

Central Asia Specialized Information Service ("FID" in German)

Overview of activities 03/2019 - 03/2021

The FID Central Asia has been providing specialized literature and information on the autochthonous peoples of Central Asia and Siberia since 2019. It works substantively, sustainably, transparently and is up-to-date. The FID works in politically and economically unstable regions, language and minority politics thus significantly determine the field of action of the FID Central Asia ([our regions](#)). Our ethical principle is not to endanger informants and contacts who help the FID in the acquisition of literature. Paleo-Asian, Tungusian, Mongolian and Turkic literature is acquired. With its orientation, the FID serves especially smaller institutes and disciplines, which are financially and structurally not in a position to acquire hard-to-find special literature on a broad and continuous basis. Rare literature was acquired on business trips to Central Asia and Siberia, conferences were attended, and MoUs and cooperations were agreed upon ([here](#)). The quality of FID services is closely tied to continuous communication with the scientific community, the [advisory board](#), and international networking in the FID regions.

In the FID, continuous formal and subject indexing of the acquired literature is carried out with original writing using international language and transcription standards ([more here](#)). This allows other libraries to re-use the metadata, furthermore the acquired literature can be found easily. The FID [Webarchive Central Asia](#) has been established. It archives and catalogs web pages from Sinkiang (Xinjiang) in Uyghur, Kazakh, Kyrgyz and Oirat-Mongolian languages in cooperation with [CRL](#). The [Central Asian Web Archiving](#) (**since May 2021 renamed to Central Asian Web Archive**) collection currently (3/24/2021) includes 109 mirrored web pages (main pages only) including eight daily newspapers with over 12,000 newspaper pages. In the German Union Catalogue ([GVK](#)) there are 415 entries (24.3.2021) of Central Asian webpages – here also the subpages are included following the rules of the [ZDB](#).

The [FID website](#) has been created. It allows an easy accessibility of the databases and information collected in the FID. In a period of about 11 months, 18 main pages, 46 subpages with a total of 272 links to digital databases and collections, libraries, institutions, universities and research institutes, open access publications, research links and search examples in external databases, among others, have been included. The FID has published [three proceedings](#) (Korean Diaspora: Central Asia, Siberia and Beyond; Oirat and Kalmyk Identity in the 20th and 21st Century; Ancient Texts and Languages of Ethnic Groups along the Silk Road) between May 2020 and March 2021. In these publications current research on FID relevant topics is open access available on the [Göttingen University Press site](#); they have already been downloaded 4081 times (as of 3/30/2021). The development of the FID system means increasing intertwining of regional areas. Collaboration is underway with FID Asia to

agree on how to deal with overlapping areas of responsibility. Agreements (also with other Asia-related FIDs) have been formulated in a joint acquisition paper. There is also cooperation with the FID Asia on the subject of original manuscripts in the joint working group (WG) on transcriptions; further possibilities for using synergies are being discussed. Within the framework of the "FID Network Asia", the FID is actively involved, especially in the WG Transcriptions and Web Archive. In future ORC and outreach will also be field of our activities within the FID Network Asia. The FID Central Asia organizes/participates in workshops, conferences (with lectures), trainings, FID AGs and activities that correspond to the content and service-oriented task of the FID.

Based on the already active service and information structures, FID Central Asia plans to expand its work.