The Heidelberg Academy of Sciences and Humanities

The Heidelberg Academy of Sciences and Humanities was established in 1909 in the tradition of the *Kurpfälzische Akademie* (Academy of the Electoral Palatinate) founded in 1763 by Elector Carl Theodor. Throughout its existence the Heidelberg Academy has upheld its allegiance to the purpose for which it was originally constituted: assembling the outstanding scholars and scientists of the state of Baden-Württemberg for cross-disciplinary exchange and independent research. Like its seven counterparts in other German states (Berlin, Göttingen, Munich, Leipzig, Mainz, Düsseldorf and Hamburg), the Baden-Württemberg State Academy in Heidelberg is a member of the Union of German Academies of Sciences and Humanities. It is both a scholarly society in the traditional sense of the term and a modern non-university research institution. The Academy organises scholarly and scientific symposia and public lecture series. At the same time it is dedicated to the encouragement of young scholars and scientists, maintaining to this end a Junior Academy of its own, supporting conferences organised by young scholars and scientists and awarding research prizes.

A SCHOLARLY SOCIETY IN THE GRAND TRADITION

In its sessions (plenary and sectional) the Academy serves its members as a forum for regular interdisciplinary discussion of the issues and findings generated by academic research. The full members of the Heidelberg Academy are scholars and scientists from the state of Baden-Württemberg elected on the basis of their outstanding achievements in the sectors they represent. In addition, the Members’ Assembly can elect corresponding members from all over the world. The Academy is sub-divided into two Sections, the Philosophical-Historical Section and the Mathematical-Scientific Section. At present it has 190 full and 70 corresponding members from all walks of scholarly and scientific endeavour. The range and variety of the research areas involved give the Academy unparalleled opportunities for a form
of scholarly and scientific exchange and cooperation that transcends the boundaries traditionally imposed on academic disciplines, Faculties and universities.

A MODERN RESEARCH INSTITUTION

At present the Academy runs 22 ongoing research projects involving some 230 staff members. The range of these projects is wide indeed. The academic responsibility for the individual projects lies with supervisory Commissions made up of Academy members and external experts. These 22 research projects are described in this brochure.

In its work the Academy concentrates on long-term basic research. In the humanities, the Academy contributes to the preservation of our cultural heritage with a variety of projects including critical editions of the works and correspondence of major thinkers and the compilation of a number of dictionaries satisfying the most exacting lexicographic standards. In a number of ventures scientists and scholars work hand in hand, as in the project entitled “The Role of Culture in Early Expansions of Humans”, which investigates both the biological mechanisms and the cultural techniques involved in early human migration. In this way, the Academy supplies a sound fund of knowledge that can be drawn upon by other scholars and scientists active in a research or teaching capacity and also by the public at large.

As a state institution the Heidelberg Academy is funded primarily by the state of Baden-Württemberg. For several of its research projects it also benefits from financial resources made available by the “Academy Programme” run jointly by the Federal Government and the German states. In such cases, the costs for the projects in question are shouldered equally by the Federal Government and the state where the respective Academy is situated. In addition, the Academy Research Units apply for external funding from priority programmes run by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research, the German Research Foundation, the European Union and other foundations.

SUPPORT FOR YOUNG ACADEMICS AND SCIENTISTS

One of the Academy’s central concerns is providing support for Baden-Württemberg’s young scholars and scientists. Since 2002 the “WIN-Kolleg” Junior Academy has promoted integrated interdisciplinary research on topical issues organised and conducted by young academics. So far, a total of ten cross-disciplinary projects running for a maximum of five years have been successfully sponsored. They centre on three main subjects: “Brain and Mind: Physical and Psychic Functions of the Brain”, “Cultural Foundations of European Unification” and “The Human Life Cycle: Biological, Societal and Cultural Aspects”.

The Academy’s Conferences for Young Academics have been going on since 2007. They give young researchers an opportunity to organise interdisciplinary conferences under their own aegis and in the way they think fit.

Every year the Academy awards four prizes in recognition of outstanding academic achievements by young researchers.

