

HMC Conference

> 28.-30.04.26, Heidelberg

“Metadata in Action”

On-Site Information

**A warm welcome to
Heidelberg -
we are delighted to
welcome the metadata
community to the
HMC Conference 2026**

Book of Abstracts
HMC Conference 2026 [↗](#)



Welcome

Dear participants of the HMC Conference 2026,

Welcome to the second in-person conference of the Helmholtz Metadata Collaboration, taking place at the German Cancer Research Center (DKFZ) in Heidelberg.

This year's event, under the theme 'Metadata in Action', brings together the metadata community in Helmholtz and beyond to explore how metadata enables high-quality, FAIR, and impactful research. Over the next three days, you - the infrastructure providers, data stewards, researchers and centre operators - can look forward to keynotes, talks, posters, and interactive sessions that will highlight conceptual advances and practical applications.

Following our first in-person conference in Cologne in 2025 and three previous virtual editions, we are pleased to welcome around 200 participants this year. With over 100 contributions, this reflects the growing importance of metadata in the research landscape.

We are delighted to host this year's conference at the DKFZ, Germany's largest biomedical research institute and the home of our HMC Metadata Hub Health. Located on the Neuenheimer Feld campus and surrounded by Germany's oldest university, the University Hospital, and numerous other research institutions, it offers a dynamic, interdisciplinary environment. Heidelberg, a city with a rich academic tradition and a scenic setting alongside the Neckar River, provides an inspiring backdrop for exchange and informal networking.

This booklet contains key information on the conference venues, programme, and your stay in Heidelberg. If you require assistance during your visit, please do not hesitate to contact our team.

On behalf of the HMC Conference 2026 committees, we wish you a productive and enjoyable conference.

Sören Lorenz
Speaker of HMC

Constanze Curdt
Executive Manager
of HMC

Klaus Maier-Hein
Host Centre Representative
of DKFZ

Marco Nolden
Local Host of
HMC Conference 2026

Conference Venue

The HMC Conference 2026 takes place at the German Cancer Research Center (DKFZ) in Heidelberg, located in Neuenheimer Feld. The conference venue is the DKFZ Communication Center in the main building.

The venue is easily accessible by public transport. As parking on campus is limited, participants are advised to arrive by tram or bus. Further travel information and directions are available via the following links:

