

The Specialized Information Service Middle Eastern, North African and Islamic Studies: **RDM and the cultural heritage in the Digital Age**

MELCom International Conference 2021, Session 1 „Cultural heritage and its preservation”

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Overview

- SIS Middle East
- DH projects and RDM
- FAIR data and Neo-colonialism
- NFDI – what's that?
- NFDI4Culture
- NFDI text+
- Services



The Specialized Information Service Middle East and Islamic Studies



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News

Armenian Rarity in Open Access: "Baġgirk' haykazean lezowi"



Important Work of

Turkology Workshop Forum #7



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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. ...

Confidential Print: Middle East, 1839-1969



Sources from The National Archives, UK The collection contains documents from the British National Archive on the history of the Middle East and North Africa. These range from single-page letters or telegrams to comprehensive ...

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. ...

Social Movements, Elections, Ephemera



Election related material from the countries of the former Soviet Union The collection "Social Movements, Elections, Ephemera" provides an extensive pool of primary sources on elections and political movements in the countries of the former Soviet Union ...

MENAdoc

Open Access Repository

MENAdoc Search

Keyword, Title, Author

Suche

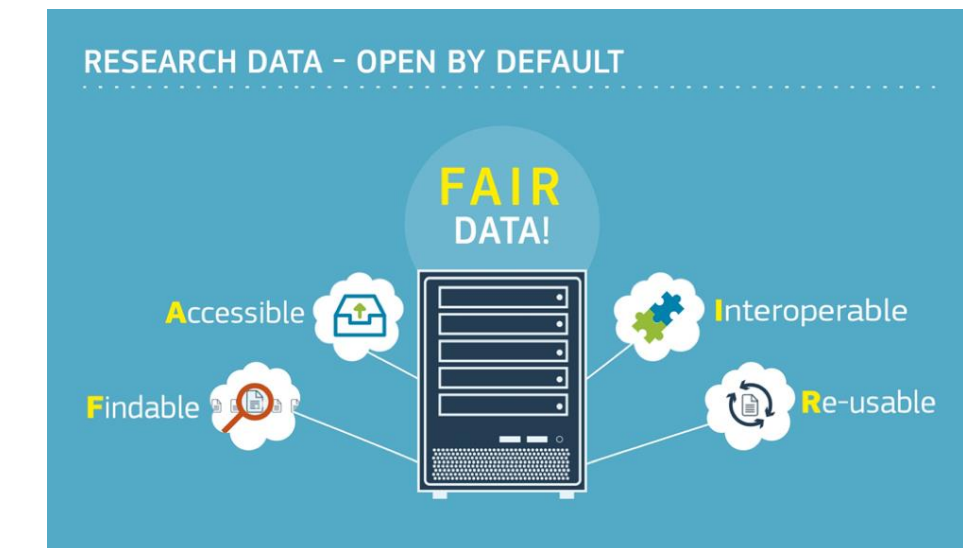
Old platform (15.240 titles) New platform (ca. 650 titles)

We offer worldwide free access to a large number of digital sources and publications relating to the MENA region and Islam via the MENAdoc portal.