Together with the other Academies of the same cut, the Heidelberg Academy of Sciences and Humanities claims a place of its own within Germany’s highly variegated academic research system. It sets out to preserves all that is worth maintaining in a long and venerable academic tradition and at the same time extends the range of its activities to satisfy the new expectations generated by society.
PLENARY ACADEMY

1 | Goethe Dictionary
2 | Historical and Recent High-Water Management Conflicts in Connection with Rhine, Elbe and Danube and the Tensions between Science, Technology and Social Ecology
3 | The Role of Culture in Early Expansions of Humans

PHILOSOPHICAL-HISTORICAL SECTION

4 | Buddhist Stone Inscriptions in Northern China
5 | Medieval German Inscriptions
6 | Epigraphic Database of Roman Inscriptions (EDH)
7 | Monasteries in the Middle Ages as Powerhouses of Innovation: Designs for Living and Models of Social and Legal Order in Europe
8 | Nietzsche Commentary
9 | The Temple as a Canon of Religious Literature in Ancient Egypt
10 | Historical-Philological Commentary on the Chronicle of John Malalas
11 | Documents on the History of Religion and Law of pre-modern Nepal

Editions

12 | Martin Bucer’s Writings in German
13 | Edition of Cuneiform Literary Texts from Assur
14 | Europa Humanistica
15 | Protestant Ecclesiastical Ordinances of the 16th Century
16 | History of Southwest German Court Music in the 18th Century
17 | Commentaries on the Fragments of Greek Comedy
19 | Melanchthon’s Correspondence

Dictionaries

20 | Etymological Dictionary of Old French, Dictionnaire étymologique de l’ancien français (DEAF)
21 | Onomasiological Dictionary of Old Gascon, Dictionnaire onomasiologique de l’ancien gascon (DAG)
22 | German Law Dictionary (DRW)

CENTRE FOR BASIC RESEARCH ON THE EARLY MODERN AGE
The Goethe Dictionary lists in alphabetical order, the meanings of all the words figuring in Goethe’s personal vocabulary. On the basis of about three million references grouped into over 90,000 dictionary entries, it supplies precise analyses of Goethe’s usage of these terms in systematically organised entries including selected citations. The dictionary takes equal account of ordinary language, the wide range of special-purpose (scientific) language and termini employed by Goethe and the specific usages encountered in his literary works. Accordingly, the Goethe Dictionary is not merely of interest to research scholars specialising in Goethe and his works, but also an invaluable source of information for all those working on the history of science, culture, ideas and concepts.

The project is a joint undertaking by the Academies of Sciences and Humanities in Heidelberg, Göttingen and Berlin, with associated research centres in Hamburg and Berlin/Leipzig.
2 | Historical and Recent High-Water Management Conflicts in Connection with Rhine, Elbe and Danube and the Tensions between Science, Technology and Social Ecology

The project analyses and compares historical, recent and anticipated conflicts and potential conflicts connected with high water and flooding. With reference to the rivers Rhine, Elbe and Danube, it takes a cross-disciplinary approach to developing a set of methodological instruments for the analysis of global water problems and the proposal of solutions to those problems.

Increasingly, high water and flooding have come to be perceived not only as a physical and material threat but also as the outcome of societal processes. As such, the course taken by these events and the influence that can be exerted on them are never entirely predictable or controllable. Accordingly, a strategy for dealing with the hazards of flooding will no longer concentrate exclusively on abating its effects and minimising the damage it causes. Responding to floods and preventing them from happening in the first place calls for approaches that take full account of the complex interrelations between nature, technology and society. The factors constituting the physical context and determining society’s response to (incipient) flooding are closely interconnected with regard to

- spatial and temporal integration of natural processes, architectural measures and protection/utilisation claims
- risk awareness and interpretations of security and danger
- coping and prevention as a long-term learning and negotiation process
- normative regulation
- planning, construction and operation.

Conflicts of interest are frequent between the groups involved and/or people living in the vicinity. Controversial issues can be economic, ecological or social. Comparative historical analysis is an indispensable component in future conflict management. The methods employed in the modelling of environmental systems can also contribute much to the avoidance, settlement or mediation of conflicts. The theoretical approach involves investigation of the extent to which a socio-ecological concept of space can be applied (a) to the issue in question and (b) (if the outcome is positive) to water-based conflicts in general.

The research project is scheduled to take three years and is funded by the Klaus Tschira Foundation.

