



Universitäts- und Landesbibliothek
Sachsen-Anhalt

Direktorin

Anke Berghaus-Sprengel

Bearbeiter: **Daniel Brenn**

Ihr Zeichen:

Ihr Schreiben vom:

Unser Zeichen:

Universitäts- und Landesbibliothek Sachsen-Anhalt, 06098 Halle (Saale)

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

Datum: 11.09.2020

Letter of Support

Dear Madams and Sirs,

On behalf of the University and State Library Saxony-Anhalt and its Specialized Information Service Middle East, North African and Islamic Studies (FID), please find this letter of support for the foundation of the Text+ consortium. The planned developments of the consortium, specifically its focus on text-based research methods, are of central relevance to many of the research disciplines represented by the FID. These include philology, Near East history, Islamic studies as well as literature studies. The region of the FID's research scope is characterized by an abundance of scripts, which differ greatly from the common Latin script. This often brings an additional level of complexity due to peculiarities such as right-to-left writing or writing in syllabary (e.g. Arabic, Syriac, Armenian, Georgian, Cyrillic alphabets among others). Working with non-Latin scripts using research methods which are common in other Digital Humanities fields (e.g. digital editions, text mining) and tools (search engine retrieval, OCR) primarily designed for the Latin script poses a number of challenges which have not been properly addressed to date. From our point of view, this should thus be a field of focus for the development of national research infrastructures.

Through our established cooperation with expert associations, such as the German Oriental Society (DMG) or the Society for Turcology, Osmanic studies and Turkic studies (GTOT) we aim at disseminating the findings and developments of the Text+ consortium in a way that our disciplines, which still often work with timeworn methods and print-oriented workflows, can benefit from these and also get to appreciate the contributions of the NFDI in this area.

The FID operates as a contact point for academics in our diverse associations offering data stewardship advice (choice of data formats, metadata standards, etc.) and guidance in the planning of Digital Humanities research data projects and the writing of research data management plans. As part of the University and State Library Saxony-Anhalt, we also offer assistance in regards to topics such as data literacy and information competence.

In addition, the FID provides an established and renowned infrastructure for secondary publications, born digital materials as well as digitized materials and research data in the form of our repository MENAdoc. This includes the provision of texts in the aforementioned languages/scripts and the

Hausanschrift:
August-Bebel-Str. 13/50
06108 Halle (Saale)
Postanschrift:
06098 Halle (Saale)

Tel (03 45) 5 52 - 2001
Fax (03 45) 5 52 - 7140

E-Mail:
direktion
@bibliothek.uni-halle.de
Internet:
www.bibliothek.uni-halle.de

Bankverbindung:
Deutsche Bundesbank Magdeburg
IBAN DE05 8100 0000 0080 0015 24
BIC MARKDEF1810

development of new Open Source OCR solutions which we hope to make available to our research communities via the Text+ consortium.

We believe the Text+ consortium will develop valuable methods and tools which will impact positively on the work of national and international specialized communities. We therefore wish to extend our full support for this project and look forward to working with the consortium.

Sincerely,



Anke Berghaus-Sprengel

Executive director

Hausanschrift:
August-Bebel-Str. 13/50
06108 Halle (Saale)
Postanschrift:
06098 Halle (Saale)

Tel (03 45) 5 52 - 2001
Fax (03 45) 5 52 - 7140

E-Mail:
direktion
@bibliothek.uni-halle.de
Internet:
www.bibliothek.uni-halle.de

Bankverbindung:
Deutsche Bundesbank Magdeburg
IBAN DE05 8100 0000 0080 0015 24
BIC MARKDEF1810