

Making licensed digital materials from the MENA Region accessible for research in Germany

Experiences from FID Nahost (Halle)

Dr. Volker Adam, Marburg, 19 May 2022

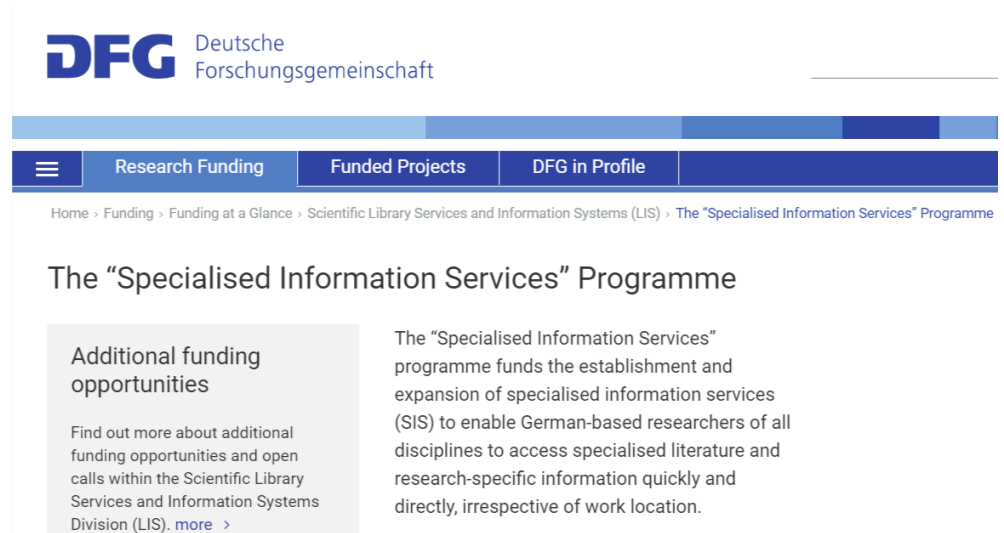


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DFG Deutsche
Forschungsgemeinschaft

Basic informations about Specialised Information Services (FID)

- Funded by the German Research Foundation (DFG)
- Support research where academic needs can no longer be met by a single library
- Provide highly specialised research materials for German researchers
- Offer research-related services (subject bibliographies, advice on research data, open access publishing, etc.)



The screenshot shows the DFG (Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft) website. The header includes the DFG logo and the text "Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft". Below the header is a navigation bar with a menu icon and four items: "Research Funding", "Funded Projects", "DFG in Profile", and an unlabeled item. The main content area has a breadcrumb trail: "Home > Funding > Funding at a Glance > Scientific Library Services and Information Systems (LIS) > The 'Specialised Information Services' Programme". The title of the page is "The 'Specialised Information Services' Programme". There are two columns of text. The left column is titled "Additional funding opportunities" and contains the text: "Find out more about additional funding opportunities and open calls within the Scientific Library Services and Information Systems Division (LIS). [more >](#)". The right column contains the text: "The 'Specialised Information Services' programme funds the establishment and expansion of specialised information services (SIS) to enable German-based researchers of all disciplines to access specialised literature and research-specific information quickly and directly, irrespective of work location."

DFG Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft

Home > Funding > Funding at a Glance > Scientific Library Services and Information Systems (LIS) > The "Specialised Information Services" Programme