January 1932: The Elbe overflows its banks near Dresden (Federal Archives, picture 102-12896, anonymous undated photo).
Starting some 2 million years ago, the *Homo* genus spread from Africa to Asia and Europe in a series of migration waves. Just like any other organism, the australopithecines and early hominids were restricted in their choice of habitat by natural conditions, but cultural achievements accomplished in the course of evolution enabled our early ancestors to adapt to their environment. The aim of the project is to reconstruct (a) the spatio-temporal and phylogenetic expansions of the various hominins, (b) the extension of the ecological environment and (c) the enhancement of cultural capacities in the period between 3 million and 20,000 years ago and also to cast light on the causal relations between these developments. Particular emphasis is placed on the progress of human abilities towards cultural activity, the background(s) against which this took place and the different ways in which it materialised. Archaeological excavations in Africa, Asia and Europe provide important information on this point.
**Buddhist Stone Inscriptions in Northern China**

The second half of the 6th century AD was a significant period in the history of Chinese Buddhism. In the years 577/578 Buddhist believers were subjected to severe persecution, but the reception of the holy scriptures of a religion originating in India was not greatly affected by this. In the course of adapting the foreign doctrine to the indigenous traditions of calligraphy and landscape appreciation, Chinese monks created unique stone inscriptions. The sacred texts were laboriously carved into the natural rock with characters up to nine feet high. The inscriptions were also integrated into the architecture of cave temples. With this “network” of stone inscriptions the Chinese Buddhists created the most significant monuments to the cultural history of northern China that have come down to us.

The objective of the Research Unit is to compile a comprehensive and systematic documentation of these stone inscriptions, some of which have only been discovered in the last few years. One extremely interesting aspect is the fact that the texts are integrated into different spatial contexts. The inscriptions exposed to wind and weather impose a sacral character on the landscape. Monumental stelae proclaim the sacred doctrines, sheer rock faces become places of meditation, great clumps of rock mark the routes taking the pilgrims up into the mountains. In the sheltered cave temples, hundreds of thousands of characters cover the walls. The full meaning of the textual programme only becomes apparent through consideration of the interactive dialogue it engages in with the iconographic programme of the neighbouring pictorial niches.

The project is based on international cooperation, notably with Chinese scholars, many of whom in the past few years have been displaying a new and heightened interest in issues connected with religious history. In addition, we have close contacts with Japanese scholars upholding the outstanding Buddhological traditions of their country. At the interdisciplinary level the project involves researchers from the chair of Geoinformatics (GIScience) at Heidelberg University’s Institute of Geography and from the Institute of Spatial Information and Surveying Technology at i3Mainz (Mainz University of Applied Sciences) for clarification of the topographic situation of the carved texts. Via modern 3D laser technology and the establishment of a geodata infrastructure, a web application with analytic tools can be provided that squarely situates the project within the Digital Humanities sector.
The mission of the Research Unit is to produce a complete commented edition of the Latin and German inscriptions from the Middle Ages and the early modern age (up to 1650) in Baden-Württemberg. The undertaking is part of a joint project conducted by the German Academies of Sciences and Humanities and their Austrian counterpart and dates back to 1933. After the interruption of work caused by the Second World War it was resumed with new élan in the 1960s. Seventeen of the 81 volumes published so far under the collective title “Die Deutschen Inschriften” (DI) have appeared in the Heidelberg series, two others are in the preparation stage. Each of these volumes encompasses the inscriptions in one or more urban or regional districts of Baden-Württemberg that have come down to us either in their original form or as copies. In view of the fact that many inscribed surfaces are exposed to harmful environmental influences, a systematic inventory and on-site photographic documentation are an urgent necessity. This undertaking contributes to the conservation of our cultural heritage and should ideally extend to those regions not immediately scheduled for scholarly attention at the moment. The basic research engaged in by the Unit is of relevance for a variety of disciplines, including history, philology, art history and ethnology. Especially noteworthy is the palaeographic component, which makes an important contribution to the history of script and writing in general.
The research project was initially established in 1986 and scheduled to run for five years in the framework of the Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz Programme. Since 1993 it has been a Research Unit of the Heidelberg Academy of Sciences and Humanities. Its aim is to compile as comprehensive a database of Latin inscriptions from the Roman Empire as possible and to make them available on the internet in a free database, thus creating a readily accessible basis for research on epigraphic sources. The emphasis is on Latin inscriptions, also included are a smaller number of bilingual (e.g. Latin/Greek) and Greek texts. The epigraphic testimonies were originally written in abbreviations and most of them have only come down to us in fragmentary form. In the EDH they are filled out and supplemented and can be retrieved together with other research-relevant information (discovery site, social classification, measurements, dating, bibliography etc.), photos and/or drawings. These data are constantly expanded and updated. In the framework of the internationally coordinated database portal EAGLE (Electronic Archives of Greek and Latin Epigraphy: www.eagle.let.uniroma1.it) work is continuing on the conflation of the most important epigraphic database ventures with the aim of making all Roman and Greek epigraphs from antiquity available via a joint query mask. In line with the division of work agreed on in 2003, the EDH has been allotted the task of processing the Latin and bilingual inscriptions from the provinces of the Roman Empire.

