

Announcement 2027

Fourth Round of the NFDI4Memory FAIR Data Fellowships

Collected historical data but unsure of what to do next? Get support through FAIR Data Fellowships!

Research data can often be edited for re-use and publication in disciplines working with historical sources. NFDI4Memory FAIR Data Fellowships offer support in this endeavour. For research data from finished or nearly finished projects, it offers the chance to prepare a publication with help from experts from one of the following institutions: Data Center for the Humanities at the University of Cologne, Deutsches Museum, Herder Institute for Historical Research on East Central Europe of the Leibniz Association, Leibniz Institute of European History, or Herzog August Bibliothek Wolfenbüttel.

What do FAIR Data Fellowships offer?

Every FAIR Data Fellowship is endowed with 1,500 Euros and lasts for one month. During this time, the fellows work independently on a data set from their own project. While doing so, each of the fellows will receive advice and support from experts in research data management from one of the five implementing institutions. They will receive guidance during at least three appointments to topics such as the FAIR-principles, suitable structuring possibilities, as well as advice about the appropriate repositories for the publication of their research data. At the end of the fellowships, fellows should have a structured dataset ready for publication. Fellows will share their experience with the historical community—for example, by writing a blog post.

Requirements

Master's students, doctoral students, postdocs, museum employees, librarians, archivists, university employees and employees of research institutions as wells as independent scholars can apply—depending on the institution carrying out the program. International applications are welcome. German citizenship, residence in Germany or an affiliation with a German research institution are not required. Supervision during the fellowships can be provided in German and English. Reapplications are possible as long as the applicant has not already been awarded a fellowship in one of the previous rounds.

The different application requirements and focal points of the implementing institutions must be taken into account when applying. The remote fellowship can begin between February and December of 2027; a more exact time-window will be agreed upon between the implementing institutions and the fellows.

Application Materials

We look forward to applications in German or English language by **November 18, 2026**, with the following application materials:

- a letter of motivation including a short description of your specific consulting needs, your project and its compatibility with the institution at which you wish to be a FAIR Data Fellow; maximum of 2000 characters including spaces
- a description of the data set that you would like to prepare for publication (content, format, scope, level of pre-structuring); maximum of 2000 characters including spaces
- a short CV, maximum of 2 pages

Please make use of the opportunity to discuss your project with the institutions prior to applying. The application materials must be sent as a single PDF-document in an email to: fairdatafellowships.4memory.ifg@hu-berlin.de.

The Profiles and Requirements of the Implementing Institutions

The FAIR Data fellows are supervised at one of the following five institutions, each of which has its own research focus. Please pay attention to this fact when applying. The contact persons will be happy to answer any questions you may have – either by email or at the digital information event on Monday, November 2, 2026, at 2:00 pm MEZ in German language (Link) or on Tuesday, November 3, 2026, at 2:00 pm MEZ in English language (Link).

Data Center for the Humanities (DCH) at the University of Cologne

The Data Center for the Humanities is the humanities-specific data center of the Faculty of Arts and Humanities at the University of Cologne with over eleven years of institutional experience. It has a dedicated focus on audiovisual language data and operates its own repository for endangered languages, the Language Archive Cologne (LAC). In dealing with data from indigenous cultures, the DCH has many years of experience in the consideration and implementation of the FAIR and CARE principles. Another focus is the sustainable and long-term hosting of living systems and resources such as applications, software, digital editions, and databases.

Applications with a connection to audiovisual language data or indigenous cultures are especially welcome. Consultancy is generally provided remotely. Contact persons: Patrick Helling and Felix Rau (info-dch@uni-koeln.de).

Deutsches Museum Munich

The Deutsches Museum of Masterpieces of Science and Technology is the world's largest science and technology museum and one of the eight research museums of the Leibniz Association. Besides the collections with objects, models, and demonstrations, the museum possesses a special archive on the history of natural sciences and technology, the largest museum library of Germany, and with Deutsches Museum Digital an outstanding research infrastructure. The colleagues of Deutsches

Museum Digital will supervise the FAIR Data fellows. With modern methods of processing knowledge, it makes the collections of the museum available. Another focus is on the semantic networking of object collection, archive, and library holdings.

Applications are especially welcome which demonstrate a connection to object- or museum-oriented historical research or to science-and-technology history in the broadest sense. Contact person: Peggy Große (p.grosse@deutsches-museum.de).

Herder Institute for Historical Research on East Central Europe

The Herder Institute for Historical Research on East Central Europe in Marburg is a research-and-infrastructure institute of the Leibniz Association focused on the history and culture of East Central Europe. It conducts its own research using its extensive collections and large research library, including projects in the field of digital history and art history, collection-related cultural studies and the development of multimedia knowledge portals. As part of the indexing and documentation of its collections and research project, the Herder Institute generates a large amount of heterogeneous research data.

Applications are especially welcome which have data or projects that fall within the collection and research profile of the history and culture of East Central Europe or are compatible with the Institute's infrastructural tasks. Supervision will be in principle remote, but stays in person are also welcome. Contact person: Grigori Chlesberg (grigori.chlesberg@herder-institut.de).

Herzog August Bibliothek Wolfenbüttel

The Herzog August Bibliothek Wolfenbüttel (HAB) is an independent study-and-research institute for European cultural history of the Middle Ages and the Early Modern period. Both for manuscripts (circa 2,500 from the Middle Ages) as well as for old prints it is a center of expertise for cataloguing and research, and acts as the national library for the 17th century in the context of the Sammlung Deutscher Drucke (Collection of German Prints, SDD). Research at the HAB is closely related with the developments of the digital humanities as here—next to digitalization and indexing—there is a focus in the area of digital scholarly editing.

Applications are especially welcome which have a connection to digital editing and/or the holdings respectively the research focuses of the HAB. Supervision will be in principle remote, but personal visits are particularly welcome. Contact person: Daniela Schulz (schulz@hab.de).

The Leibniz Institute of European History

The Leibniz Institute of European History (IEG) in Mainz is a non-profit institution devoted to the promotion of scientific research. Its purpose is to conduct academic research on European history from the Early Modern period to Contemporary History. It also deals with current developments in the digital humanities and coordinates NFDI4Memory, the consortium for the historical humanities.

Applications from doctoral students and postdocs with a connection to the IEG's research focuses are particularly welcome. The fellows will be supervised by the DH Lab staff. Support is provided

remotely, but on-site visits are also highly welcome. Contact person: Constanze Buyken (buyken@ieg-mainz.de).

Still Have Questions?

General questions and concerns about the FAIR Data Fellowships can be directed to the NFDI4Memory contact person Christiane Weber (weber@historikerverband.de).

What is NFDI4Memory?

NFDI4Memory, the consortium for the historically oriented humanities within the National Research Data Infrastructure (NFDI), drives forward institutional, technical and methodological innovation. For the first time, the consortium integrates historical research, memory institutions and information infrastructures in a digital research data infrastructure.

NFDI4Memory is funded by the German Research Community (DFG), project number 501609550.