- **DKFZ travel & parking information**

<https://www.dkfz.de/en/about-us/who-we-are/your-way-to-us> ↗

- **Timetable information (Rhein-Neckar-Verkehr GmbH)**

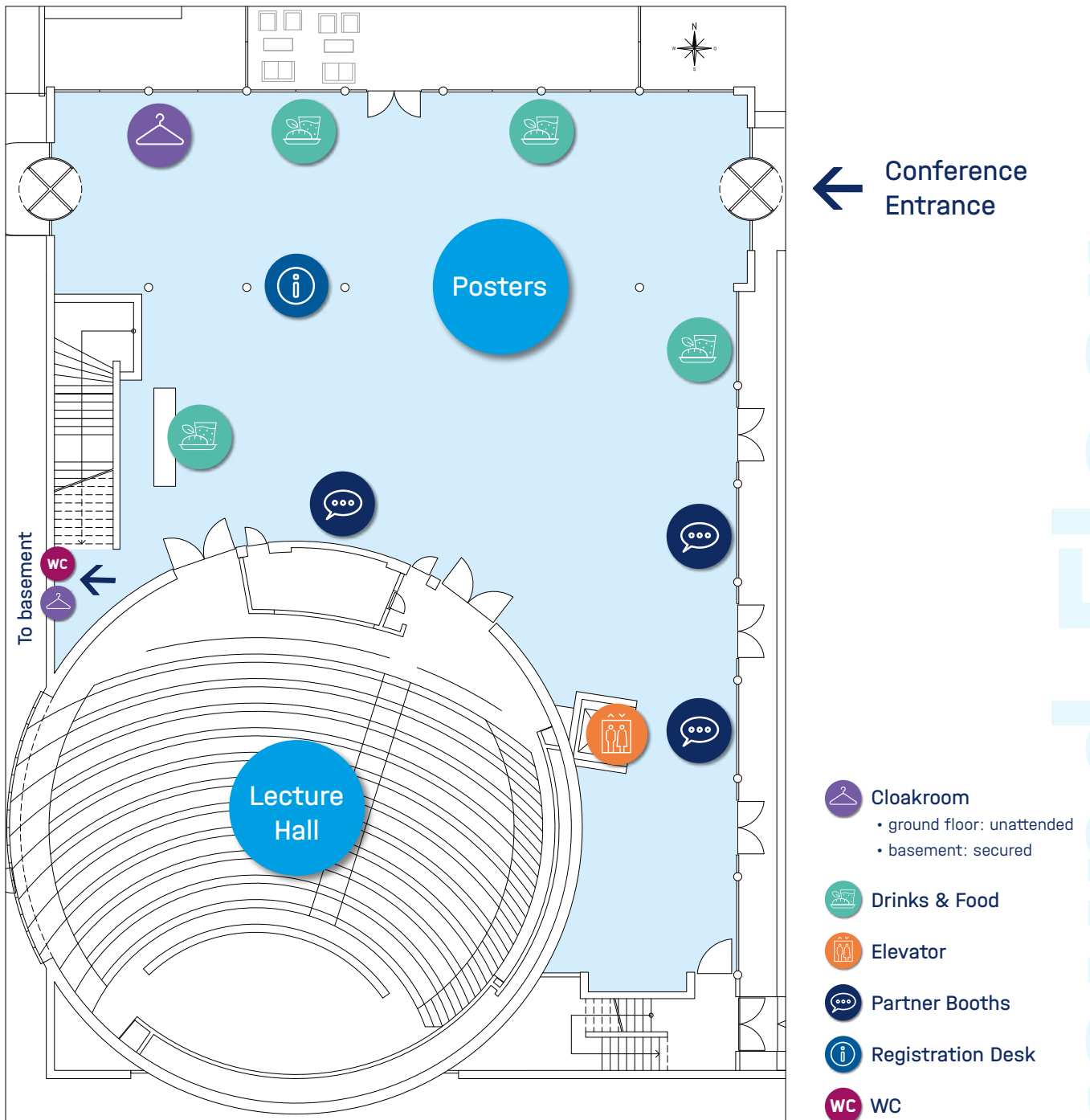
<https://www.rnv-online.de/fahrtinfo> ↗

DKFZ Communication Center

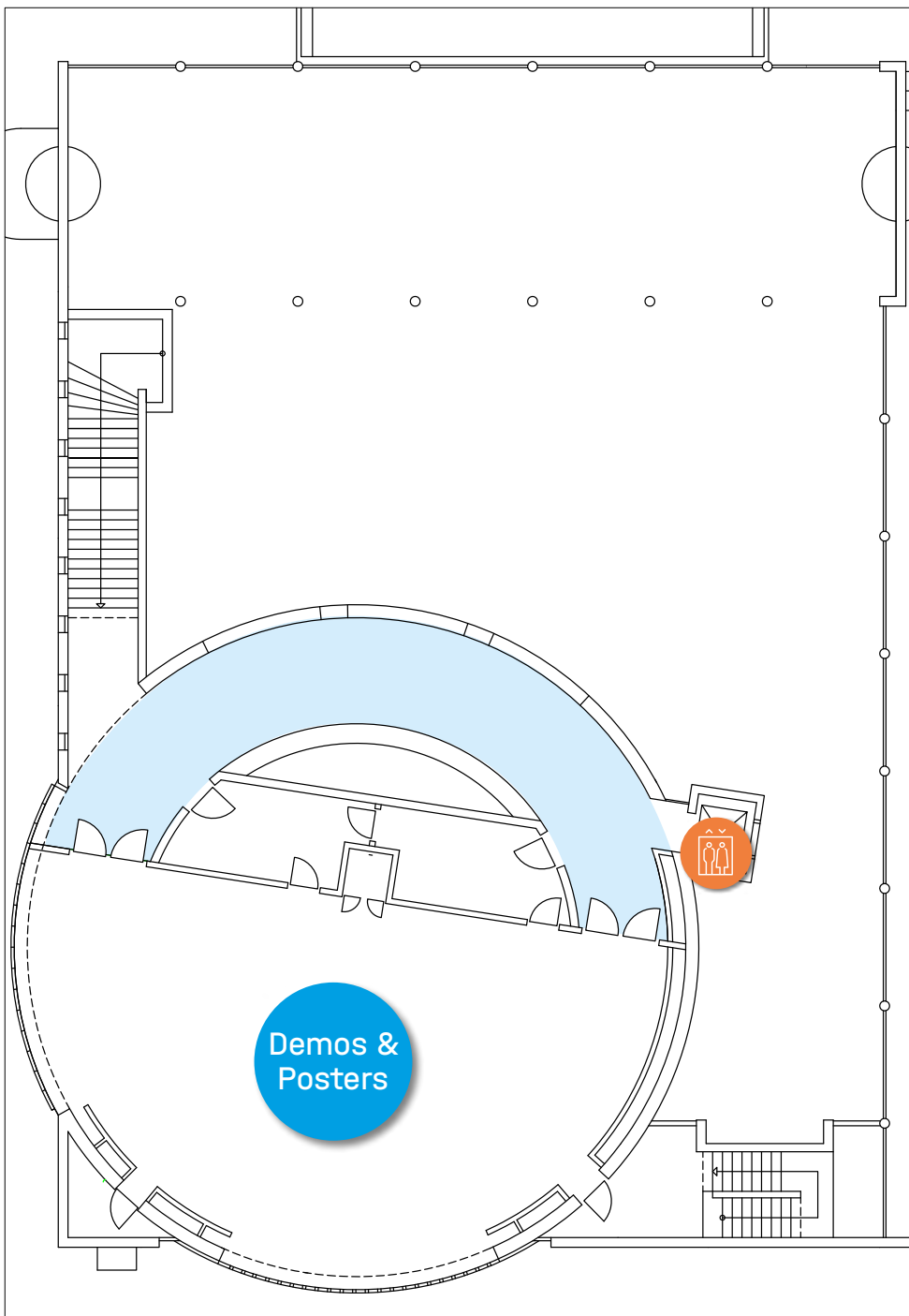
Im Neuenheimer Feld 280, 69120 Heidelberg