At present the database encompasses over 65,000 inscriptions. The information on inscriptions and inscription carriers contained in it has been accessible to the public via the internet since September 1997 (in part) and September 2002 in its entirety. The year 2003 saw the inception of online data input into the EDH, making it possible for scholars without databases of their own to make their epigraphic data available on the WWW from any location. Subsequently the two other part databanks went online, the Epigraphic Bibliography (with at present some 14,000 datasets) in 2004 and the Epigraphic Photo Library (with at present approximately 24,000 datasets) in 2007. All three sections of the overall database are constantly being updated and expanded. Notably the joint presentation of inscription text with photo enables the user to directly compare the original with the proposed reading of the text.
Monasteries in the High Middle Ages as Powerhouses of Innovation: Designs for Living and Models of Social and Legal Order in Europe

The Academy project “Monasteries in the High Middle Ages” focuses on the medieval monastic world as a harbinger of modernity. In the changing social and religious context between the 11th and the 13th centuries, medieval monasteries achieved a hitherto unexampled degree of rationalism in the way they organised their collective lives. The models generated at this time inspired the new societal and cultural dawn that spawned specific configurations of political and social order. In modern Europe the repercussions of those configurations were still clearly discernible.

Two closely connected research units have dedicated themselves to exploring this phenomenon, one at the Heidelberg Academy of Sciences and Humanities, the other at the Saxon Academy of Sciences and Humanities.

While the research unit in Dresden investigates the ideals of ordered living operative within the monasteries themselves, the work being done in Heidelberg concentrates on texts from the 12th and 13th centuries that proposed blueprints for social and political order with equal relevance for society outside the monastery walls, blueprints that were based on universal interpretations of the meaning of life and the world. Initially, the research work involves exploration of the material available and subsequent identification and documentation of the essential texts. These are then subjected to historical analysis and finally edited (in most cases).

Friedrich Nietzsche (1844–1900) is one of the most important and influential philosophers in the European history of ideas. His works are crucial to the philosophical identity of the modern age. His impact on philosophy, literature, anthropology, psychology and religious and cultural criticism the world over can hardly be overestimated. This makes it all the more surprising that up to now we should have no commentary on his complete works that investigates its philosophical, historical and literary groundings and traces the impact of the books published by Nietzsche himself.

The “Nietzsche Commentary” project of the Heidelberg Academy of Sciences and Humanities is designed to fill this gap. In six large-scale volumes it will investigate Nietzsche’s works in their historical context, thus providing a new academic tool enhancing our understanding of Nietzsche’s thought.

The Commentary will collate, systematise and extend available research findings. The discussions of individual passages are equipped with introductory overview commentaries designed to situate the respective texts in their conceptual and structural contexts, indicate the circumstances under which they took shape and trace the history of their impact.
By 332 BC Alexander the Great had conquered Egypt and in 306 BC his former general Ptolemy I founded the Ptolemaic dynasty. Throughout the country these two events triggered a flurry of temple construction activity the origins of which may in fact date back to the 30th dynasty (380–342 BC). This activity was destined to continue until well into the 2nd century AD. Whereas the religious texts gracing Egypt's Pharaonic sanctuaries (late third millennium to approx. mid 3rd century BC) are relatively brief, the new structures – temples, chapels, gateways – were adorned to a hitherto unprecedented extent with hieroglyphic inscriptions of sometimes considerable length. These late temple inscriptions are frequently difficult to decipher because of their extended and often specific hieroglyphic systems. They contain comprehensive, varied and often unique information on cults and festivities, the religious topography of the Nile delta, myths and divine constellations, construction history and spatial functions. For this reason many Egyptologists refer to them quite rightly as “bibles in stone”.

