Music, music culture, music ethnography belongs to the cultural heritage. For this reason, all important music data must be made available as part of this heritage in the long term, forever, and therefore at first digitally preserved so that sound examples can be examined. Databases in this area are useful.

In February 2018, gfm, the Gesellschaft für Musikforschung, published a memorandum on the creation of national research data infrastructures (NFDI) in Germany on music research and ethnomusicology. This document explains how the subject musicology in Germany is actively participating in the technical and professional design as well as in the cultural and scientific debate on digitalisation in musicology. Since the end of 2017, gfm has had a section on „Digital Musicology“. Here is the link to the memorandum in short form (German language): https://www.musikforschung.de/index.php/memoranda/schaffung-nationaler-forschungsdateninfrastrukturen-nfdi/kurzfassung
The memorandum mentions the Digital Humanities 2020 theses published by the Dhd, and that the individual disciplines will benefit from the new or to those infrastructures that are yet to be created.

Content-neutral generic services for controlled data access or PID allocation, as well as cross-project subject-related services, visualization and analysis tools for commonly used data types, need to be developed further, together with researchers. Also in the field of music ethnography the specific characteristics of the subject need to be taken in consideration.

The memorandum states: „Only in cooperation with specialized data centers solutions can be created that are adequate for the subject but at the same time is not an isolated solution (…).“

The researchers often do not know much about metadata standards. Strong support is still needed, especially locally. In the context of music ethnography and the Center of World Music, data standards, international standards, and collaborative work practices must continue to be promoted.
The Center for World Music was working with the project Europeana Sounds. It is important to note that Musicology actually is one of the few cultural disciplines involved in the EU project DARIAH. So there is first basic subject-specific information available as well as recommendations on data formats and musicological metadata.

In April, a very long discussion on the subject of data in the Center for World Music took place with Michael Fuhr and Samuel Mund at the Center, followed by an appointment with Christoph Hölzel at the University’s Library: The Center for World Music of the University of Hildesheim preserves important traces and legacies of worldwide music creation: over 4,500 musical instruments, 50,000 records, one of the largest collections in Europe.

(...) to be continued.