

## HEIDELBERG UNIVERSITY LIBRARY AND ITS SPECIAL SUBJECT COLLECTION IN ART HISTORY

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Since 1949 Heidelberg University Library has participated in a system of national cooperative acquisition financed by the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft. The DFG funds collection-building in the academic disciplines in order to provide a network of information sources with nationwide access. In Germany more than 60 proficient academic libraries contribute on the basis of a cooperative system of special collections, which are distributed according to disciplines and regional aspects. The aim of the cooperative acquisition scheme is to build systematic, comprehensive and specialized subject collections of printed and electronic resources, and to make these sources of information accessible throughout Germany in a user-friendly and service-oriented way. Heidelberg's collection focuses on Egyptology, Classical Archaeology, Art Studies and Medieval and Modern Art History (up to 1945). The library has made a commitment to doing its utmost to add to the collection every work from both Germany and abroad that has been written in these disciplines.

The art history collections of Heidelberg University Library go back to the 19<sup>th</sup> century. They cover the full range of medieval and modern art history in Europe as well as in the United States, Canada and Australia, in so far as it was under European influence, from the Early Christian era up to 1945. The University Library buys the complete production of relevant literature (including non-book media) on architecture, sculpture, painting and all branches of crafts. Urban architecture and the preservation of historic monuments (seen from an art history viewpoint), art exhibitions and industrial archeology are also represented. Furthermore there is a focus on general and comprehensive publications in the field of aesthetics. This applies to art aesthetics, art philosophy, art psychology, art theory and general art didactics. Today Heidelberg University Library holds around 1,300 periodicals on art and art history. The entire collection amounts to 290,000 volumes.

Today most of the art literature in Heidelberg can be accessed electronically (with a few gaps for items published between 1963 and 1965). The items are recorded on the Heidelberg Online Catalogue HEIDI (<http://heidi.ub.uni-heidelberg.de/>) and are additionally represented in the meta-search engine "Virtueller Katalog Kunstgeschichte" (VKK) (cf. the relevant contribution in this issue)

The focus of the libraries participating in the Special Subject Collection scheme has changed considerably during the last few years as a result of advances in modern information and media technology. Alongside traditional printed sources electronic publications are today part and parcel of collection-building in academic libraries and have to be normally available on a long-term basis. In order to meet these new requirements, Heidelberg University Library started to build a "Virtuelle Fachbibliothek Kunstgeschichte" (<http://VFBKunst.uni-hd.de>) a few years ago. This aims to provide user-friendly access to relevant digital resources. The most important component parts of the Virtuelle Fachbibliothek Kunstgeschichte are as follows:

- *Document Delivery Service SSG-S*: The main goal of the Special Subject Collection Libraries is not only to acquire sources of information, but to make them available for nationwide access. The classical and most inexpensive way of doing this is via Interlibrary Loan. In order to reduce delivery periods and transmit literature by electronic means directly to the end-user, Heidelberg University Library has established a special delivery service for its Special Subject Collections. It was started in 1998 and is also funded by the DFG (Document Delivery Service for special subject collections – SSG-S; <http://ssgs.uni-hd.de>).
- *New acquisitions lists*: Since 2000 the new acquisitions lists of our Special Subject Collections have been available on the web. They are updated monthly. The new titles in the lists are linked directly to the Heidelberg Sondersammelgebiets-Schnelllieferdienst SSG-S, so that they can be ordered easily. As a special service, all interested parties can be informed via email of updates to the list of new acquisitions.
- *Link collections*: Besides making available resources owned by the University Library, the virtual library of art history integrates free internet resources relevant for the art historian. Our comprehensive link list is ordered according to subject matter and type of sources and offers world-wide access to the most important sources on the web. There are links to tools relevant for the art historian such as specific search engines and portals, bibliographies and library catalogues as well as databases and picture li-

libraries. There is a link list of the most important e-journals, of relevant faculties, institutions and libraries. There is up-to-date information on museums, exhibitions, congresses and the preservation of monuments as well as links to reference tools and full texts on general and special subjects in art.

- *Full-Text Server (HeiDok-SSG)*: Heidelberg University Library offers members of the academic community worldwide the opportunity to publish their texts in electronic format on the internet at no charge. All kinds of publications (like monographs, articles, lectures) in the fields of Egyptology, Classical Archaeology, Art Studies and European Art History can be saved on our full-text server "HeiDok-SSG". The standard of these publications should not fall below that of traditional printed ones. The documents will be stored and their long-term availability guaranteed under the address (URL) assigned: <http://heidok-ssg.uni-hd.de>

Heidelberg University Library holds 27 late medieval illustrated manuscripts originating from three of the most popular 15th-century German workshops. In a project funded by the DFG between 2000

and 2001 ("Digitalisation of Late Medieval Illustrated Manuscripts from the Bibliotheca Palatina"; <http://palatina-digital.uni-hd.de>), these manuscripts were completely digitalised, catalogued and made freely available on the internet through a joint effort of the Special Subject Collections librarian of Heidelberg University Library and the Institute for Art History of Heidelberg University. The digitalisation of a total of 15,250 manuscript pages was performed by the Graz University Library. The thematic classification of over 2,000 illustrations was carried out using the database tool HiDA3 and the iconographic classification system ICONCLASS. Images and catalogue data are available via the website of Heidelberg University Library and via the manuscript database "Manuscripta Mediaevalia" (<http://www.manuscripta-mediaevalia.de/>).

Altogether the Special Subject Collection offers a variety of information and services, reaching from the traditional printed book to modern digitisations and electronic resources. Looking towards the future, it is our aim to bring all these documents and services together in one single interface, to offer the user an easy, one-stop resource for all the information he or she may need.

*English version: Roy Kift, Kunst und Kultur  
Übersetzungsdienst, Castrop Rauxel*