



مة التحرير : لطيفة اجبابدي















Annual Report 202

international institute of social history

internationaal instituut voor sociale geschiedenis

• رسالة مفتوحة إلى مجلس النواب • رسالة إلى قادة الأحزاب الوطنية • مقترحات إلى المنظات الحقوقية • الوضعية القانونية للمرأة









INTRODUCTION

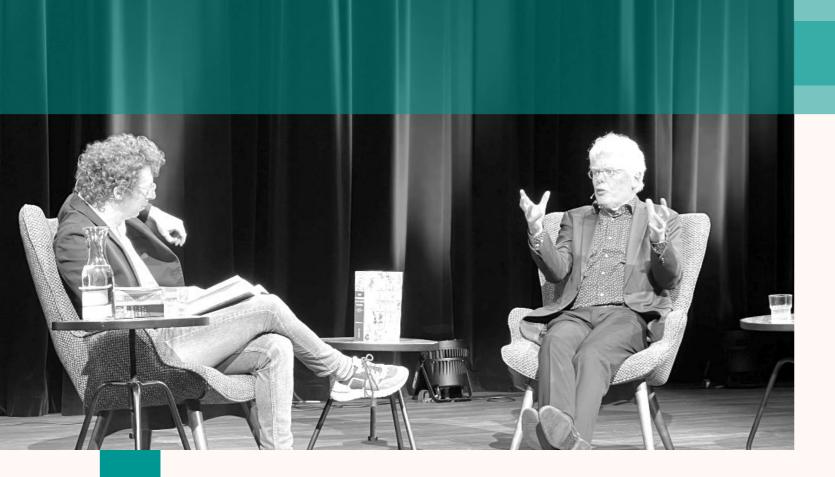
In 2022, after a brief lockdown in January, the institute slowly returned to normal, which came as a great relief, especially for the collection department. Limited opening hours, and a considerable reduction in the number of visitors for the reading room became a thing of the past. Various activities aimed at the wider society became possible again and a number of successful public gatherings were organized on timely themes, such as the societal and political dealings with the slavery past of the Netherlands, the war of Russia against the Ukraine and the increasing strike activity by Dutch unions.

Moreover, in the spring the institute was successful in securing a huge grant of 5 million euro for the coming nine years from the Ministry of Education and Science, meant for enriching the collections and making these more accessible for both researchers and the broader public. This most welcome financial injection enables us to offer access to our collections and data at a much deeper and more diverse level and to intensify and broaden the digitization programme.

Along these developments in the research department senior researcher Matthias van Rossum acquired a prestigious NWO-Vidi grant 'Resisting Enslavement: A Global Historical Approach to Slavery in the Dutch Atlantic and Asian Empires'. This project will also enable him and his team to further develop the ongoing global comparative collaboration on slave voyages and transports in Asia, as a complement to the fundamental work that already has been done on the Atlantic. Furthermore the research department remained very active in acquiring external research projects on the involvement of financial institutions in slavery related activities, like ABN-AMRO and Nationale Nederlanden.

After two years of Covid restrictions, the acquisition department was able to pick up their contacts and projects again in 2022. Especially the complete series of the Moscow Times (1992-2008), a unique source to understand the social, economic and political developments in post-Soviet Russia, catches the eye. But also new archives and the digitization of sources from the Middle East, Africa and Asia enriched our collections and offered access to people at destination. Finally, the department Data & Augmentation, created in 2020, was fully staffed and supports researchers who systematically collect data and enables the sustainable storage and searchability of research data as collections.





SOCIETY

The Story of Work

The magnum opus of IISH research fellow Jan Lucassen (The story of work), published in 2021 by Yale University Press, got a lot of attention both within and outside academia and in 2022 not only a paperback version was published, but also Polish, Portuguese, Korean, Japanese and Chinese translations are on their way. On March 11 the book, which can be considered as the synthesis of the IISH research programme Global Labour History that started in the 1990s, was discussed in a well-attended event at in the Public Library of Amsterdam (OBA). It featured a conversation between Jan Lucassen and the prominent Dutch writer Arnon Grunberg. The central message from this wide ranging book is that work is not only a necessity for human existence, but also satisfies a natural need for meaningful social activity and is the oldest way to gain self-esteem and appreciation from others.