Floor Plan - Ground Floor



Floor Plan - 1st Floor



Pre-Conference Workshop Venues

Pre-conference workshops take place at several locations near the main conference venue, including the Marsilius Kolleg, the DKFZ Main Building, and the ILC Building. All locations are within walking distance of the DKFZ Communication Center.

Travel information and directions are the same as for the main conference venue. Please refer to the individual workshop descriptions for specific location details and time schedule on our [conference website](#). ↗

DKFZ Main Building

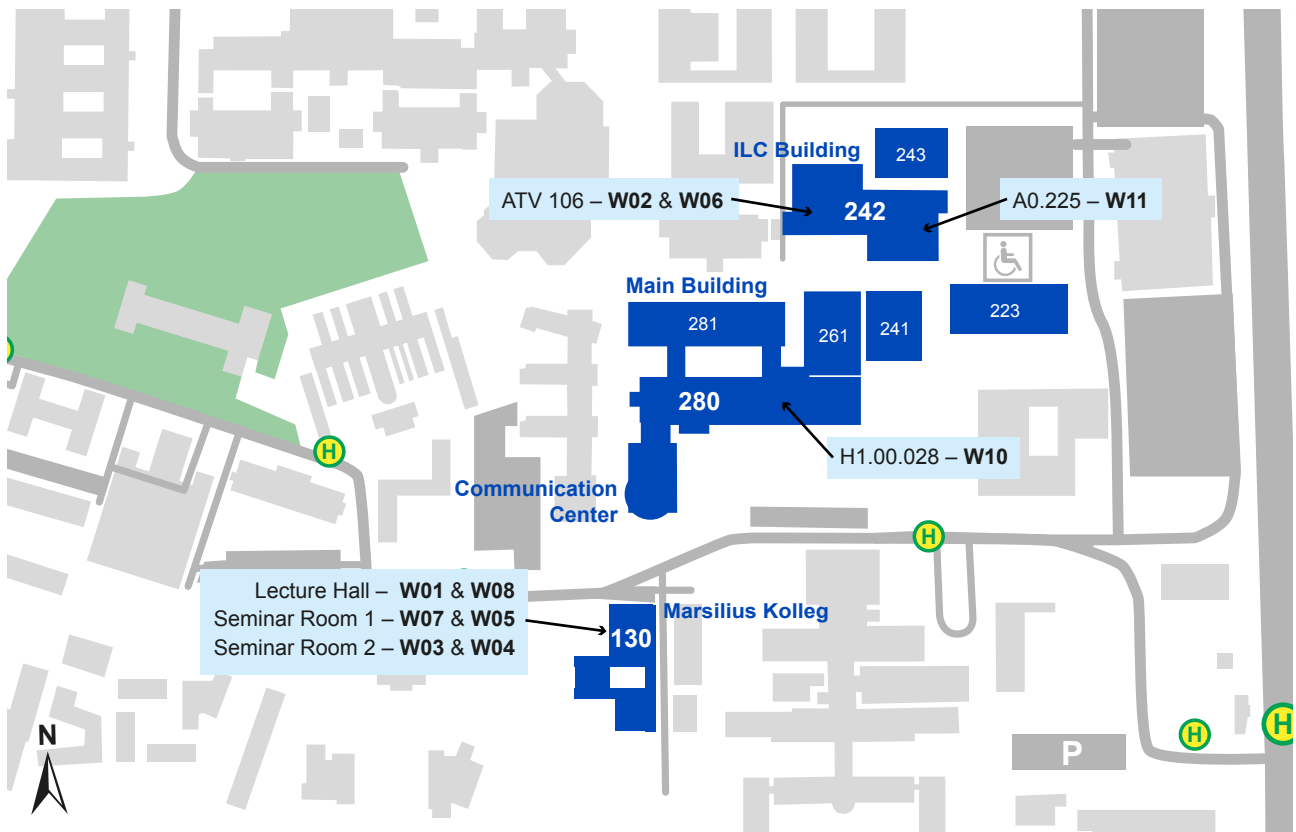
Im Neuenheimer Feld 280, 69120 Heidelberg