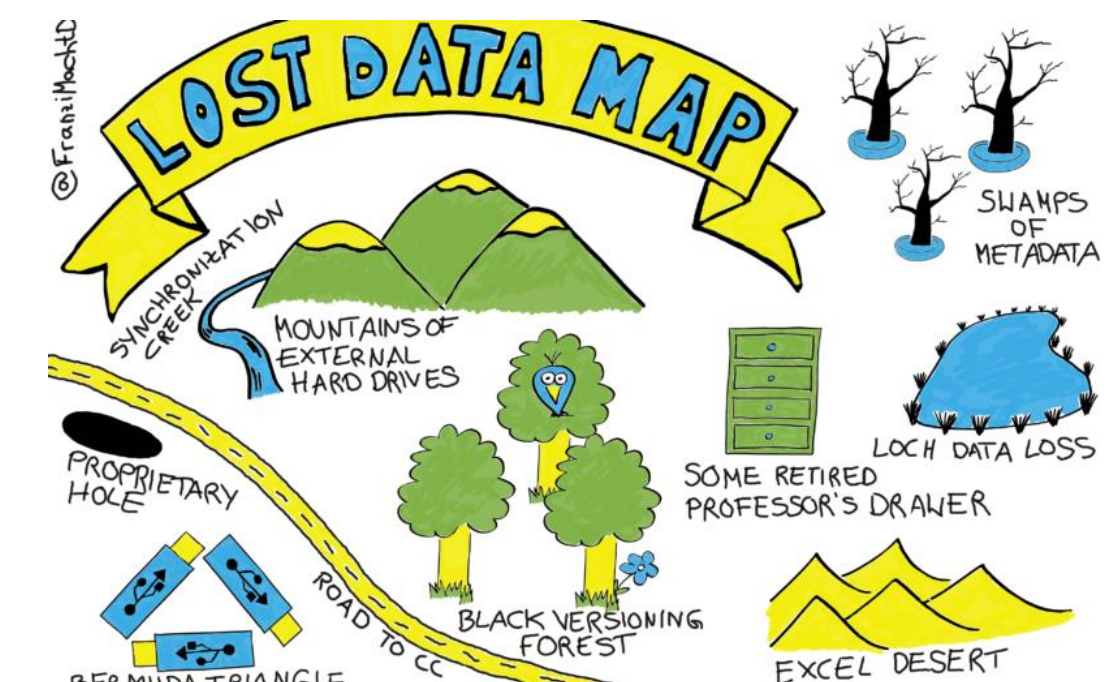
MENAdoc

New challenges for the SIS in the digital age:

- Is everything that was digitised during the research process also allowed to be stored as research data on our repositories?
- How else can we make Middle Eastern sources we have digitised visible in the digital age?
- What are we allowed to do with digital reproductions made by Middle Eastern memory institutions at the request of our projects?
- Can we feed our publicly visible database with content from publications that are not yet copyright-free in order to carry out digital analysis procedures with it?
- What specific aspects need to be considered when describing digital cultural items from the MENA region? (legal aspects, Metadata)



- FAIR:
 - Findable
 - Accessible
 - Interoperable
 - Re-Usable



FAIR data and Neo-Colonialism

- Increasing awareness of the colonial and neocolonial circumstances under which cultural artefacts have been collected by western memory institutions
- Libraries, archives in the MENA region are protective of their holdings - understandable, as their cultural heritage can be found in museums all over the world
- Due to this, we must take special care when making contracts for a reuse of digitisations of their holdings
- Proper attribution for citation is required, as are clear conditions on access and reuse.
- Sources in private or non-state ownership may contain sensitive content regarding minorities or social movements - how to document such material digitally?
- Description of metadata in times of international data exchange requires standards for non-Latin scripts (including Romanization) so that data can be made findable.



NFDI – What's that?

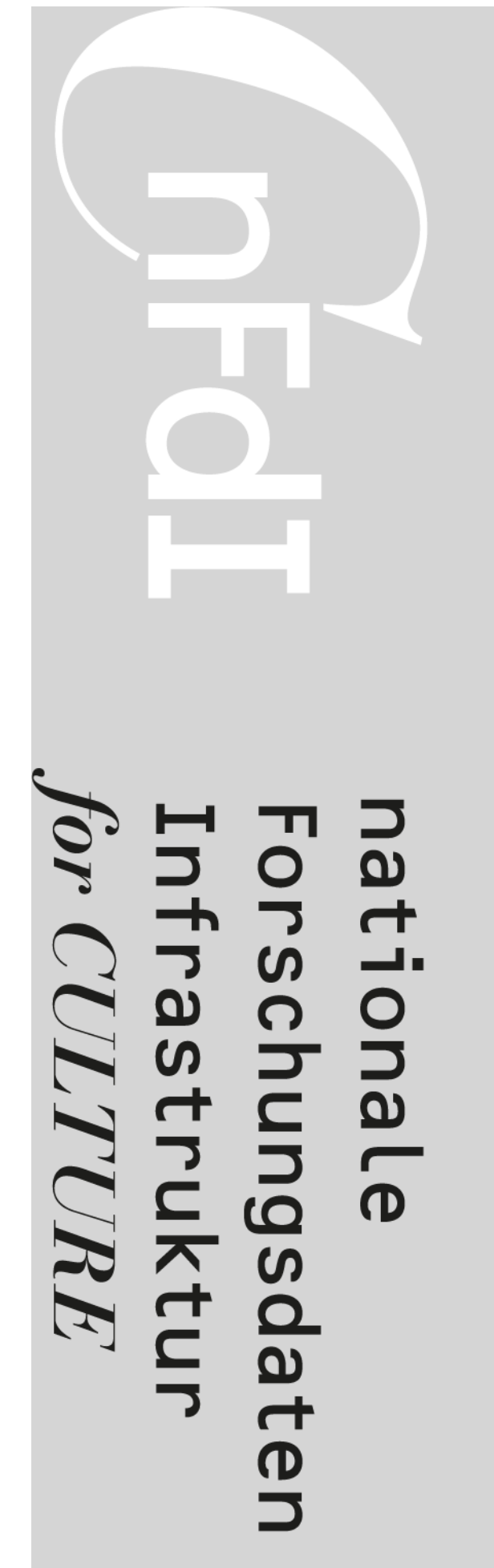
- Short for „Nationale Forschungsdateninfrastruktur“ - National Research Data Infrastructure
- Organized as an association, formed from the individual consortia
- Funding by the German Ministry of Education and Research
- Up to 30 consortia for different fields of research
- 9 consortia have already started their work

