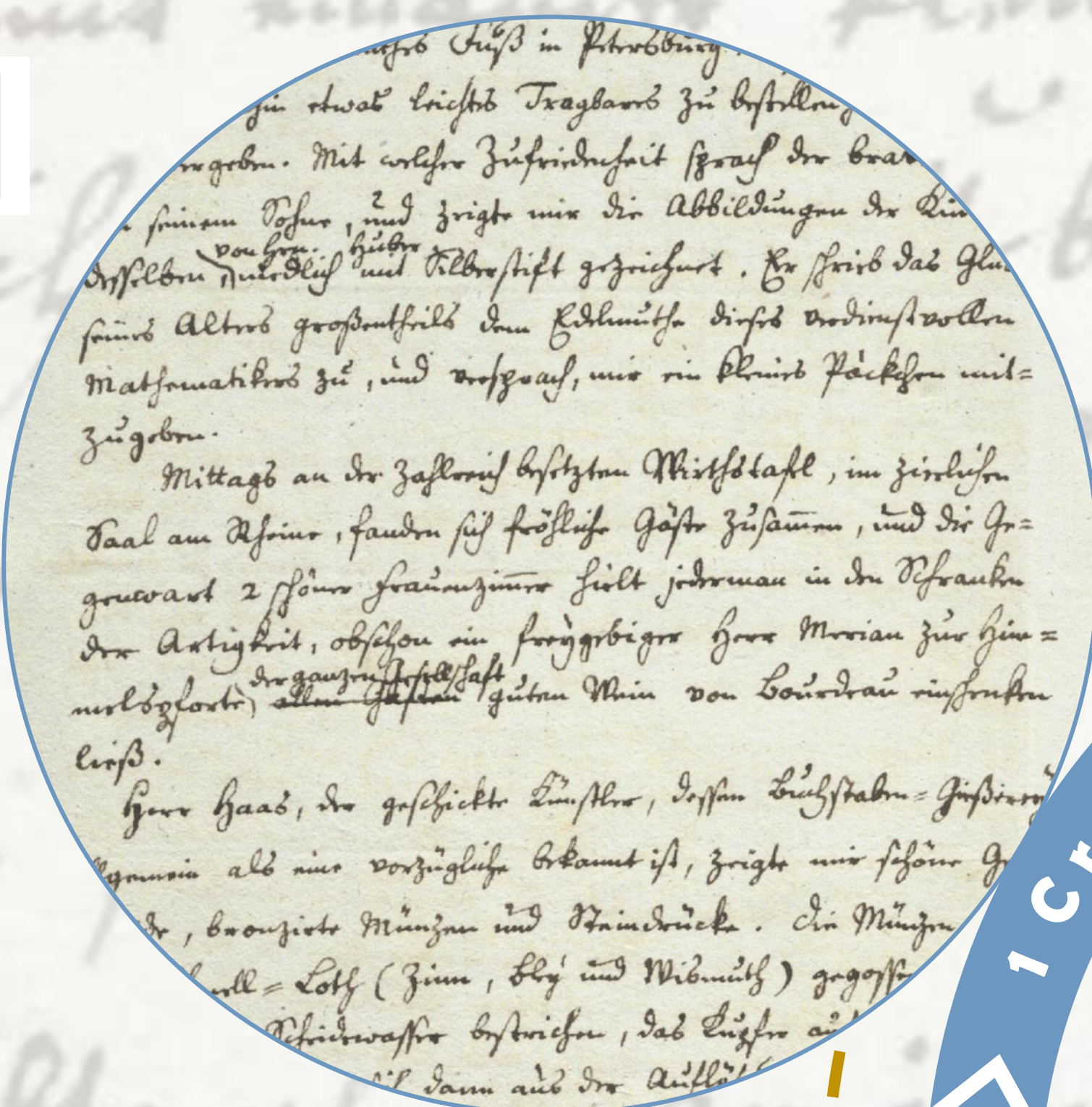


Responsible and Sustainable Editing:

A Life Cycle for Digital Editions of Historical Travelogues (DEHisRe)

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The first step, creating (1), involves selecting the historical sources to be edited, followed by digitization and then manual or automated transcription (HTR) using appropriate tools. This step aims to produce a digital equivalent of the original document, which serves as the foundation for subsequent actions and helps preserve cultural heritage through digital scholarly editions.



A presentation (6) can be delivered through digital platforms, web applications, and as a print publications. When presenting edited textual material from historical travelogues, spatio-temporal visualizations play a crucial role. These visualizations provide expanded access to the travelogue beyond traditional scholarly editions printed on paper. By applying and utilizing established data formats (2 & 3), it becomes possible to visualize the content using a variety of tools. This not only delivers spatio-temporal information, but also allows for linking with other historical travelogues and reusing them in new contexts.



The DFG-funded project "Digital Editions of Historical Travelogues" (DEHisRe) develops a research infrastructure for the digital transcription, annotation, and visualization of historical travel accounts. In addition, we are examining ontology concepts for travel accounts and travel routes. As a case study, we are working with the handwritten travel records of Franz Xaver Bronner (1758-1850), a German migrant who traveled to Kazan on the Volga in 1810 from Aarau in Switzerland and returned from Russia in 1817.

By incorporating the best practices in the field, we are presenting a six-step life cycle of digital editing. This circular workflow is based on an iterative process and is aligned with the "Life Cycle of Historical Information".



It starts with the digitization and transcription (1) of the texts to be edited, followed by the modeling and annotation (2 & 3) of data contained in the text. The processed data provides answers to complex information queries (4) and enables their analysis (5). Visualization (6) creates a new access to the texts, opening different perspectives. New research questions can trigger another iteration of the life cycle.

The six-step life cycle adds value to responsible and sustainable editing in two ways: by consistently implementing established standards, and by integrating them into a workflow that efficiently utilizes and reuses data while ensuring compliance with the FAIR principles.

During the data modeling (2) we apply open standards and data models based on the TEI guidelines, the DTA Base Format (DTABf), and the CIDOC-CRM to secure a flawless data exchange, the merging of information from different sources, and the data reuse for extended analyses.

The editing (3) aims to enrich the texts using the previously created data models, while employing methods like NER and authority data from GND, VIAF, and GeoNames for identification and interoperability.



Information retrieval (4) not only serves as the foundation for creating the digital edition but also for subsequent analysis (5) and visualization (6). Tasks at this stage include creating systems and algorithms to extract relevant information from large datasets (using XSLT and XQuery). Based on the modeling (2) and the editing process (3), this step is vital for making the data easily accessible and usable.