Faces of Science

A second area in which IISH researchers were very visible was that of current labour relations and labour conflicts, which has become highly relevant given the tight labour market and the increasing power of labour unions. Rosa Kösters, PhD student at the institute and since March 2022 one of the twelve new 'Faces Of Science', has become the foremost expert in the Netherlands and was consulted numerous times by the media (both television, radio and leading newspapers) to explain the now blossoming strike activities in the Netherlands.



For video: Nemo Kennislink







ALJAZEERA

"Hope & Co was the largest financial and commercial company in the Netherlands at the end of the 18th century, and slavery-related operations formed a core part of its business," said Pepijn Brandon, senior researcher of the Amsterdam-based International Institute of Social History.

"Decisions made in offices in Amsterdam and Rotterdam directly impacted the lives of thousands of enslaved persons," Brandon said.



Dutch ABN AMRO bank apologizes for historic links to slavery

By Associated Press Today at 11:46 a.m. EDT

ABN·AMRO

FILE - The logo of the state-owned ABN-AMRO bank sits or its head office in Amsterdam, Netherlands, Jan. 9, 2014. Dutch bank ABN AMRO apologized Wednesday, April 13, 2022 for historic links to the slave trade in the 18th and 19th centuries including the involvement of one of the bank's predecessor institutions in "day-to-day business" of plantations. (AP Photo/Peter Dejong, file)

The Washington Post

Lead researcher Pepijn Brandon of the International Institute of Social History that documented the history said it revealed "slavery-related operations formed a core part" off the business of Hope & Co., which was the largest financial and commercial company in the Netherlands at the end of the 18th century.

ABN AMRO said it had discussed the findings with representatives of the descendants of enslaved people, who said they want to see "concrete measures to help improve the structural social disadvantages facing descendants of enslaved persons."

Trouw

Onderzoek

ABN Amro liet het Internationaal Instituut voor Sociale Geschiedenis (IISG) onderzoek doen naar zijn slavernijverleden. Dat onderzoek heeft zich geconcentreerd op twee Nederlandse firma's die na een lange geschiedenis van fusies en overnames deel zijn geworden van de huidige bank: Hope & Co en R. Mees & Zoonen. Van beide firma's, die in de achttiende eeuw werden opgericht was al bekend dat ze omzet haalden uit slavernijgerelateerde activiteiten, maar de omvang daarvan was nog onduidelijk.

Die was groot, blijkt nu uit het onderzoek van het IISG. Hope & Co, aan het eind van de achttiende eeuw het grootste handelshuis van Nederland, was 'een spil in het internationale slavernijsysteem'.

Slavery Research

As mentioned in the introduction, in the hotly debated topic of the Dutch slavery past IISH senior researcher Pepijn Brandon and Gerhard de Kok presented The slavery history of historical predecessors of ABN AMRO. An investigation into Hope & Co. and R. Mees & Zoonen the result of a historical research commissioned by ABN AMRO. Hope & Co. was the largest financial and commercial company in the Netherlands at the end of the 18th century, and slavery-related operations formed a core part of its business. While Mees & Zoonen was smaller, slavery was an intrinsic part of that firm's operations as well. Decisions made in offices in Amsterdam and Rotterdam directly impacted the lives of thousands of enslaved persons. Based on the report's conclusions the CEO of ABN AMRO offered apologies for the historic involvement in slavery a gesture that was welcomed by descendants of enslaved people and broadcasted by Dutch national television. The report can be downloaded here.

The pilot study that Pepijn Brandon and Sabine Go (VU Amsterdam) wrote on the slavery related activities of Nationale Nederlandens' predecessors made the insurance company decide to finance a PhD project on the topic that will start next year.