The aim of the project is to find a definition for what constituted the essential nature of an Egyptian temple in the Graeco-Roman era. The first step in this endeavour is to establish the fundamental text genres found in the temples by means of detailed analysis of their forms, motifs, structures and contents. The second stage is to investigate the functional purpose of the inscriptions and their positionings, in other words analysing the dependencies and interactions between decoration and architecture and discussing whether the Ptolemaic and Roman temple inscriptions may have had their roots in the traditional textual heritage of Egyptian religion. Finally, the project will propose the reconstruction of an encyclopaedia of priestly knowledge in which one of the essential concerns will be to clarify whether in fact such a canon of Egyptian literature providing (despite individual liberties and local idiosyncrasies) a binding framework for the decoration of these late temples ever actually existed.
In the 6th century BC, John Malalas (Ioannes Malalas) wrote a “chronicle of the world” covering the entire course of history from Adam to his own times. We know little about the author himself. He has left no traces whatsoever outside his chronicle. He must have been a member of the higher provincial administration situated in Antioch (today Antakya, Turkey) because he was able to draw extensively upon the archive material stored there. In the 530s he appears to have moved to Constantinople, the capital of the East Roman empire. At all events, the focus of his chronicle suddenly switches from Antioch to the metropolis on the Bosporus. In its original version (no longer extant) the chronicle probably encompassed the death of emperor Justinian (565 AD). The version that has come down to us breaks off a few months before.

Malalas’ “world chronicle” is of crucial significance for later medieval historiography. Subsequent Byzantine chroniclers not only imitated its structure, they frequently “lifted” parts of the text and expanded them, so that in the last analysis Malalas’ work is a central pillar of Byzantine historiography. The initial sections of the chronicle contain Biblical stories and Malalas weaves into them the historical and mythological legacy of antiquity. After the era of the Roman kings followed by accounts of the life and exploits of Alexander the Great and the rule of Augustus, the author goes into increasing detail on the age of the Roman emperors, focusing on the decades that he had experienced himself, i.e. the reigns of Anastasios (491–518), Justin I (518–527) and Justinian (527–565). Accordingly, the chronicle is particularly important as a source for the study of the 6th century, though the abundance of information it contains on the older periods is also of major interest.

John Malalas’ chronicle of the world has not yet received the scholarly attention it so richly deserves. The aim of the Research Unit is to close this gap. A central concern of the project is to elaborate a comprehensive historical/philological commentary on the work. At the same time, specific individual investigations are planned to analyse and situate the text and make it more readily accessible. Thus the broader aim of the project is to significantly enhance our understanding of historiography in late antiquity and the early Byzantine period.
The foundation of modern Nepal, which until 2007 was styled as the „only Hindu kingdom (of the world)“, goes back to the middle of the 18th century when Prithvi Narayan Shah, King of Gorkha, started expanding his dominion. Conquering many petty states, such as the rich Malla kingdoms of Kathmandu Valley in 1768/69, the Shah Kings soon ruled over a large territory, which subsequently developed into a national state.

This project aims at understanding developments the formation of the Himalayan state entailed, such as the restructuring of social institutions or the expansion of Hindu rule. Research is based on a corpus of documents available in public and private archives of the Kathmandu Valley. Among the writs numbering in hundreds of thousands particular attention is given to those relating to religious institutions (such as edicts, land grants, contracts, foundation charters, letters) and to legal and administrative practice (such as court decisions on moral conduct, letters of indulgence, caste regulations). Files held by the National Archives and other governmental institutions were partly microfilmed by the German Oriental Society (Deutsche Morgenländische Gesellschaft), but only some of them have been edited, translated, or studied so far.

With research units in Heidelberg and Kathmandu the project will systematically study and selectively edit and translate this unique textual corpus, which forms the basis for the still largely unexplored history of the many religious institutions and sites as well as of the jurisprudence of Nepal. The centrepiece of the academic endeavour is an open access digital database, which will unite references to published and unpublished documents and will enable complex searches in the data sets. Apart from the development of this database, which has a pioneering character in the research in South Asian documents, the Nepalese case-study will connect to wider scholarly discussions, such as the legitimation and affirmation of rulership, political unification and nation building, the importance of textualization and codification of law, and the development of elite cultures in the 19th century.
The significance of the Strasbourg Reformer Martin Bucer (1491–1551) for the institutions of the Protestant church resides, among other things, in the ecclesiastical ordinances he drew up for various German territories and cities of the Empire. Later taken up and disseminated by Calvin, they left their stamp on the entire Reformed church Tradition. In addition, he was indefatigable in his attempts to improve communication and understanding both among the Protestants themselves and between Protestantism and the Catholic church. Bucer took serious note of the challenge by the so-called “left wing” of the Reformation, drawing upon their critique in his advocacy for the rite of confirmation and for church discipline. He is also a central figure in the debate on the relationship between church and state, championing the freedom of the church from the state to an extent verging on the advocacy of a free church. During his stay in Cambridge he also helped lay the foundations for Anglicanism.