ILC Building

Im Neuenheimer Feld 242, 69120 Heidelberg

Marsilius Kolleg

Im Neuenheimer Feld 130.1, 69120 Heidelberg



Social Event - Neckar River Cruise

On Wednesday, 29th April, the social event takes place on a boat on the Neckar River and offers a relaxed setting for informal exchange and networking with fellow participants. Since participation is limited to registered attendees, please do not forget your voucher, which you find in your name badge - for those who registered.

You may find your own way to the Weisse Flotte office alongside the Neckar or you could gather at the reception desk and join our local guides who will leave for the pier at 17:00.

Meeting point & time

At the registration desk at 17:00

Weisse Flotte

Neckarstadt 25, 69117 Heidelberg

Or find it on
Google Maps ↗



By Stadt Heidelberg

Altstadtumfang
 ■ Universitätsgelände
 ■ Jesuitenkirche
 ■ Jesuitengymnasium
 ■ Collegium Academicum
 ■ Heeren- oder Diebsturm
 ■ Universitätsbibliothek
 ■ Peterskirche
 ■ Weibronnenkloster
 ■ Adelskavalier Graf Wieser
 ■ Naturwissenschaftliche Institute
 ■ Altes Waisenhaus
 ■ St.-Anna-Kirche
 ■ Haus zum Riesen
 ■ Friedrichsbau

■ Alte Anatomie
 ■ Konzerthaus Stadthalle
 ■ Provenzenkirche
 ■ Palast Moros/Kurfürstliches Museum
 ■ Haus Raquet
 ■ Zeughaus/Marsall
 ■ Heischauer/Alte Synagoge
 ■ Palast Rüdiger
 ■ Friedrich-Ebert-Haus
 ■ Haus Cajeth
 ■ Brückentor - Alte Brücke
 ■ Heidelberger Lebeschloß
 ■ Ehemalige Neckarschule
 ■ Trautner'sches Haus

■ Heiliggeistliche
 ■ Medersches Haus
 ■ Haus zum Ritter
 ■ Kurfürstliche Hof-Apotheke
 ■ Marktplatz mit Herkulesbrunnen und Rathaus
 ■ Nebelhäuser
 ■ Schmitzthenerhaus
 ■ Karkler
 ■ Palast Weimar/Völkerkundemuseum
 ■ Haus Buhl
 ■ Karlsplatz
 ■ Palast Gramberg/Kornmarkt
 ■ Palast Prinz Carl

Weitere Sehenswürdigkeiten und kulturelle Einrichtungen
 ■ Sammlung Prinzhorn
 ■ Deutsch-Amerikanisches Institut
 ■ Deutsches Verpackungsmuseum
 ■ Heidelberger Kunstverein
 ■ Kurfürstliches Museum
 ■ Theater der Stadt Heidelberg
 ■ Zimmertheater
 ■ Marstallmensa
 ■ Antikenmuseum und Abguss-Sammlung
 ■ Archäologisches Institut
 ■ Ägyptologisches Museum
 ■ Urnk-Werkstatt-Sammlung
 ■ Alte Aula der Universität, Universitätsmuseum, Akademie der Wissenschaften