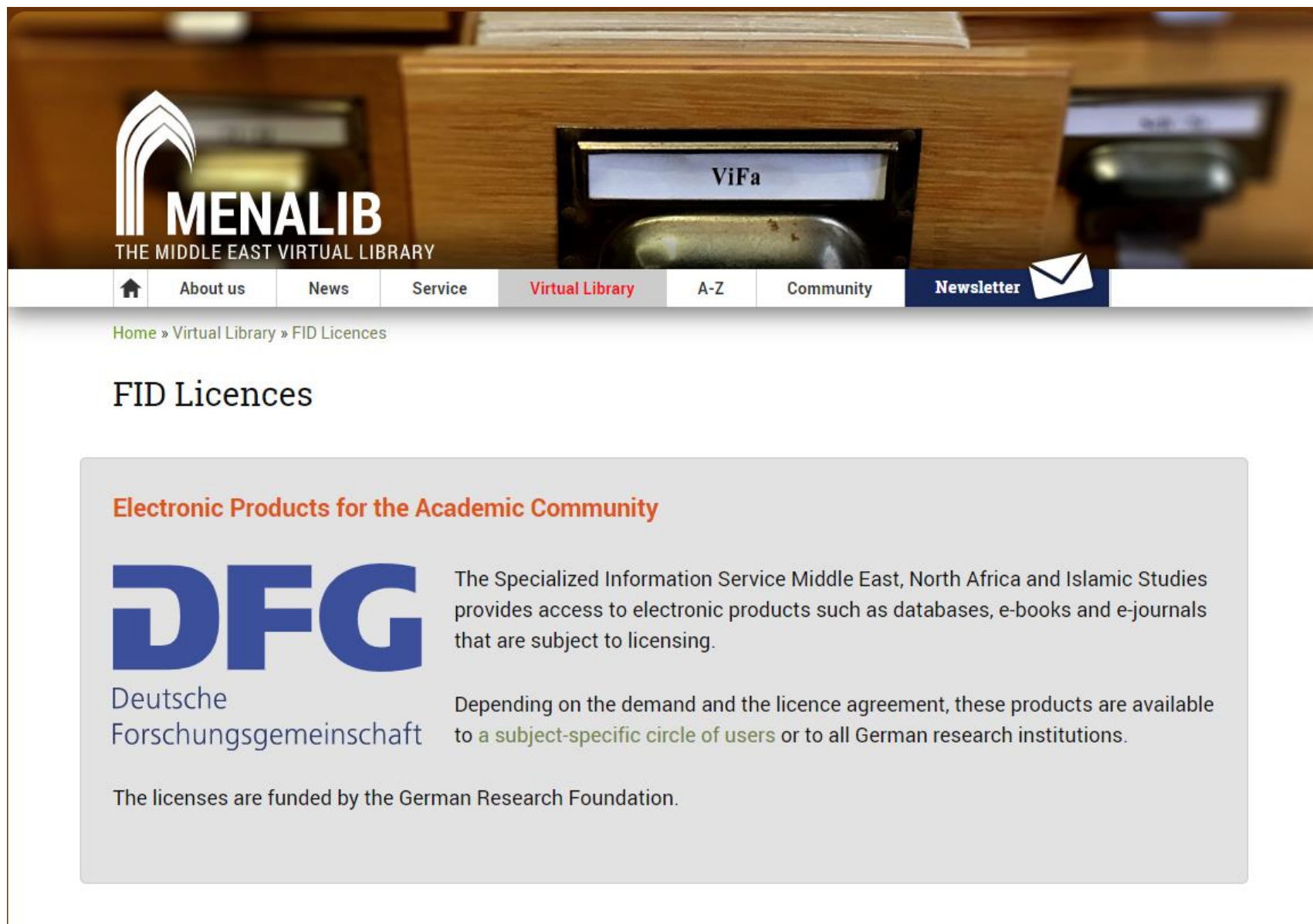
The "Specialised Information Services" Programme

Additional funding opportunities

Find out more about additional funding opportunities and open calls within the Scientific Library Services and Information Systems Division (LIS). [more >](#)

The "Specialised Information Services" programme funds the establishment and expansion of specialised information services (SIS) to enable German-based researchers of all disciplines to access specialised literature and research-specific information quickly and directly, irrespective of work location.

What are FID licences good for?



The screenshot shows the MENALIB website interface. The header features the MENALIB logo (a stylized white arch) and the text "MENALIB THE MIDDLE EAST VIRTUAL LIBRARY". A navigation menu includes "Home", "About us", "News", "Service", "Virtual Library" (highlighted in red), "A-Z", "Community", and "Newsletter" (with an envelope icon). The breadcrumb trail reads "Home » Virtual Library » FID Licences". The main heading is "FID Licences". Below this, a grey box contains the following content:

Electronic Products for the Academic Community

DFG The Specialized Information Service Middle East, North Africa and Islamic Studies provides access to electronic products such as databases, e-books and e-journals that are subject to licensing.

Deutsche
Forschungsgemeinschaft

Depending on the demand and the licence agreement, these products are available to a **subject-specific circle of users** or to all German research institutions.

The licenses are funded by the German Research Foundation.

Acquisition policy of the FID Middle East

Fundamental decisions in 2016:

- a) Acquisition of printed or digital literature is still a central mandate
- b) Focus on literature from the MENA region in the local languages.
- c) No comprehensive acquisition of Western secondary literature
- d) Mapping the discourses in the MENA region



[Home](#) » [About us](#) » [The Specialised Information Service \(FID\)](#)

The Specialised Information Service (FID)

The Specialised Information Service (FID) Middle East-, North Africa- and Islamic Studies provides highly specialised research materials from the countries of the MENA region for German researchers. It is funded by the [German Research Foundation](#) (DFG) and has been maintained by the [University and State Library Saxony-Anhalt](#) since 2016.

Acquisitions

We acquire literature from the countries of the Near East and North Africa that is difficult to access mainly in the original language and make this highly specialised sources permanently available.