- Goal: standardization of data formats, metadata and the according infrastructure across fields
- Four humanities-related consortia planned: NFDI4Culture, NFDI4Memory, NFDI text+ and NFDI4Objects



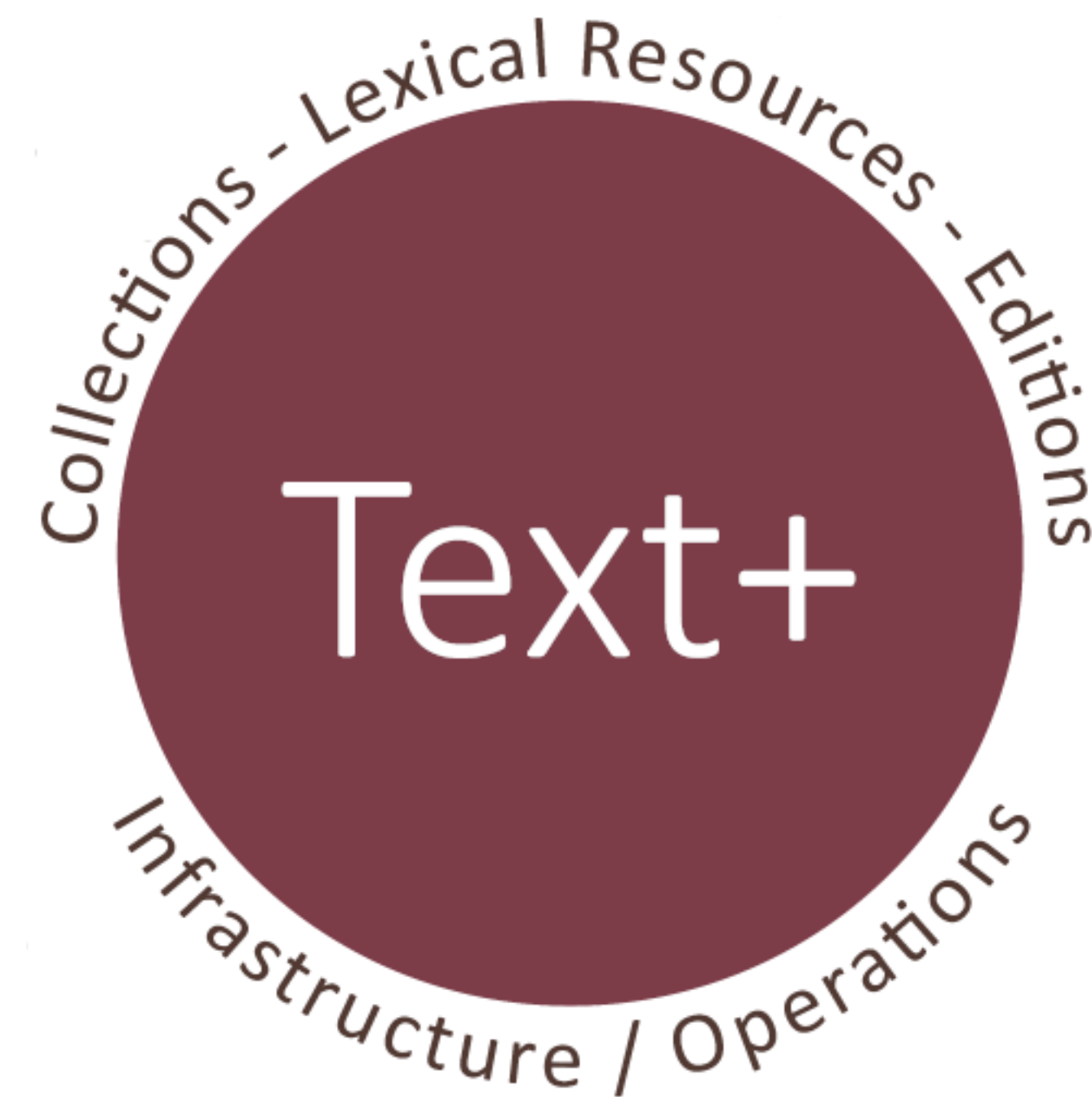
NFDI – NFDI4Culture

- „consortium for research data on material and immaterial cultural heritage“
- Main fields: art history, theatre studies, architecture
- Main participants Academies, Archives, Art Colleges, Cultural Heritage Institutions et. Al
- SIS is partner in Task Area 5 „Overarching Ethical and Legal Activities“
- Creation of addenda or formal contracts for the usage of digitized cultural data (e.g. manuscripts) with holding institutions
- <https://nfdi4culture.de/>