This commented edition of Martin Bucer's writings in German is part of an international project designed to produce the first historical–critical edition of his complete works. It is one of the most important ongoing projects relating to the entire Reformation period. At present the edition comprises 22 volumes, two more are in the planning stage.
In the early 20th century archaeologists of the German Oriental Society conducted excavations in Assur, the royal residence and capital of the Assyrian Empire. This city, now situated in northern Iraq, was completely destroyed in 614 BC. They found some 11,000 clay tablets and clay tablet fragments containing cuneiform texts. These texts are of major culture-historical significance. Alongside archives with documents of an economic and administrative nature, the archaeologists discovered libraries of narrative, religious and scholarly cuneiform texts from the middle and late Assyrian Empire (approx. 1500 BC–614 AD). The approx. 4,500 clay tablets and clay tablet fragments bearing “literary” texts contain epics, mythic narratives, fables and collections of proverbs. In the ruins of the main temple of the city, the researchers also came across extensive collections of omens, religious texts of all kinds, descriptions of festivities, royal inscriptions and much more besides. Profound insights into the healing arts of the ancient Orient are vouchsafed by another important find, an extensive scholarly library from the 7th century BC encompassing the specialist literature of an Assyrian healer whose task it was to use divinatory, ritual, magical and medical resources to avert all evil from king, country and populace.
A documentary and bibliographical handbook on the transmission of ancient and medieval literature in the early modern age.

The Heidelberg Unit of “Europa Humanistica” is part of an integrated European research project coordinated by the Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique in Paris. The aim of the overall project is the bibliographical reconstruction by region and person of the transmission via editions, commentaries and translations of the Bible, ancient and medieval texts by humanist scholars in Europe in the 16th and 17th centuries. Account is also taken of the history of the impact of this activity, which occasionally extends well into the 19th century. The reproduction of ancillary texts (most of them prefaces and congratulatory poems) also makes important sources available on the diverse political, social and academic functions of the transmission of older literature in the scholarly republic of Humanism. The prefaces are provided with regests and extensive commentaries on contexts and persons that can be systematically located via the relevant indexes. For reasons of manageability, the commentaries on the poems limit themselves to information on the authors and the dedicatees.

The Heidelberg Research Unit covers the scholars active in the Electoral Palatinate and adjoining territories.

**Publications:**

Vol. 1: Marquard Freher and Janus Gruter. 2 part volumes 2005

Vol. 2: David Pareus, Johann Philipp Pareus and Daniel Pareus. 2010

Vol. 3: Jacobus Micyllus, Johannes Posthius, Johannes Opsopoeus and Abraham Scultetus. 2010


Vol. 5: Wilhelm Xylander, Aemilius Portus, Dionysius Gothofredus et al. (in preparation)

The volumes produced by the integrated European research project are published by Brepols (Turnhout, Belgium).
In the territories that espoused Protestantism, the reorganisation of the Church was the task of the respective territorial authorities. It was incumbent upon the sovereign or the urban magistracy to ensure that the new doctrine was put into practice in the areas under their control. To this end they issued ordinances regulating church life in accordance with the principles of the new doctrine.

Given the close links between politics and religion in the 16th century, ecclesiastical ordinances were not only significant for church-related issues but also had an extensive influence on the secular sphere. These ordinances not only contain regulations for church services but also provisions on appointments to the clergy and the consistory. The ordinances on marriage and the poor list regulations were designed to enhance social discipline.

The edition of the Protestant ecclesiastical ordinances of the 16th century draws upon the editorial work undertaken by the Erlangen jurist Emil Sehling. His edition, which was initiated as early as 1902 and continued with interruptions until 1980, encompasses ordinances for territories in central, northern and eastern Germany, Bavaria and the Electoral Palatinate. Although the Research Unit has only been in existence since 2002, it has already issued eight volumes on Württemberg, Baden, the cities of the empire in south-west Germany, the Palatinate, Strasbourg and territories and imperial cities in Hesse.