■ Studentenlärzer
 ■ Neue Aula der Universität
 ■ Romanischer Keller
 ■ Zwingler 1 und 3, Theater
 ■ Dokumentations- und Kulturzentrum
 ■ Deutscher Sinti und Roma
 ■ Forum für Kunst
 ■ Kulturhaus Karlsruhbahn
 ■ Deutsches Apothekenmuseum
 ■ Klingenteichhalle
 ■ Körperwelten/Body Worlds
 ■ Schloss/Castle

Legende
 ■ Ihr Standort
 ■ Bus Richtung Biomarkplatz TN zum Hauptbahnhof
 ■ Bus Richtung Bahnhof Altstadt Richtung Neckartal
 ■ Aussichtsplattform
 ■ Brunnen

■ Altstadtumfang
 ■ Kulturdenkmäler und Sehenswürdigkeiten
 ■ Bebauung
 ■ Fußgängerzone
 ■ Grünfläche
 ■ Wild
 ■ Aussichtsplattform
 ■ Brunnen

■ Schiffsanlegestelle
 ■ Bergbahn
 ■ Busrundfahrten
 ■ Stadtrundgänge
 ■ Treffpunkte
 ■ Tourist-Information
 ■ S-Bahn- und Bus-Haltestelle
 ■ Taxistände
 ■ Öffentliche Toiletten
 ■ Parkplätze

Informationen zur Standortumgebung siehe Rückseite Kartengrundlage: Amtlicher Stadtplan © Stadt Heidelberg, Vermessungsamt

Morning Run

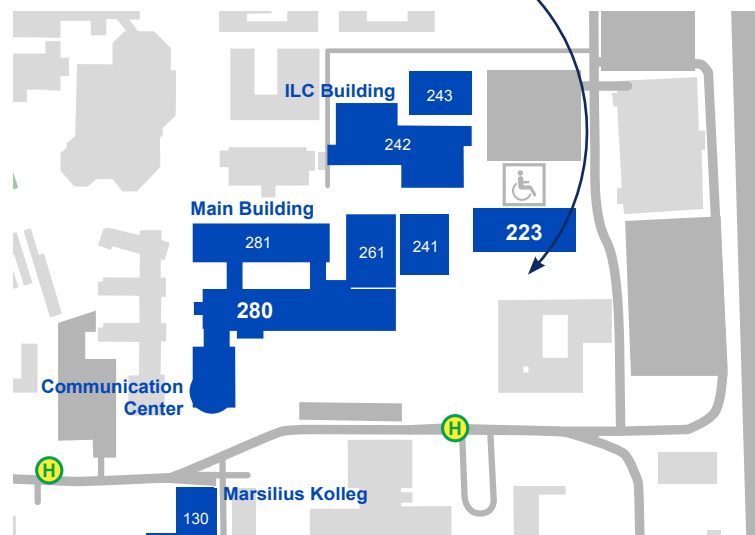
The optional morning run starts near the conference venue and will take about 30 minutes.

The route follows approximately 4.2 km along the Neckar, through Neuenheimer Feld, and back via the old town. The pace is relaxed and inclusive — everyone is welcome.