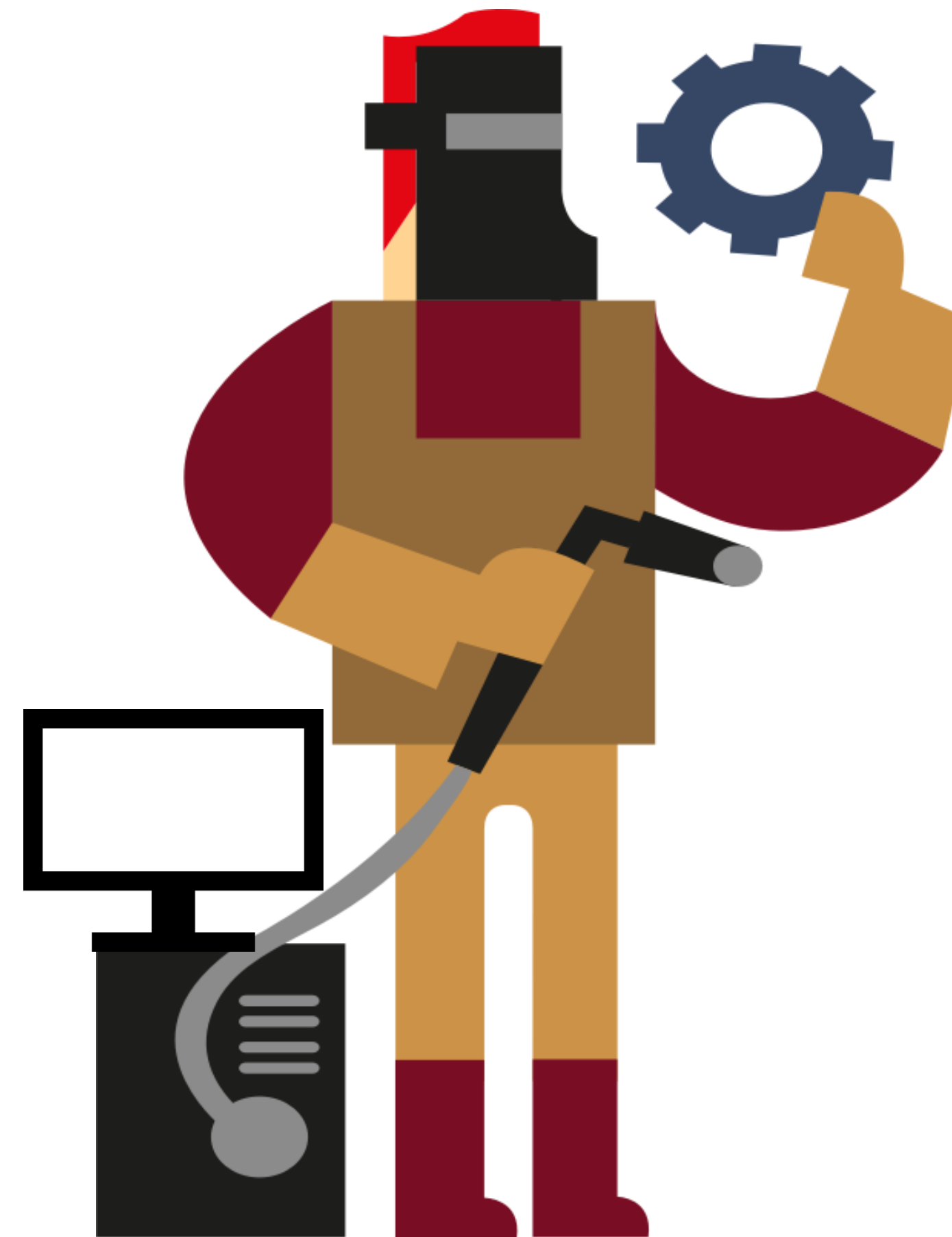
NFDI – NFDI text+

- Focuses on text- and language-based research data with a special emphasis on Digital Collections, Lexical Resources and Editions
- Applied for funding in 2020
- Spokesperson Prof. Dr. Verena Klemm works in Islamic Studies at Leipzig University
- FID is Partner, issued Letter of Support
- Will support with counseling on RDM, data formats and others



