

# The German Letter in the 18th Century

Building up a comprehensive dataset and collaborative network for digitizing and investigating the German letter in the age of Enlightenment

## In a nutshell

The project establishes a co-operative network and creates a representative digital collection of already edited and printed 18th-century letters. As an infrastructure project in the DFG funding program "Digitisation and Indexing", PDB18 does not itself pursue a research question of its own, but will enable research on epistolary exchange in the 18th century using digital methods (network analysis, text mining etc.) by providing comprehensive data sets of metadata and full texts.

The letters will be accessible via metadata, images, and (in part) full texts via the portal PDB18, which is based mainly on the existing infrastructures *correspSearch* and *CEiD*.

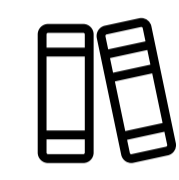
## Team

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[www.PDB18.de](http://www.PDB18.de)

### Interdisciplinary Centre for European Enlightenment Studies



#### Corpus

The corpus consists of edited letters that were written or sent to the German-speaking world in the 18th century. It potentially includes all languages, although German, Latin and French will predominate. The letters come from authors born between 1640 and 1780.



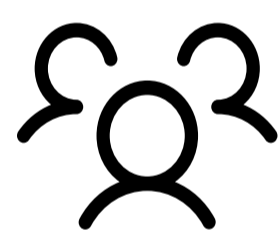
#### Ontology of Letters



#### Community Building

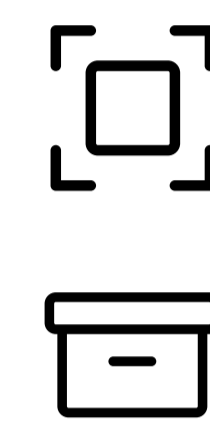
*Dialogue, Workshops, Data acquisition*

### Partners & Community



Digitale Edition J. C. Lavater  
 Digitale Edition der Korrespondenzen J. G. Sulzers  
 hallerNet - Editions- und Forschungsplattform  
 Historisch-kritische Edition des Briefwechsels von C. Thomasius  
 Korrespondenzen der Frühromantik  
 Leibniz-Edition  
 PROPYLÄEN. Forschungsplattform zu Goethes Biographica  
 Kritische Friedrich-Schlegel-Ausgabe  
 Voltaire Foundation  
 ... and maybe your project?

### Centre for Digital Editions in Darmstadt



#### Digitization

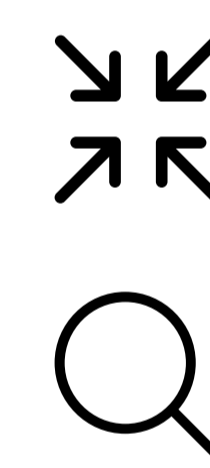
Scans form the basis for generating full texts using the OCR software Transkribus. The full texts will be converted into a TEI-XML format, which is based on DTABf, and stored in eXist-db. The transcribed text and the facsimile are presented side by side with the help of the framework wdbplus. The capturing of metadata in CMIF and the enrichment with IDs from authority files is done manually, as this has proven in tests to be the most efficient approach.

*Bibliography via Zotero*

*Fulltexts of printed letters in various formats*

*Metadata as CMIF*

### correspSearch



#### Aggregation & Searching

The metadata is aggregated and enriched (with data from authority files) in *correspSearch*, where it can be searched extensively and retrieved via various APIs (TEI-XML, TEI-JSON, RDF). *CorrespSearch* will be enhanced with new search options and a registry in which letters can be defined as abstract work entities. Thus, different editions of the same letter could be mapped to each other.

*Search results in various formats*

*Metadata as CMIF*

*Support for data providers, Data acquisition*