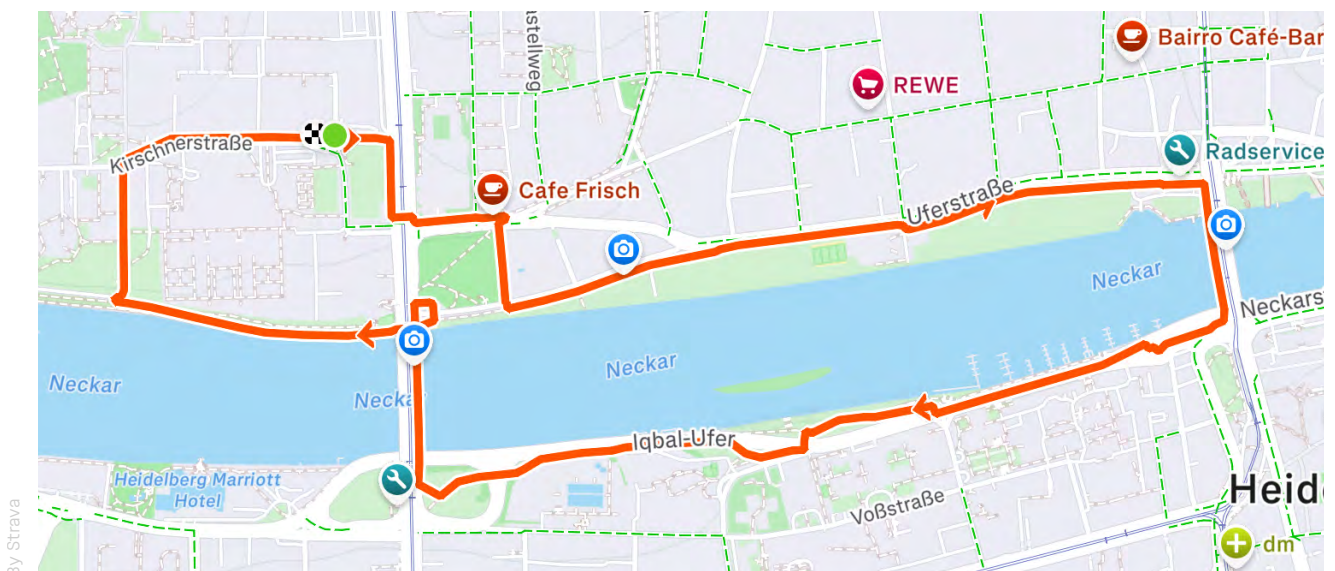
Meeting point & time

At 7:00 in front of

Im Neuenheimer Feld 223, 69120 Heidelberg



The route is available [online](#). ↗



Programme - Day 1

09:00	WORKSHOPS Short Workshops	WORKSHOPS Extended Workshops
10:00		
		09:00 - 10:30
	COFFEE	10:30 - 11:00
11:00	WORKSHOPS Short Workshops	
12:00		
		09:00 - 12:30
	LUNCH	
13:00	<i>Foyer</i>	12:30 - 13:30
	WELCOME: Official Opening	13:30 - 14:00
14:00	KEYNOTE by Dr. Marta Teperek with Dr. Dani Metilli Making FAIR Happen: Culture Change Across the Research Ecosystem <i>Lecture Hall</i>	14:00 - 15:00
15:00	COFFEE	15:00 - 15:30
16:00	TALK SESSION: Metadata in Action: Embedding Quality and Context into Research Infrastructures <i>Lecture Hall</i>	15:30 - 17:00
17:00	POSTERS & DEMOS - with Drinks <i>Foyer & 1st Floor</i>	17:00 - 19:00
18:00		
		WELCOME RECEPTION - with Fingerfood <i>Foyer & 1st Floor</i>
19:00		18:00 - 21:00
20:00		
21:00		

Detailed programme can be found on the [conference website](#) or via the QR-Code ↗



Programme - Day 2

07:00	Optional - MORNING RUN	07:00 - 07:45
08:00		
09:00	TALK SESSION Software Interoperability for (Meta)data Acquisition	
10:00	<i>Lecture Hall</i>	09:00 - 10:30
	COFFEE	10:30 - 11:00
11:00	TALK SESSION Ontology-Driven Metadata Harmonization: Closing Semantic Gaps	
12:00	<i>Lecture Hall</i>	11:00 - 12:30
	LUNCH	
13:00	<i>Foyer</i>	12:30 - 13:30
14:00	KEYNOTE by Dr. Jan Portisch Constructing Enterprise RDF Knowledge Graphs: Foundations for Neuro-Symbolic AI	
	<i>Lecture Hall</i>	13:30 - 14:30
	GROUP PICTURE	14:30 - 14:40
15:00	POSTERS & DEMOS - with Coffee	
16:00		
17:00	<i>Foyer & 1st Floor</i>	14:40 - 17:00
18:00	SOCIAL EVENT – Neckar River Cruise	
19:00		
20:00		
21:00		18:00 - 22:00
22:00		

Detailed programme can be found on the [conference website](#) or via the QR-Code ↗



Programme - Day 3

09:00	KEYNOTE by Prof. Dr. Oliver Stegle TBA <i>Lecture Hall</i>	09:00 - 10:00
10:00	COFFEE	10:00 - 10:30
11:00	TALK SESSION Human-Machine Collaboration in (Meta)data Acquisition <i>Communication Center, DKFZ, Heidelberg</i>	10:30 - 12:15
12:00	WRAP UP: Official Closing of the HMC Conference 2026	12:15 - 12:30
13:00	LIGHT LUNCH <i>Foyer</i>	12:30 - 13:30

Detailed programme can be found on the [conference website](#) or via the QR-Code ↗



Wifi Access

Stay connected throughout the conference and make use of the available network to access the programme, share updates, and stay in touch.