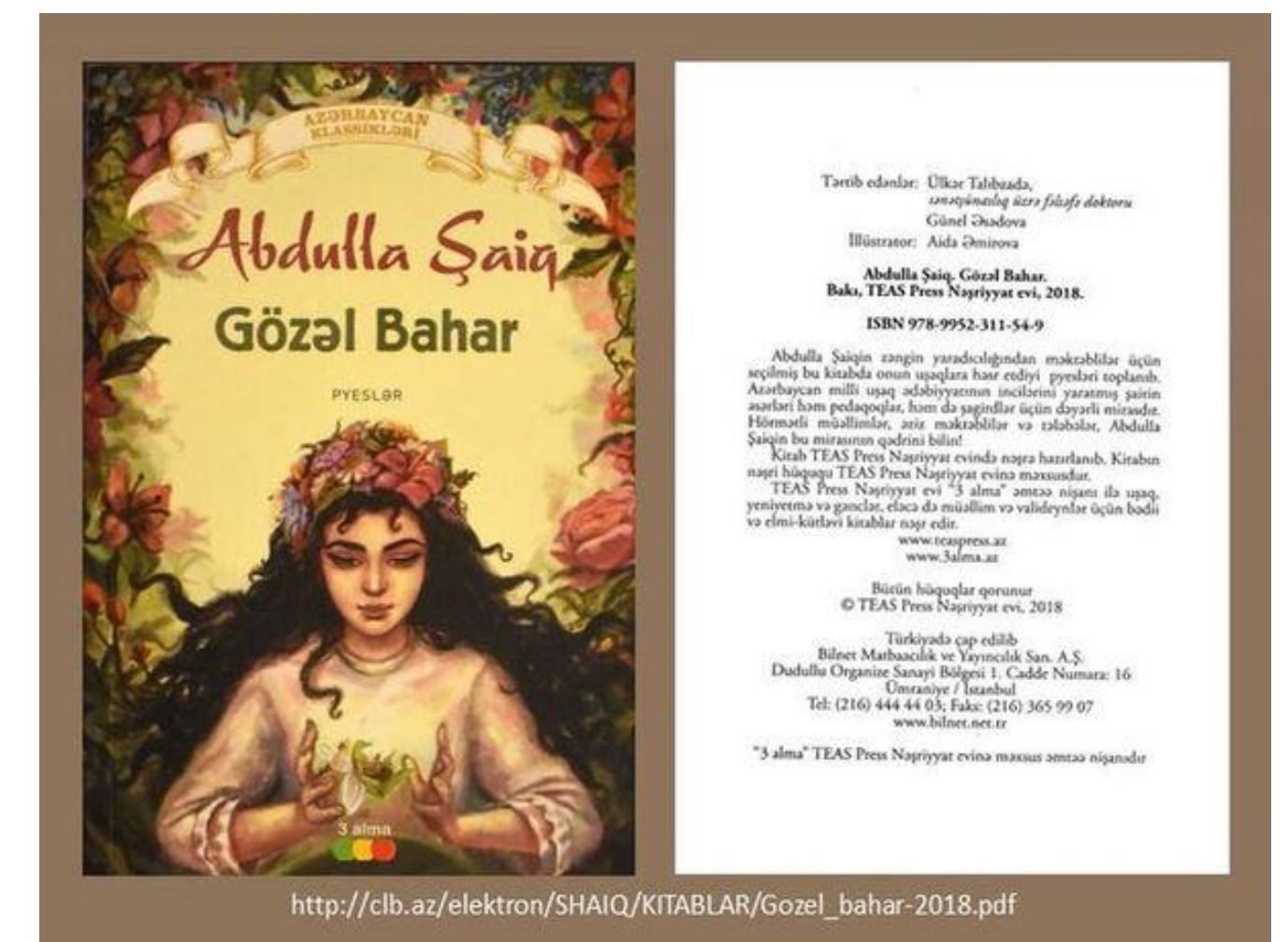
Services of the SIS

- RDM counselling, including
 - DMP
 - Tips on tools
 - Data formats
 - Data storage
- Promoting Open Access via MENAdoc
 - Secondary Publishing:
 - Checking for options via researchers' bibliographies
 - Publishing for titles viable for Green OA
 - Digitization of out-of-print works
 - Digitization of historical works in the public domain
 - Hosting for OA journals and (soon) monograph series via OJS/OMP
- Trainings



Status quo in the current consultative discussions with scheduled or ongoing projects

- The data generated has a wide variety of origins, as it often comes from different countries (divergent, partly unclear legal situation)
- It is unclear who will have access rights to the data and how access management can be technically mapped (closed access, single-user access)
- Material freely accessible on the web but no licence information - how can it be re-used?
- Heterogeneous data formats, not all are suitable for long-term archiving.