Matthias van Rossum served as one of the experts to the Dutch government, which in December 2022 decided to offer public apologies, expressed by prime minister Mark Rutte. Van Rossum was also frequently asked to dwell on the results of research on coerced and slave labour in Asia on radio, television and in the national newspapers. Together with IISH senior researcher Pepijn Brandon he has become a recognized expert on this topic. Finally Van Rossum is closely associated (as one of the applicants and implementers) of the 'Terrain Exploration National Slavery Research into the involvement of the Dutch government in slavery', a research project commissioned by the Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations.





Pepijn Brando

met de nogal ironische naam Paradise.

De slavenhandel had een groot aandeel in de

het Internationaal Instituut voor Sociale

geschiedenis van ABN Amro. Dat concludeert

Geschiedenis (IISG) in een onderzoek in opdracht





Books

In June 2022, Gijs Kessler's timely and well-received book *Rusland. Land dat anders wil zijn* (*Russia: A Country That Wants to Be Different*) received significant press attention. On 20 October, the book was the focus of a crowded meeting at the institute, which was devoted to the break-up of the Soviet Union. Speakers included eyewitnesses such as NRC journalist Hubert Smeets, the first Dutch ambassador to the Ukraine Robert Serry, filmmaker Masha Novikova, historian Marc Jansen, and artist Marina Snoek, all of whom connected their recollections and interpretations of the post-Soviet past with the Russian military invasion of Ukraine.





For video: YouTube



Leo Lucassen was one of the editors of the volume *Nog meer wereldgeschiedenis van Nederland* (*More World History of the Netherlands*), published together with the KNAW-Huygens Institute by Ambo Anthos. The book is aimed at a wider Dutch public interested in the history of the Netherlands from a global perspective.





Articles and television

As in previous years, the highly polarized debate on migration and refugees was factualized and contextualized by Leo Lucassen, who wrote fourteen op-eds in 2022 for leading newspapers such as *De Volkskrant, NRC, Trouw, Het Parool,* and *Het Financieel Dagblad.* He frequently contributed to radio and television programmes. His book *Migratie als DNA van Amsterdam,* published in December 2021 and co-authored with Jan Lucassen, was discussed at the University of Amsterdam in May 2022 and during several sessions with policy advisors from the City of Amsterdam.

Furthermore, Gijs Kessler published an article in *The Financieel Dagblad* about the war in Ukraine and his new book on Russia, while Matthias van Rossum explained in a Volkskrant article how the Cultuurstelsel (cultural system) in the Dutch East Indies in the nineteenth century contributed significantly to wealth in the Netherlands.

Various TV programmes devoted attention to the institute's research and collections, including "De kleuren van Caspers" (AVROTROS) on the symbolic meaning of the colour red, AT5 on the history and heritage of the Amsterdam squatters movement, and ATLAS TV (NTR) on the history of strikes.











Nuclear Polders

Recently, the European Union has designated nuclear energy as green energy. This current climate of nuclear enthusiasm contrasts with the 1970s and 1980s, which experienced widespread anti-nuclear activism and saw ecological, anti-war, and feminist struggles expanded into larger citizens movements. On Friday 20 May, Kyveli Mavrokordopoulou and Agnès Villette gave the workshop "Nuclear Polders" at the IISH. With the focus on the institute's material on anti-nuclear energy, they invited participants to engage with these histories and consider them via our collections.