Main challenges

- How can we find electronic resources with MENA content that are interesting for research in Germany?
- How do we define the user group(s) in Germany? Who may/should have access?
- How do we organise access to electronic resources for a user group that we define?
- How do we negotiate the contracts, while adhering to the principles established by the DFG?
- How do we make providers from the MENA region understand that we want to conclude a licence agreement not only for our university, but potentially for all interested parties in Germany?
- How can we establish minimum standards regarding document quality, metadata, full text search, long-term preservation, text and data mining rights?

Competence Centre for licensing (KfL)

Kompetenzzentrum für Lizenzierung (KfL)

Ein DFG-gefördertes Kooperationsprojekt

Sie sind hier: Startseite

Projektpartner

Über das Projekt

Service-Portfolio

FID-Lizenzen / Produkte

FIDELIO

Zusammenarbeit mit den FID

FID-Infos

Kontakt

Suchen

Kompetenzzentrum für die Lizenzierung elektronischer Ressourcen im System der DFG-geförderten „Fachinformationsdienste für die Wissenschaft“ (FID)

Im Auftrag der Deutschen Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG) führen die Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin (SBB), die Niedersächsische Staats- und Universitätsbibliothek Göttingen (SUB Göttingen) und die Bayerische Staatsbibliothek München (BSB) das von der DFG geförderte Gemeinschaftsprojekt „Aufbau eines Kompetenzzentrums für die Lizenzierung elektronischer Ressourcen“ (KfL-Projekt) durch. Sie unterstützen damit die „Fachinformationsdienste für die Wissenschaft“ (FID) bei der Wahrnehmung ihrer Aufgaben. Die Verbundzentrale des GBV (VZG) ist als technischer Dienstleister eingebunden. Die Aktivitäten werden von der SUB Göttingen koordiniert. Die Projektpartner führen das Projekt unter Wahrung ihrer rechtlichen und wirtschaftlichen Selbständigkeit durch.

Neben der Verhandlung für die Lizenzierung und überregionalen Bereitstellung digitaler Medien (FID-Lizenzen) gehört die Entwicklung geeigneter Lizenz- und Geschäftsmodelle ebenso zum **Service-Portfolio** des KfL-Projekts wie das Management von Meta- und Inhaltsdaten, die mit den Lizenzen erworben werden. Die Angebote werden bedarfsorientiert und im direkten Kontakt mit den die FID betreibenden Einrichtungen weiterentwickelt.

Bitte verwenden Sie für Ihre Aufträge und Anliegen das **Kontaktformular**. Wir setzen uns dann umgehend – gern auch telefonisch – mit Ihnen in Verbindung.

Die Auftragsbearbeitung erfolgt in enger **Zusammenarbeit** zwischen dem jeweiligen FID und dem Serviceteam des zuständigen Projektpartners.

FID-Lizenzen /
Produkte

FIDELIO
Zentraler Nachweis
für FID-Lizenzen

Zusammenarbeit
mit den FID

FID-Infos

User groups

1) Community license

- High administrative effort (who belongs to the authorised users and for how long?)
- Many interested scholars and students remain excluded
- Low costs

2) Campus licence

- Universities which do not belong to the group remain excluded, even if individual researchers there are interested in the topics.
- Costs remain manageable

3) National License

- Ideal nationwide solution (also for individual users in Germany)
- High costs, partly unaffordable

Experiences 2016 - 2022

- Negotiations with providers from the MENA region take a long time. (three quarters to a full year from the first contacts to a contract)
- Cooperation and joint financing with other FIDs is helpful in order to
 - a. reduce costs and
 - b. advertise the product in a larger community
- Most products are only interesting for a special part of our scholarly community due to the content focus or the language - therefore the usage statistics are not huge
- In the first years, German Middle East scholars were still quite sceptical about the scholarly value of e-books and e-journals from the MENA region

Russian Islamic Studies



Topical Russian newspapers and academic journals on Islam

...

Al Manhal Islamic Studies E-Book Collection



المنهل
ALMANHAL

We have licensed the "Islamic Studies E-Book Collection" of the Arabic provider Al Manhal for German research. The collection includes 2,035 e-books about Islamic law, Islamic studies and Islamic theology mainly written in Arabic. ...