- Software solutions are proprietary
- Some source materials are very fragile and need to be "rescued" through digitization
- Inconsistent transliteration rules for recording metadata
- Lack of authority data for keywording

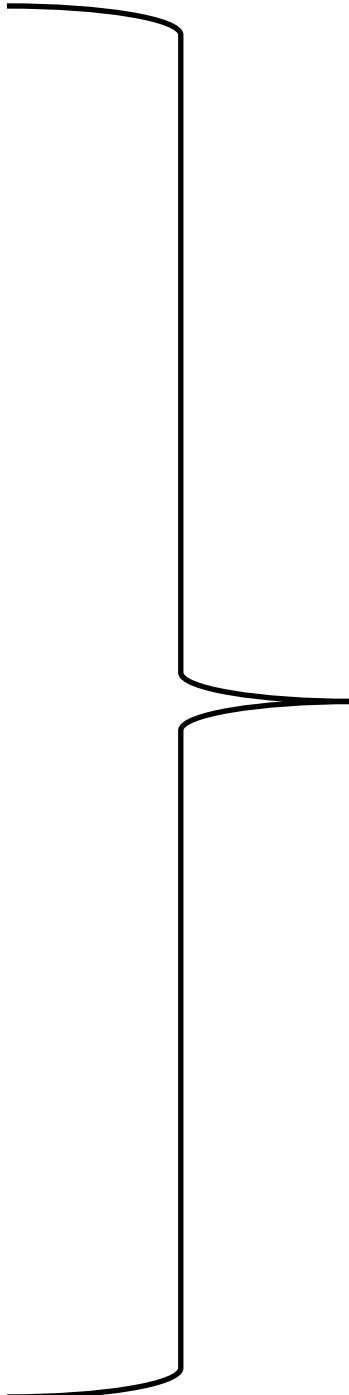


Aims and goals

- Open access wherever possible
- Persistent identifier (as granular as possible) for each object
- Long term preservation strategy
- Copyright declaration (ideally one of the international CC-BY licences)
- High resolution image (at least DFG standard or similar)
- Full text search
- Standard formats for all files

- Standardised agreements that take RDM aspects into account

- Training/exchange process between European and Middle Eastern libraries on RDM topics



Close cooperation with researchers who have good contacts in the region, Melcom colleagues, memory institutions and publishers in the MENA region.

Thank you for your time. Do you have any questions?



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