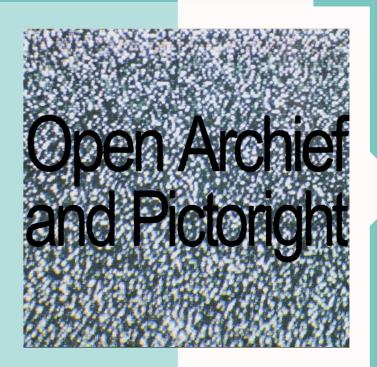
Open Archief

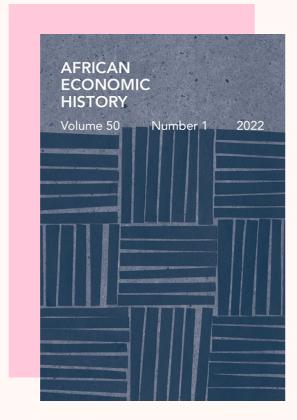
Finally, on June 15, Open Archief (Nieuw Instituut, Sound and Vision, IISH) and Pictoright co-organized "Re:Use Clinic #1, Archives and Copyright" at the institute, a public event for heritage professionals, artists, and other interested parties about creatively reusing heritage collections. This was followed up with a second meeting on 29 September 29 in collaboration with ARIAS, the Platform for Research and Science through the Arts and Sciences.

At this second edition, former resident, anthropologist, curator, and activist Jessica de Abreu was in conversation with anthropologist and activist Mitchell Esajas, one of the founders of the Black Archives. They reflected on the affective challenges that artists and researchers face when documenting and archiving the Black anti-racism movement in the Netherlands. Her work had made her aware that most images portrayed Black people in a context of violence, suffering, or exoticism, and she reflected on the fact that by re-distributing them or re-displaying them, this violence is perpetuated. Writing about the overwhelming emotional experience of going through the colonial collections, she shared her struggle to find ways of bringing back humanity to these images. In light of the enduring colonial, imperial, and patriarchal legacies embedded in modern-day institutional archives, one central objective of archival reuse is to create space for silenced voices and underrepresented narratives.









RESEARCH

Women at Work in Sub-Saharan Africa

In addition to slavery, other forms of labour relations and their link with social inequality continued to be at the forefront of our research. Filipa Ribeiro da Silva and Karin Pallaver (assistant professor of African History at the University of Bologna and active member of our Global Collaboratory on the History of Labour Relations) edited a special issue of African Economic History on Women at Work in Sub-Saharan Africa: Reciprocal, Reproductive, Tributary and Commodified Labor, c.1800–2000.

The issue examines women's participation in the economy of several sub-Saharan African countries by looking into multiple forms of female labour from a historical and comparative perspective. Moving beyond wage labour for the formal labour market – often, the only form of women's work that is captured by occupational censuses – and, at the same time, the type of work women were often excluded from, the authors apply the methodological approach that has been developed by the Global Collaboratory on the History of Labour Relations and shed new light on the wide spectrum of women's work activities and their contribution to economy and society.



Iran Petroleum Museum and Documents

Global Oil Frontiers

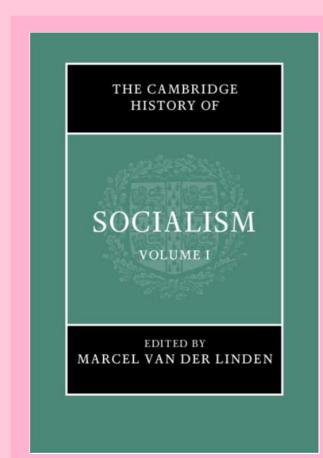
The gendered division of labour and the durable inequality it causes is just one of the aspects of labour and inequality we study. Unequal access to land and natural resources is another. As part of our work on commodity frontiers, we welcomed Peyman Jafari's NWO Veni grant for his project "Global Oil Frontiers: A Comparative and Global History of Land, Labour and Ecology in the Emergence of Petro-capitalism (1890–1940)". Assisted by empires, corporations such as the forerunners of British Petroleum and Royal Dutch/Shell, opened up new oil frontiers through land dispossession that drove migration, introduced indentured and wage labour along racial hierarchies, and changed local ecologies. This project compares and connects two case studies, southern Iran while under the influence of the British Empire and the Dutch East Indies. It offers a bottom-up perspective on how oil frontiers transformed the countryside in these regions and integrated them into a global system.