The next stages of the edition are devoted to the Alsatian imperial cities, the historical territories in the modern-day states of North Rhine-Westphalia, Lower Saxony and Schleswig-Holstein and as a special volume the Protestant ecclesiastical ordinances in Transylvania (Siebenbürgen). The edition is planned for completion in 2016.
16 | History of Southwest German Court Music in the 18th Century

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This state project was initiated in 2006 with the central aim of collating and investigating the archival and musical sources for a social and institutional history of the southwest German court orchestras. Other focal points of the undertaking are comparative issues on the history of such institutions in the entire European context, stylistic critiques of compositional practice pursued by orchestras of royal courts and aristocratic families, studies on their role in the evolution of the modern orchestra with reference to 18th century innovations in instrument making and issues connected with historically informed performance practice. The findings of the project are to be published by the Heidelberg Universitätsverlag Winter in the series Schriften zur südwestdeutschen Hofmusik.

Research results will also be presented (a) in exchanges of information and in collaboration with other research institutions via international conferences and exhibitions, (b) in lexica and scholarly journals and (c) (in a more widely accessible form) in lectures, radio broadcasts, concert programme notes and CD booklets.

Another goal the Research Unit has set itself is to organise performances of largely unknown court music that has come down to us in written form and make it known to a larger audience, notably in the concert series Faszination Hofmusik initiated precisely for this purpose. From the abundance of works preserved in this form, the Unit will select the most valuable and historically important compositions and then publish them under its own auspices. These editions will take due account of source-critical issues and the problems of historically “authentic” performance and are designed both for scholarly purposes and as performing scores.

1  Ignaz Holzbauer (1711–1783), kapellmeister of the Mannheim Court Orchestra
2  Niccolò Jommelli (1714–1774), kapellmeister of the Stuttgart Court Orchestra
3  Johann Melchior Molter (1696–1765), kapellmeister of the Karlsruhe Court Orchestra
4  Joseph Aloys Schmittbaur (1718–1809), kapellmeister with the Rastatt and Karlsruhe Court Orchestras
Many works of ancient Greek literature have only been preserved in the form of more or less extensive fragments. This is particularly true of comedy, a genre decisively marked by two authors some of whose plays have come down to us in their entirety: Aristophanes (5th/4th century BC) and Menander (3rd/2nd century BC). The pioneering aspect of this research project in terms of literary history is that it sets out to provide commentaries on the Greek authors whose works have only survived in fragmentary form, thus correcting and supplementing our hitherto rather one-sided perspective on a central genre of European literature.

The commentaries are designed first to provide access from every conceivable standpoint to a set of texts that are usually difficult to understand and secondly wherever possible to attempt a reconstruction of the plays and determine the authors’ place in the history of literature. The fragments and testimonies are translated into German. The insights arrived at in the commentaries will find their way into more general studies on comedy and comic techniques like parody and satire and on the political function of these plays.

The connectivity of the project is high, involving cooperation with centres for the investigation of fragmentary Greek literature in Italy, the United Kingdom and the United States.
As a representative of existentialism, Karl Jaspers (1883–1969) is one of the most important German-speaking philosophers of the last century. The range of his thinking extends beyond existentialism itself to encompass logic, metaphysics and epistemology, the philosophy of religion and history, the history of philosophy, psychopathology, psychology and politics. Throughout his life Jaspers took an active and critical interest in the political life of the day and in the post-war years was a highly vocal and eloquent advocate of the way he thought the Federal Republic should develop. National and international admiration for his integrity and his works has been unaffected by the passage of time. However, we still have no comprehensive edition of his works with a unified commentary. Some of his central works are out of print and a number of posthumous works like the “World History of Philosophy” still await publication.

The Heidelberg Academy has begun its work on a commented edition of his complete works in 50 volumes, which at the same time will investigate the philosophical, contemporary and cultural preconditions for his thinking and also trace the history of his impact. The work on this edition at the Universities of Heidelberg and Oldenburg is projected to take 18 years and is the fruit of cooperation with the Karl Jaspers Foundation (Basel). The editors will have recourse to the unpublished writings kept at the German Literary Archives in Marbach and the 11,000 volumes of the Jaspers Research Library in the future Karl Jaspers House in Oldenburg. Over and above the commentary itself, the edition is designed to provide new impulses for research on the philosopher and enable the debates on present-day cultural and political issues to profit from a species of thinking that can be described as interdisciplinary and cosmopolitan in the best sense of those terms.
With some 9,750 items, the correspondence of humanist and Reformer Philipp Melanchthon (1497–1560) is one of the most extensive in the European history of ideas. The Research Unit has set itself the task of supplying a complete critical and commented edition of these Letters.

