

### Our Profile



Founded in 1961, the documenta archiv is an institution for the archiving, documentation, and scholarly analysis of texts and images related to modern and contemporary art, with a particular focus on the history of the documenta exhibitions. The core of the documenta archiv consists of the original materials produced by each documenta team. Additionally, we collect publications, ephemera, press materials, and personal papers, as well as photo, video and audio materials. These focus on the following thematic groups:

- documenta exhibitions
- documenta artists
- major international art exhibitions
- curatorial practice



The documenta archiv has developed numerous exhibitions, symposia, cataloguing and digitization projects with funding from the European Union, the German Research Foundation and the Cultural Foundations of the Federal and State Governments. For the future, we plan to intensify our scholarly presence through the creation of a research institute in cooperation with the University and the Kunsthochschule Kassel. Centering around the documenta exhibition as a unique world art exhibition, the research institute should inspire transdisciplinary and transnational studies in relation to the world, art and exhibition and achieve international excellence.



Our users have the opportunity to conduct research using original documents from past documenta exhibitions and continue their studies in our special art library for modernism and contemporary art. They can additionally consult our diverse media collection, and press- and printed materials. The combination of archival records, a media collection, and a large specialized library is unique in Germany.

Records and Papers The archive contains correspondence files, sketches, concepts, printed materials and press items, as well as national and international press reviews. These materials are obtained every five years from each respective documenta team. Our holdings currently amount to 320 linear meters.

The documenta archiv also collects personal papers. At present, we hold the estate of Arnold Bode (1900-1977), founder of the documenta exhibitions and initiator of the documenta archiv. The estates of documenta artists Harry Kramer (1925-1997) and Hans Hillmann (1925-2014) are also housed in the documenta archiv. The establishment of a center for curators' estates is planned for the future.

The collection has been augmented with press- and printed materials on artists of the 20th and 21st century. Assembled over the last decades, it consists of invitation cards and ephemera related to contemporary art. The collection contains over 500,000 press clippings, flyers and invitation cards of about 45,000 artists, totaling approximately 200 linear meters.

Media Collection

The media collection consists of individual collections of negatives, photographs and slides, as well as various audio. video and film materials. with a focus on the documentation of the documenta exhibitions. In the past decades, the media collection has constantly been expanded through donations and acquisitions. The collection houses approximately 90,000 digital photographs and over 120,000 analog photographs, as well as approximately 3,900 audio, video, and film items.

## Our Holdings

Art Library

Our specialized library contains all publications about documenta exhibitions and participating artists, relevant exhibition catalogues, related publications, rare ephemeral literature, and a large selection of journals. This totals approximately 100,000 publications and about 80 current periodicals.





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Our Services



The entire collection of the documenta archiv is constantly being indexed to give researchers and interested parties quick and easy access, at the same time complying with copyright laws and the protection of personality rights.

#### **On-site Research**

A reading room is available for our visitors. In preparation for your research in the records archive and media collection. please send us a detailed written request. The art library can be used without prior appointment. We are happy to provide assistance along the way. Should you not be able to visit the archive in person, we are gladly to arrange help with your research on site. Please note the opening hours, terms of use, and price list on our website.

We look forward to your visit!

Online Research For online research possibilities, please visit our website under the heading »databases.«

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Herr Dr. Trier gibt bei der nächster Besprechung ein

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## Our Events and Publications





### From the documenta archiv

In order to present the results of research and new knowledge regarding our archival materials to the public, we offer various events such as presentations, concerts and film screenings on the topic of documenta, also in cooperation with other institutions.

### **Publication Series**

Since 1992, our publication series has released books that present new research findings on documenta and its history.

#### Website

Recent developments and results can be found on our website on the »News« page, where it is also possible to sign up for our newsletter. Every month, we create a new »docArt of the month,« in which we present interesting items from the documenta archiv and their history.

# Information



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### Image credits

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Opening Hours of the Reading Room Please refer to our website.

<u>Visiting</u> Accessible with the tram lines 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, RT4, RT1. Tram stop Friedrichsplatz.

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### www.documenta-archiv.de