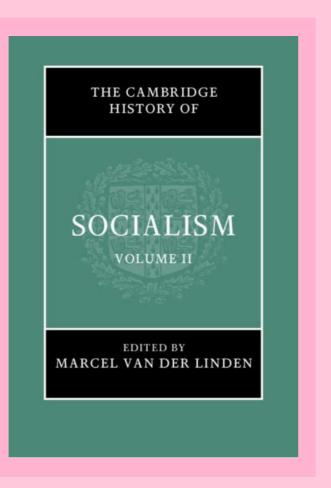
La Via Campesina

Collective action against social inequality related to work and labour relations is a third strand in our research program. La Via Campesina, a global peasant movement that fights for social justice, human dignity, and food sovereignty, is one of the organizations we study in our Commodity Frontiers Project. In this regard, we are pleased to have received a KNAW Onderzoeksfonds grant, which enables us to use the La Via Campesina's collection as a pilot to developing a quick but safe access procedure for digital archives. The project provides an opportunity for the Research and Collections departments to work together on the same project and towards a common goal.

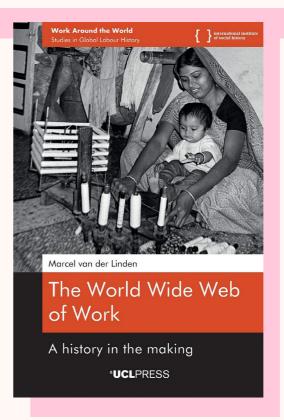
Social conflicts and socialism

In June, the fifth International Conference on Strikes and Social Conflicts in the 21st Century was held in Rotterdam. In the future, we hope to expand the scope of the conference beyond strikes and include all forms of labour conflicts. Marcel van der Linden edited a major work on the history of socialism. In two volumes of vv, he provides an up-to-date critical survey of the socialist movements and political practices that have arisen thus far throughout the world. No less than fifty-five essays by experts cover anarchism, syndicalism, social democracy, labour, the New Left, and alternative socialist movements in the Global South.









Publications

The IISH launched a new Open Access Book Series with University College London Press entitled Work around the World: Studies in Global Labour History. This series will explore the connectivity between changes in work and shifting labour relations, evolving social and economic inequalities that result from or are connected to these changes, and individual as well as collective responses to these inequalities. Situating these historical dynamics within the context of an unfolding global economy that externalizes social and environmental costs, the series aims at global comparisons across time, space, and scale to bring out how evolving social inequalities are connected to the development of work and labour relations, and how these histories may help our understanding of the causes of present inequalities. By combining broad diachronic, transnational and transcontinental comparisons, synthetic overviews, and exemplary case studies, the series offers a conversant global perspective on how work and the social and economic relations and contexts in which it is performed, has shaped and defined our world. The first book will be published in 2023.



Michael Pellanders, Demonstratie voor behoud werkgelegenheid, 1981, IISG BG B16/693

DATA & COLLECTIONS

In the course of 2022, the data and collections threads were slowly picked up again after the IISH being closed for a period at the beginning of the year. The financial situation improved due to an expansion of the lump sum and the allocation of funding in the context of the Ministry of Education, Culture and Science (OCW) programme "Werken aan Uitvoering" (WAU). New employees could be hired in various departments, specifically in the Data & Augmentation department, which was created in 2020 and was finally fully staffed in 2022.

Public Services

Furthermore, the Public Services department implemented its Open | Dicht annual plan. The focus was on "open" where possible – open access, digital accessibility and open data – but, where necessary, also on "closed", i.e. to protect the privacy of vulnerable groups. In that context, workshops were organized with various groups on the function of the archive.

Collection Processing

The Collection Processing department worked on the backlogs that had arisen in the cataloguing of purchased books and the addition of periodicals. The current periodicals were critically assessed and less-relevant subscriptions were cancelled. Books from the Spufford Collection and the Academy Library have been catalogued and added. The Brongersma and Lavrov library collections are described as collections in their context. Reconstructing the Lavrov collection revealed that part of the collection could be traced back to the personal libraries of Marx and Engels.