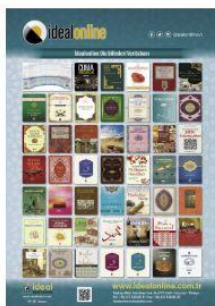
Workflow when selecting a product

- FID Subject specialists evaluate the content of an offer,
 - Does it already exist in Open Access? Is the content of scientific value? Is there a user community for it?
- A free trial is arranged via the Competence Centre,
- Usability testing by the subject specialists,
- Promotion of the trial in the community - request for feedback on content and usability,
- In the case of a positive evaluation, start of price negotiations via the Competence Centre,
 - Involvement of our advisory board in the case of high-priced products
- Lengthy dialogue between:
- 1) provider, 2) Competence Centre, 3) FID, 4) advisory board, 5) sometimes legal department of Halle University

Decision criteria and misunderstandings

- Different terms of use per product and provider,
 - Download restrictions,
 - No or inaccurate full-text search in the database,
 - No full-text embedding in the download PDFs,
 - No persistent identifiers (poor citability)
- Metadata incomplete (transcription not according to DIN),
- No willingness to provide backup copies for long-term preservation,
- Unwillingness to allow text and data mining,
- Uncertainty about who is allowed to access the data in Germany and how extensive the use will be?

Idealonline



Trial Access to Turkish E-Book Collection We have agreed a trial access for our circle of users with the Turkish database provider Idealonline. Go to Idealonline Access for users of the University of Duisburg-Essen here. ...

E-Marefa



The database provider has opened its complete site for the circle of users of our Specialized Information

Service for 2 months. E-Marefa includes topics such as Middle East Studies, Maghreb Studies, Islamic Studies and Arabic Language or the Palestinian Affairs and the Arab-Israeli Conflict. ...

Obstacles – some examples

Providers overestimate usage in Germany:

Communities interested in a specific product are relatively small,

In the case of national licences, providers calculate as if all students at all German universities read their products.

➤ This leads to offers in the six-figure range.

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Al-Ahram



Digital Archive of the Egyptian Newspaper The archive contains all available issues of the important and influential newspaper from Egypt from 1876 - 2019. ...

Obstacles – some examples

Products sometimes already published in Open Access
Difficult to trace in foreign catalogues

Some providers mix licences with OA material or publish OA behind registration barriers

How to identify the OA parts of an offered collection?

Kavkaz



The newspaper Kavkaz (Caucasus) was published during 1846-1918. It was the first Russian-language newspaper in the Caucasus, published in Tiflis (Tbilisi), Georgia. ...

Middle Eastern and North African Newspapers



Arabic Newspapers from the MENA Region The digital newspaper archive offers an insight into the turbulent history of the countries of the Middle East and North Africa. ...

Obstacles – some examples

Business models of the providers collide with the DFG principles:

- Authentication,
- Pay per Download,
- No text and data mining rights,
- Subscriptions without archival rights



Noormags



Database of Iranian Journals Noor Specialized Magazines offers digitized versions of specialized

journals concerning Islamic studies, social sciences and the humanities. ...



Patrologia Orientalis Database (POD)

The corpus of patristic texts from the Christian East published in the *Patrologia Orientalis* series

After conclusion of the contract

- Cataloguing of the new database in DBIS,
- Importing the metadata of the individual books/journals into the union catalogue(s),
- Checking the links,
- Making the licence conditions visible in the catalogue entries,
- Promotion of the new product to all Middle East librarians in Germany
- Statistics Statistics Statistics (justification)
- Interpretation of the statistics

Afghan Serials Collection



Rare Newspapers and Journals from Afghanistan
The Afghan Serials Collection is an essential collection of partisan serials from the Wahdat Library, the most comprehensive ...

Miras Maktoob



Works on Islamic History and Culture
The e-book collection comprises 248 volumes (189 works) of editions of literary works and essays on Iranian cultural history dating back to as early as the 10th century. ...

Future plans

- EBA or PDA models in case of huge e-book collections
- Subscriptions to databases or software tools (no permanent acquisition)
- Closer cooperation with MELCom librarians to set common standards for future MENA licenses

Dar Almandumah



Full Text Database for
Arabic Academic
Publications Dar
Almandumah is a database

for journals, conferences and dissertations from all Arab countries. It provides access to almost one million articles in the fields of humanities, economics and education. ...

LexiQamus



Ottoman Turkish Word Solver LexiQamus is an online tool that can help to identify illegible words from Ottoman Turkish texts.

Fachinformationsdienst Nahost-, Nordafrika- und Islamstudien

خدمة تقديم المعلومات المختصة بدراسة الشرق الاوسط وشمال افريقيا والدراسات الاسلامية

Orta Doğu, Kuzey Afrika ve İslam Araştırmaları Bilgi Hizmetleri

اطلاعات و خدمات کارشناسی در زمینه مطالعات خاورمیانه و شمال افریقا و پژوهشهای اسلامی

Specialised Information Service Middle East, North Africa and Islamic Studies



Thank you very much for your attention!

Dr. Volker Adam, Marburg, 19 May 2022



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