The edition “Melanchthon’s Correspondence” appears in two series:

1. The Regest Section with indexes and a complete listing of manuscripts. Regests are summarising abstracts in German providing an initial aid to understanding and a precise dating of the individual items. The twelve volumes published so far give access to letters, expert opinions, prefaces and related documents from 1514 to 1560, complete with commentaries. The places and persons referred to in the correspondence are covered in index volumes of their own.

2. The Critical Edition. Up to the present, thirteen volumes have appeared, covering the years 1514–1544. The edition offers the largely Latin, but sometimes also German and Greek texts in a reader-friendly form. In addition, there is a listing of the manuscript and printed versions of the texts as they have come down to us. Various annexes document the history of the texts, the textual criticism brought to bear on them and their historical impact. Others identify and situate sources, quotations and literary allusions.

The full bibliographic reference is as follows:
The Research Unit is in the process of compiling an historical dictionary of medieval French covering the entire vocabulary from the earliest linguistic monuments (the Strasbourg Oaths of 842) to the middle of the 14th century. It records all known word-meanings, groups the vocabulary etymologically into word families and relates it to the history of French and the Romance languages. The indication of links with Middle Latin and loan material from other European languages as well as references to the material culture of the period represent additional contributions to the European history of ideas.

The publication is available in printed fascicles and in an online version that can be consulted free of charge on the dictionary’s homepage at www.deaf-page.de.
21  |  Onomasiological Dictionary of Old Gascon  
Dictionnaire onomasiologique de l’ancien gascon (DAG)

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The Research Unit is in the process of compiling a terminological dictionary of the language employed in medieval south-western France: Old Gascon. The legitimacy of designating Gascon as the fourth language area of Gallo-romania is substantiated by its early independent evolution from late spoken Latin. The specific features of (Proto-) Gascon were fully formed by the year 600.

The DAG represents a continuation of the compilation of Gascon vocabulary initiated in the Dictionnaires onomasiologiques de l’ancien occitan et gascon (DAO/DAG), but switches its emphasis to the initial stages of written language.

The following sections pertaining to the subjects “Universe” (cosmos, earth, plant and animal life), the “Human Animal” (biological/physiological givens and physical needs) and the “Intellect” (intelligence and cognitive faculties) have been published so far:

DAO: 10 fascicles; DAOSupplément: 10 fascicles;  
DAG: 14 fascicles; DAO: Supplément bibliographique;  
DAO/DAG, Index alphabétique

The Liste bibliographique des sigles du DAG is constantly being extended and is available online at:  
www.dag-haw.uni-hd.de
The German Law Dictionary (Deutsches Rechtswörterbuch, DRW) is a comprehensive dictionary of historical legal terminology in German. It lists the legally relevant vocabulary not only of Modern High German but of all western German language varieties and the different stages of their history from the beginning of written records to the 19th century. The project was initiated in 1897 by the Royal Prussian Academy of Sciences and is now conducted by the Heidelberg Academy.

At present work is progressing on the twelfth of the 16 volumes planned. The approx. 90,000 entries published so far extend from Aachenfahrt to Schnappkorb. Every year, a double fascicle with 320 columns and some 1,000 entries is added. The freely accessible online version (www.deutsches-rechtsworterbuch.de) offers a diversity of further research options and is supplemented by electronic full-text editions and facsimiles of historical sources.

The Law Dictionary draws upon a source corpus of some 8,400 titles mined via an archive with approx. 2.5 million references and a constantly expanding database of selected source texts.

Alongside entries devoted to specifically legal terms like Anwalt, Litiskontestation, Mahnung and Rechtsordnung, the Dictionary also provides extensive coverage of legal aspects of everyday life reflected in such words as Almosen, Galgen, Kuss, melken, Nachbarschaft, Pfuscher, Querdau- men, rot and Salzmutter. The definitions are supplemented by historical reference texts illustrating developments in linguistic history and regional specialities, thus making the German Law Dictionary a window on over 1200 years of linguistic, legal and cultural history.
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