Collection Development

Following the lifting of restrictions on travel and meetings, the employees of the Collection Development department resumed their contacts and projects, especially abroad. Moreover, the department has regained strength by hiring new employees.

Exhibitions

In 2022, material was loaned to twelve exhibitions, including some originals from the Marx archive to the Deutsches Historisches Museum in Berlin (Karl Marx und der Kapitalismus). Much time was spent lending approximately 150 original photographs and documents from the CNT collection for the exhibition 'Las cajas de Amsterdam: Kati Horna y Margaret Michaelis en la Guerra Civil', which has been on display in three locations in Spain over the past year. The exhibition presented the work of the Polish photographer Margaret Michaelis (1902–1985) and the Hungarian, Kati Horna (1912–2000), both of Jewish origin. Both women were committed to the work of the anarchists and were two of the main photographers during the Social Revolution (1936–1937) in the Civil War.





Photos: Javier Blasco/DPH

New collections digitized

As part of Metamorfoze, various archives have become available online, including the Central Bureau for Social Advice (CBSA) archives, which have now been digitized. The CBSA was founded in 1899 for the purpose of providing legal assistance and advice to workers' associations, collecting and disseminating data and establishing a library. The CBSA was disbanded in 1923 when the major trade unions set up their own legal aid offices. Preparations for the digitization of the SDAP (Dutch Social Democratic Party) Archive are still in progress.

In December 2022, an application for the preservation and digitization of a large number of consumer cooperative archives was approved. The consumer cooperative is a specific form of business that arose in the nineteenth century. Many factory workers had to work in appalling conditions for low wages, purchasing food together meant that it could be sold to members in their own shops at a reasonable price. In the twentieth century, the cooperatives went through many mergers and struggles and, in 1973, bankruptcy was followed by the emergence of the current COOP supermarket chain. The archive of COOP-Nederland's predecessors form the core of the project, which, in turn, is a collection of local cooperative archives. This amounts to thirteen metres of archive from the period 1882 to 1973.

Other archives that have been digitized and made available online include: the Annual Reports of the Vereeniging voor den Effectenhandel; interviews with former political prisoners for the Taporal project; the papers of chartist Ernest Jones; a collection of anarchist documents from Alcoy (Spain); a collection of Russian children's books; a collection of regulations on prostitution in the Netherlands; and the César De Paepe papers.



Dordrechtsche Coöperatieve Verbruiksvereeniging, c. 1918 IISG BG A22/710



8 Mars (سرام 8) COLL00676

New acquisitions

In total, 143 metres of archive material have been acquired, of which 51 metres from the Netherlands. The most important acquisitions are: the archive of the Women in Informal Employment: Globalizing and Organizing (WIEGO); the Asser Baars archive (available in photocopy at IISH since 1985); and additions to the archives of the General Employers Association of the Netherlands, VNO/NCW and the International Confederation of Trade Unions. Digitization projects have been undertaken in various countries, whereby the original archives and collections remain on site and the IISH has included a digital copy in its catalogue. To date, digital copies of the magazine 8 Mars (سرام 8), published by the Moroccan L'Union de l'Action Féministe (UAF), 1983-2005, and Dmitry Aleksandrovich Levchik's collection on the independent labour movement in Russia, 1989-1992, have been completed and made available in the IISH catalogue.

As mentioned before, we have received an almost complete series of *The Moscow Times* magazine, a unique source on economic and political liberalization and its reversal in Russia, 1992–2008. In addition, we now have a large selection of work on labour and the trade union movement 1973-1987 from the archive of the photographer Michel Pellanders.





Infrastructure

For the processing of archives, we switched to ArchivesSpace in 2022. This has become part of the digital infrastructure that is maintained at the Humanities Cluster. ArchivesSpace offers wider possibilities for description, either extensively in the application or using simple templates. In connection with the Humanities Cluster, we have also started a project to devoting more attention to information security.

