-Institut (GEI)	Braunschweig	03/2023-02/2028
Goethe-Universität Frankfurt (GU)	Frankfurt a. M.	03/2023-02/2028

Herzog-August-Bibliothek (HAB)	Wolfenbüttel	03/2023-02/2028
Hessisches Landesarchiv (HLA)	Wiesbaden	03/2023-02/2028
Institut für die Geschichte der deutschen Juden (IGDJ)	Hamburg	03/2023-02/2028
Institut für Dokumentologie und Editorik (IDE)	Berlin	03/2023-02/2028
Institut für sächsische Geschichte und Volks-kunde (ISGV)	Dresden	03/2023-02/2028
Institut für Zeitgeschichte (IFZ)	München / Berlin	03/2023-02/2028
Martin-Luther-Universität Halle, Interdisziplinä-res Zentrum für die Erforschung der Europäi-schen Aufklärung (MLU-IZEA)	Halle a. d. Saale	03/2023-02/2028
Konferenz für Geschichtsdidaktik e.V. (KGD)	München	03/2023-02/2028
Landschaftsverband Rheinland (LVR) (Koordinationsstelle Provenienzforschung KPF)	Köln	01/2024-02/2028
Leibniz-Institut für Raumbezogene Sozialfor-schung (IRS)	Erkner	03/2023-02/2028
Leibniz-Institut für Geschichte und Kultur des östlichen Europa (GWZO)	Leipzig	03/2025-02/2028
Leibniz-Zentrum für Zeithistorische Forschung (ZZF)	Potsdam	03/2023-02/2028
Ludwig-Maximilian-Universität-München IT-Gruppe Geisteswissenschaften (LMU-ITGW)	München	03/2023-02/2028
Max-Planck-Gesellschaft e.V., Max-Planck-Institut für Wissenschaftsgeschichte (MPIWG)	Berlin	03/2023-02/2028
Mediävistenverband (MV)	Würzburg	03/2023-02/2028
Mommsen-Gesellschaft (MG)	Freiburg i. Breisgau	03/2023-02/2028
Monumenta Germaniae Historica (MGH)	München	03/2023-02/2028
Moses-Mendelssohn-Zentrum (MMZ)	Potsdam	03/2023-02/2028

Otto-Friedrich-Universität, Lehrstuhl für Medieninformatik (OFU)	Bamberg	03/2023-02/2028
Rheinische Friedrich-Wilhelms-Universität Bonn, AG Historische Grundwissenschaften (AHiG)	Bonn	03/2023-02/2028
Ruprecht-Karls-Universität – Heidelberg Center for Digital Humanities (HDU)	Heidelberg	03/2023-02/2028
Ruhr-Universität Bochum, Center for Religious Studies (CERES)	Bochum	03/2023-02/2028
Sächsische Landesbibliothek SLUB (SLUB)	Dresden	03/2023-02/2028
Stiftung Preußischer Kulturbesitz Ibero-Amerikanisches Institut (IAI) und Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin (SBB-PK)	Berlin	03/2023-02/2028
Technische Hochschule Köln (THK)	Köln	03/2023-02/2028
Universität Bayreuth Exzellenzcluster Africa Multiple (ExClu AM)	Bayreuth	03/2023-02/2028
Universität Bielefeld (UBI)	Bielefeld	03/2023-02/2028
Universität Erfurt (UE)	Erfurt	03/2023-02/2028
Universität Göttingen, SUB Göttingen (SUB)	Göttingen	03/2023-02/2028
Universität Hamburg (UHH)	Hamburg	03/2023-02/2028
Universität Kiel, Universitätsbibliothek, FID Nordeuropa	Kiel	03/2023-02/2028
Universität Leipzig (UL)	Leipzig	03/2023-02/2028
Universität Münster, Institut für vergleichende Städtegeschichte (IStG)	Münster	03/2023-02/2028
Universität Marburg, Deutsches Dokumentationszentrum für Kunstgeschichte, Bildarchiv Foto Marburg (DDK)	Marburg	03/2023-02/2028
Universität Passau (UP)	Passau	03/2023-02/2028
Universität Regensburg (GSWG)	Regensburg	03/2023-02/2028
Universität Rostock (UR)	Rostock	03/2023-02/2028
Universität zu Köln (UzK)	Köln	03/2023-02/2028
Universitätsbibliothek Mannheim (UBM)	Mannheim	03/2023-02/2028

Verband deutscher Archivarinnen und Archivare (VdA)	Fulda	03/2023-02/2028
Verbundzentrale des GBV (VZG)	Göttingen	03/2023-02/2028
Verein für Computergenealogie (CompGen)	Berlin	03/2023-02/2028
ZBW Leibniz-Informationszentrum Wirtschaft (ZBW)	Hamburg / Kiel	03/2023-02/2028
Johannes Gutenberg-Universität, Zentrum für Datenverarbeitung (ZDV)	Mainz	03/2023-02/2028

Participating individuals	Institution, location	Duration
Prof. Dr. Andreas Kuczera (0000-0003-1020-507X)	Akademie der Wissenschaften und der Literatur Mainz / Technische Hochschule Mittelhessen (AKucz/AdW)	03/2023-02/2028
Prof. Dr. Christina von Hodenberg (0000-0002-3069-9778)	Deutsches Historisches Institut London (DHI London)	03/2023-02/2028
Dr. Sandra Dahlke (0009-0003-0596-2428)	Max Weber Netzwerk Osteuropa (Nachfolgeorganisation des Deutschen Historischen Institut Moskau (DHI Moskau))	03/2023-02/2028
Prof. Dr. Klaus Oschema (0000-0002-8038-108X)	Deutsches Historisches Institut Paris (DHI Paris)	09/2023-02/2028
Prof. Dr. Petra Terhoeven (0009-0009-3799-7709)	Deutsches Historisches Institut Rom (DHI Rom)	10/2024-02/2028
Prof. Dr. Ulrike von Hirschhausen	Deutsches Historisches Institut Washington (DHI Washington)	10/2025-02/2028
Prof. Dr. Franz Waldenberger	Deutsches Institut für Japanstudien, Tokyo (DIJ Tokyo)	03/2023-02/2028
Dr. Sebastian Schwecke (0000-0002-1015-9221)	Max Weber Forum für Südostasienstudien, Delhi (MWF Delhi)	03/2023-02/2028

Dr. Jens-Peter Hanßen (0000-0001-8615-370X)	Orient Institut Beirut (OIB)	03/2023-02/2028
Prof. Dr. Rüdiger Hohls (0009-0008-2230-7982)	Institut für Geschichtswissenschaften, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin (RHohls/HU)	03/2023-02/2028
Prof. Dr. Simone Lässig (0000-0003-2426-3502)	Technische Universität Braunschweig	10/2025-02/2028