

Report from Germany 2004 to the IFLA Art Libraries Section

My report on the IFLA Art Libraries Section's activities at the IFLA conference 2003 in Berlin has been published in AKMB-news 10.2004, 1, pp. 49-52.

At the successful IFLA conference 2003 in Berlin, the German art libraries society AKMB has gifted the participants with a special IFLA issue of the AKMB-news (9.2003, 2) containing up-to-date information on the German art library landscape.

Since then, the AKMB has again organized several conferences and continuing education seminars, always with the help of Evelin Morgenstern's Initiative Fortbildung für wissenschaftliche Spezialbibliotheken (www.initiativefortbildung.de). The complete programs and also many papers of the AKMB conferences are accessible on the AKMB website www.akmb.de. Many of the lectures are published in the AKMB-news, published three times yearly. The AKMB website's section 'Focus' (<http://www.akmb.de/web/html/fokus/fokus.html>) gives access to useful and rather comprehensive references on topics of outstanding importance dealt with at AKMB meetings: sales catalogues (see below), emergency planning (by Andrea Joosten), copyright issues.

On October 17-18, 2003, the Saxon State and University Library (SLUB), Dresden, has hosted an AKMB workshop on management and marketing and on conservation and restoration issues. This meeting was preceded by a workshop on researching and cataloguing online resources in the context of the virtual subject library for contemporary art (<http://vifaart.slub-dresden.de/>).

The traditional annual information technology workshop in the Herzog August Bibliothek in Wolfenbüttel workshop (20-21 November 2003) was dedicated above all to recent developments concerning online catalogues, especially cataloguing of online resources and integration of abstracts.

On the occasion of annual national library congress, held in Leipzig in March 2004 concurrently with the Leipzig book fair, the AKMB presented three papers dealing with important German art archives and their online access (Documenta Archive in Kassel, Institut für moderne Kunst in Nuremberg, Zentralarchiv des internationalen Kunsthandels in Cologne).

The autumn conference 2004 held in Berlin on October 22/23 was dedicated to the classical theme of 'special collections in art libraries' with special regard to sales catalogues, thereby picking up the big topic of the ALS programme at the IFLA conference 2003. Online access to bibliographic references for sales catalogues has become really a central issue for German art libraries. In relation with the conference, Maria Effinger and Jörg Ebeling have compiled a useful list of bibliographic references and links regarding the retrieval of sales catalogues (<http://www.akmb.de/web/html/fokus/fokus.html>). This same section of the AKMB website presents a first census of sales catalogues holdings in German art libraries, based on an inquiry recently organized by the AKMB.

In April 2004, AKMB chair Laura Held attended the ARLIS/NA conference in New York. Her report has been published in AKMB-news 10.2004, 2, pp. 20-24.

The "Virtual Catalogue for Art History" (http://www.ubka.uni-karlsruhe.de/vk_kunst.html), a specialized search engine based on the technology of the well known KVK (Karlsruher Virtueller Katalog) and initially realized as an initiative of the working group of German art libraries funded by the German Research Foundation (DFG), has again been extended: In April 2004, the library of the Rijksmuseum Amsterdam has become a target system. Moreover, due to the ever increasing international participation, the VKK has become a truly international and especially European undertaking. The first plenary conference of the VKK participants took place at the Kunsthistorisches Institut in Florence from June 17 to 19, 2004. This very successful meeting comprised a series of papers concerning the future co-operative development, as well as visits and receptions at the Uffizi, the Dutch University Institute for Art History and the Villa I Tatti (Harvard University). A VKK working group constituted in Florence has met

for the first time at the Louvre in Paris on September 3, 2004, in order to prepare a mission statement, rules of procedure, and future public relation activities. The results of these meetings will be presented for example at the AKMB meeting in Wolfenbüttel in December 2004 and at a OKBV meeting in Brussels, also in December, and be published as soon as possible. Finally, it may be worth mentioning that the Zentralinstitut fuer Kunstgeschichte in Munich and the University Library of Heidelberg, together with the University of Munich's department of art history, have applied for funding by the DFG (German Research Foundation) of a so-called virtual subject library for art history, intended to become a gateway to electronic resources. This project, called "arthistoricum.net", is expected to start at the beginning of 2005.

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