Eduroam

If you are an eduroam user, simply connect to the network "eduroam" using your home institution credentials.

Guest Access

You can connect to the internet using the following network.

Alternatively, you can use the QR code provided to access the guest network.

Network: **hmc-conference**
Access code: **cVbMd6VGx58CnBpt**

Wifi Access ↗



If you experience any issues, please contact the Registration Desk — we are happy to assist you.

Please also take a look at the [Terms of Service](#) for using the Guest Access at the DKFZ.

Terms of Service ↗



Stay Connected

Be part of the conversation and share your impressions from the HMC Conference 2026:

[#HMCConference2026](#)

Follow updates, discover highlights, and connect with fellow participants across our social media channels. We encourage you to tag your posts and join the community online.



Bluesky

@helmholtzhmc.bsky.social



LinkedIn

@helmholtz-metadata-collaboration-hmc



Mastodon

@helmholtz_hmc



Social Media

Cloakroom

For your convenience, cloakroom facilities are available during the conference.

Foyer

Coat racks are located in the foyer.

Please note that this area is unattended.

Basement

A secure cloakroom for coats and luggage is available in the basement.

Please ensure the room is closed after use.

If the basement cloakroom is locked and no one from our team is available, please contact the Registration Desk — we'll be happy to assist you.

Notice

Please note that we are not liable for any items left in the cloakrooms.

We kindly recommend not leaving valuables unattended.



Photos

Photographs are being taken at the HMC Conference 2026 for documentation purposes.
No video recordings will be made.

Images are used primarily for internal documentation. A limited number may be published on the HMC website and on HMC's official social media channels.

**If you do not wish to appear in photographs,
please collect a "No-Picture" button
at the registration desk and wear it visibly!**



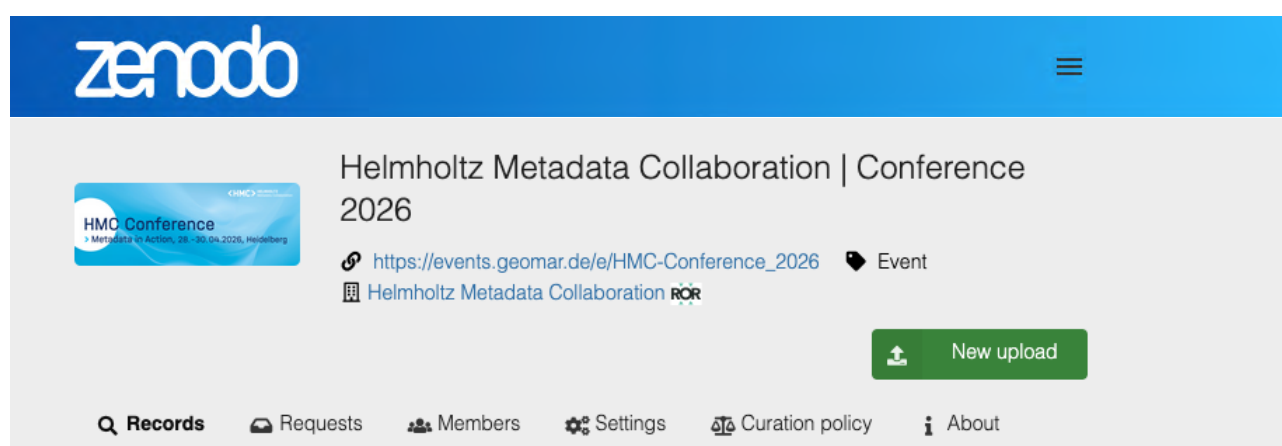
You may also object at any time by contacting us.

