



UNIVERSITÄT KONSTANZ

Kommunikations-, Informations-, Medienzentrum (KIM)

Profil des Fachreferats im KIM



Bild: Universität Konstanz

The [subject specialist department](#) has evolved significantly due to the increased demands of academic support and the founding of the Communication, Information and Media Centre (KIM) at the University of Konstanz.

While the specialist department in the former library services was primarily concerned with the tasks of collection development, cataloguing and collection liaison, the current subject specialist department in the KIM covers a [much broader range of tasks](#), which varies depending on the academic subject area.

In addition to their subject-specific [academic degree](#) or doctorate and relevant subject experience, the KIM subject specialists have a wide range of [other qualifications](#), for example in the library or IT sector (traineeship or further studies). They benefit from their knowledge and experience in the field of academic methods, processes and institutions. They update and expand these qualifications during their work in the specialist department through targeted and continuous further training and networking beyond the university.

The subject specialist department in the KIM works at the [interface for research-related services](#) between the KIM as a central academic support service and the university's research institutions. The KIM is the university's central service provider for IT and library services and provides its services within the framework of the [KIM profile](#).

The subject specialists are the [first point of contact for academics](#) for the KIM's research-related services and thus represent the KIM to the outside world. The KIM services can be found on the website and are also described in detail in the comprehensive [service portfolio](#). The [KIM's specialist department offers advice](#) on these services, involves other experts from

the KIM where necessary, or forwards inquiries to them. In the case of more complex queries from the academic community, the specialists support the entire consultation process. The first point of contact for everyday support cases relating to use of the library or IT are the respective library or IT support services in the KIM. Within the KIM, the subject specialists are supported by the library or IT departments when communication with the university's academic institutions on fundamental or particularly important topics take place.

The KIM's research-related services also include advice on [open access publishing](#), [open educational resources](#) and [research data management](#). Subject specialists provide advice in cooperation with the KIM Open Science team and contribute their specialist perspective.

In addition, the subject specialists contribute their [academic expertise](#) and their experience from working with the university's academics in the KIM and advise the KIM management. In this way their academic perspectives into decisions on the [improvement of existing services or the development of new services for research](#).

In addition to academics, the advisory services are primarily aimed at [advanced students](#). Subject specialists take on tasks in teaching, give courses on information literacy and support students as part of introductory and training events. They are involved in the strategic development of the library as a place to learn and work in the KIM.

The subject specialists are responsible for the [electronic and printed supply of literature](#) and information in the subjects they supervise with the subject budgets allocated to them. This inventory management is based on the University of Konstanz's academic priorities and in close coordination with the departments, media processing and the management of the KIM. They are also involved in optimisation and standardisation, especially in the current process of transforming the academic publication system.

In addition to these subject-oriented tasks, the specialists also perform [cross-sectional tasks](#) related to library and IT services, which are provided for the entire KIM and the University as a whole. These include, fundamental conceptual questions of information literacy, learning space design, digital humanities, bibliometrics, conservation, special collections, content indexing of specialist literature as well as usage statistics, the provision of IT services in the specialist department or training in the KIM.

The subject specialists and their areas of specialisation can be found on the KIM website for the [specialist department](#).