HSN-DB

The Historical Sample of the Netherlands (HSN) programme will continue as an HSN database and, in 2022, it strengthened cooperation at national level with the Netherlands Centre for Family History, CBS and DANS, and by participating in the CLARIAH and ODISSEI infrastructures. In addition, HNS-DB has delivered a number of new data products and improved user-friendliness.



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Most significant grants:

WaU (Werk aan Uitvoering) (Information Access for Citizens) 5,000,000 euro

KNAW Onderzoeksfonds: Een bypass voor digitale bronnen. Een snelle en verantwoorde toegang tot digital born collecties (A bypass for digital sources. Fast and responsible access to digital born collections) 200,000 euro

NWO Vidi: Matthias van Rossum, Resisting Enslavement: A Global Historical Approach to

Slavery in the Dutch Atlantic and Asian Empires (1620–1815) 800,000 euro

NWO Veni: Peyman Jafari, Oil Frontiers in the British and Dutch Empires: Land, Labour and Environment in the Making of an Imperial Oil Regime, 1890–1940 *270,000 euro*



Publications

		2019	2020	2021	2022
Articles	refereed	28	39	31	33
	non-R	3	5	7	5
Chapters in books	refereed	35	31	19	27
	non-R	2	10	11	1
Books	refereed	17	10	7	10
	non-R	0	3	3	1
Report		1	1	0	0
PhD-Theses		2	2	0	0
Total		88	101	78	77

Popularising publications

	2019	2020	2021	2022
Articles	45	52	37	26
Chapters in books	9	4	3	7
Books	4	4	3	3
Reports	0	1	1	0
Total	58	61	44	36

Reading Room

	2020	2021	2022
Archives	7,230	6,682	11,580
Books	3,497	3,497	5,272
Periodicals	1,547	1,069	1,715
Sound	32	38	30
Visuals	14	23	18
Moving Images	12	15	1
Permissions to view	329	271	377
Emails answered	5,416	4,548	3,577*
Registerd visitors	338	o (covid)	699
Loans to musea	15	13	12

^{*}Since 2022 the workflow for emails has changed

Social Media

CATEGORY		2020	2021	2022
Facebook	Likes		8113	8200
	Followers		8680	8678
Instagram	Followers	1017	1439	1572
Twitter	Followers	6211	7113	7280
LinkedIn	Followers	1706	2073	2140

Acquisitions

CATEGORY		2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Archives: Length on december 31st						
Archives - Total	Metres	17918	18719	19039	19115	19234
Archives - Acquisitions and processed						
Archives - Acquired	Metres	218	661	279	235	143
Archives - Processed	Metres	145	801	320	76	119
Books - Inventory on december 31st						
Books - Total	Numbers	920044	925039	926772	931435	943554
Books - Acquisitions and processed						
Books - Acquired	Numbers	5416	4995	1259	1081	2409
Books - Increase	Numbers	5416	4995	1733	4663	12119
Audio/Video - Number on december 31st						
Audio/Video - Total	Numbers	23732	22910	22948	23020	23852
Audio/Video - Acquisition and Processed						
Audio/Video - Acquired	Numbers	133	150	428	1431	1
Audio/Video - Increase	Numbers	143	158	52	157	932
Visual Materials - Acquisition and Processed						
Visual Materials - Acquired	Numbers	4378	3007	1507	1713608	53463
Visual Materials - Increase	Numbers	34953	4378	36115	31619	42612
Periodicals - Length on December 31st						
Periodicals - Total	Metres	12968	13009	13042	13037	13073
Periodicals - Acquisitions and Processed						
Periodicals - Acquired *	Metres	8,74	18,56	4,4	6,15	7,20
Periodicals - Increase	Metres	9	41	12,65	3,13	36,94
Digital Collections - Acquisition and Processed						
Digital Collections - Acquired*	Terabyte	6	3	1,2	18	13