Further information on data protection is available at our [Terms and Services](#). [↗](#)

Zenodo

Zenodo is a general open repository that allows researchers to deposit presentations, among other things, to make them discoverable in the future. In addition, a permanent digital object identifier (DOI) is assigned to each submission, making the stored presentations easily citable.

We kindly ask you to upload your contribution to the HMC Conference 2026 to Zenodo



Please follow the steps below:

1. Login at Zenodo or Sign Up for a new Zenodo account
(You can login with your ORCID account too)
2. Go to "Helmholtz Metadata Collaboration | Conference 2026" upload page:
<https://zenodo.org/uploads/new?community=hmc-conference-2026> ↗
3. Upload your contribution
(After choosing your file don't forget to click on the green button "Start upload")
4. Add further information:
 - a. choose the Community: "Helmholtz Metadata Collaboration | Conference 2026"
(if not automatically set)
 - b. choose Upload type: "Presentation", "Poster"
 - c. add Title of presentation and the Authors (incl. their ORCIDs - if available)
 - d. add a short Description and Keywords

e. provide the following details at the "Conference" tab :

i. Conference title: "Helmholtz Metadata Collaboration | Conference 2026"

ii. Dates: 28 - 30 April 2026

iii. Website: https://events.geomar.de/e/HMC-Conference_2026 ↗

iv. Places: Heidelberg

f. consider adding related publications, like DOIs of papers or datasets as

"Related/alternate identifiers": here you can also specify the type or related reference (e.g., journal article, dataset, software...) and the relation type (e.g., is Supplement to, cites...)

5. Finally, "Save" and "Publish" it at the end of the page.

6. After that the organizer has to accept your upload to the "Helmholtz Metadata Collaboration | Conference 2026" community, that may take some time...

7. After uploading it is possible to edit your metadata of your contribution and you can upload an updated presentation file too. All uploads are available here:

<https://zenodo.org/communities/hmc-conference-2026/records> ↗

For any questions or if you need help for uploading please contact the HMC Office event@helmholtz-metadaten.de. Thank you for your contribution and cooperation.

Meet our Partners

The HMC Conference 2026 brings together not only a vibrant scientific programme, but also key initiatives and platforms from the field of information and data sciences.

Throughout the conference, our partners will be present on site with dedicated booths. This offers a great opportunity to learn more about their work, explore services and tools, and engage in direct exchange. Whether you are looking for collaboration, have specific questions, or simply want to connect — we warmly invite you to stop by, start a conversation, and get to know the people behind these initiatives.

Our partners include sister platforms of HMC from the Helmholtz Information and Data Science Framework as well as the Helmholtz Open Science Office, all contributing to advancing FAIR data practices.

HELMHOLTZ AI

Artificial Intelligence Cooperation Unit

Helmholtz AI is an application-driven artificial intelligence platform accelerating science across the Helmholtz Association. They enable the development and implementation of AI solutions while promoting collaboration and ensuring access to resources and expertise. They do this by offering dedicated AI consultancy services, computing resources, and project funding.

www.helmholtz.ai ↗



The vision of HIFIS is to empower scientists with digital services at every step of the scientific workflow. HIFIS fosters collaboration and facilitates integrated scientific workflows across all research fields, Helmholtz centres, external collaboration partners and platforms by offering a unified login, shared cloud services, organizing common education and training events, and adopting a de-central and modular approach. This stimulates innovation and knowledge exchange among the research centres.

www.hifis.net ↗

HELMHOLTZ IMAGING

Imaging technologies and intelligent image analysis are key drivers of discovery across modern science. Helmholtz Imaging is the central platform for imaging within the Helmholtz Association, positioning Helmholtz as a leader providing, developing, applying, and advancing cutting-edge imaging technologies.

The platform offers access to state-of-the-art imaging resources, funding, and expert consulting - empowering researchers to extract insights from complex image data, foster interdisciplinary collaboration, and unlock the full potential of Helmholtz's imaging capabilities. [↗](#)

www.helmholtz-imaging.de [↗](#)

HELMHOLTZ Open Science

The Helmholtz Open Science Office supports the Helmholtz Association and its research Centers in shaping the cultural change towards Open Science. It collaborates with national and international stakeholders to improve the quality and impact of research, guided by Open Science principles and in the spirit of the Helmholtz mission.

Through its activities, events, and publications, the Open Science office informs the community regarding the latest developments and guides the transition towards Open Science.

www.os.helmholtz.de [↗](#)



www.helmholtz-metadaten.de