



Cultural Heritage Inspectorate
Ministry of Education, Culture and Science

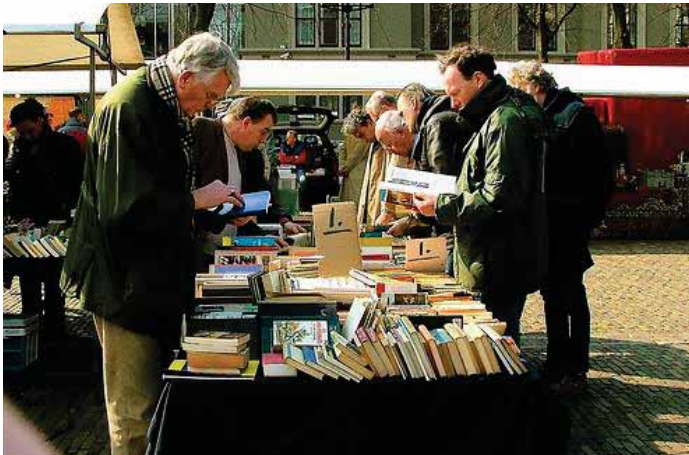
Strategy for the Safeguarding of Archives

Research into illicit trade
involving archives in the
Netherlands

Arda Scholte, chief inspector
Cultural Heritage Inspectorate



Archives found at a Market in The Hague





Lay-out presentation

- Activities Cultural Heritage Inspectorate
- Research 2011 into Trafficking of Archives and what can we learn from this research
- Proposals
 - Red List of Archives at Risk
 - On-line tool registration of stolen or missing archival pieces
 - Mexico Principles





Cultural Heritage Inspectorate

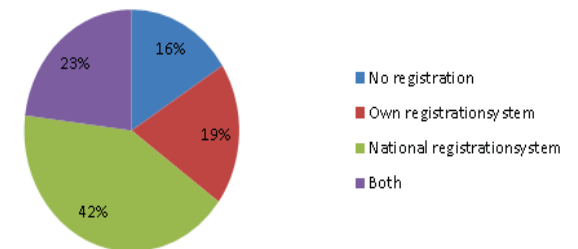




Cultural Heritage Inspectorate: tasks

- Inspection of collections of the state and of objects which are irreplaceable and indispensable for Dutch cultural heritage
- Central authority for European and UNESCO legislation (1970, 1954) on the protection of cultural heritage and for Sanction measures Iraq and Syria (Mali)

Use of registration of incidents





Cultural Heritage Inspectorate: tasks (2)

- Authorization of Export Licenses
- National cooperation with Customs and Police
- Cooperation with relevant (inter)national Organizations





Research 2011: Trafficking Archives

Main conclusions:

- Most significant problem: theft or misappropriation of archival material
- Hidden problem
- Insufficient cooperation
- Awareness





Research 2011: Trafficking Archives

Recommendations:

- Development of an integrated security policy, including safety and security measures (RCE, EGI, Royal Library, National Archives, archival sector)
- Development of a uniform and coordinated approach by institutions involved



<https://veilig-erfgoed.nl/en/subjects/theft/theft-archive-institutions>



Prevention of Illicit Trafficking of Archives: Instruments and Strategy



Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property – 1970



At the end of the 1960 and in the beginning of the 1970s, thefts were increasing both in museums and at archaeological sites, particularly in the countries of the South. In the North, private collectors and, sometimes, official institutions, were increasingly offered objects that had been fraudulently imported or were of unidentified origin.

It is in this context, and to address such situations, the Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property was created in 1970.

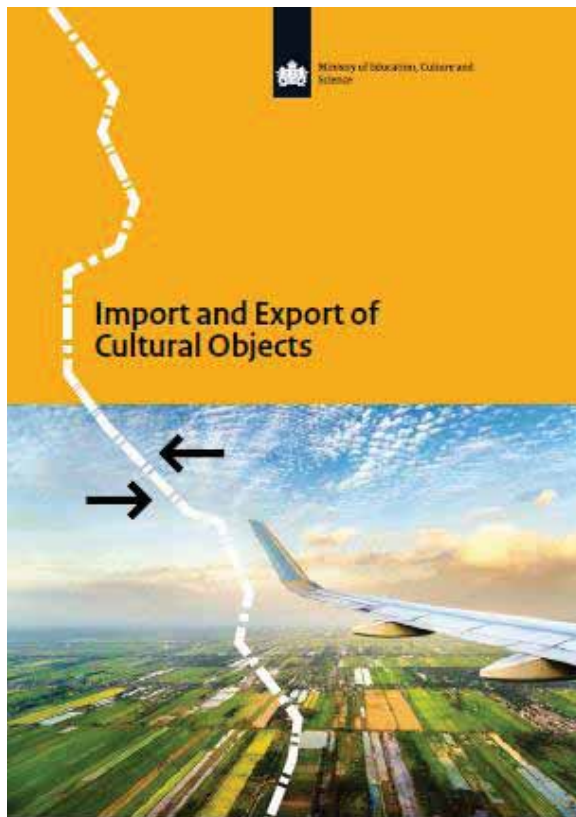
The 1970 Convention requires its States

Parties to take action in these main fields:

- Preventive measures:**
 Inventories, export certificates, monitoring trade, imposition of penal or administrative sanctions, educational campaigns, etc.
- Restitution provisions:**
 Per Article 7 (b) (ii) of the Convention, States Parties undertake, at the request of the State Party "of origin", to take appropriate steps to recover and return any such cultural property imported after the entry into force of this Convention in both States concerned, provided, however, that the requesting State shall pay just compensation to an innocent purchaser or to a person who has valid title to that property. More indirectly and subject to domestic legislation, Article 13 of the Convention also provides provisions on restitution and cooperation.
- International cooperation framework:**
 The idea of strengthening cooperation among and between States Parties is present throughout the Convention. In cases where cultural patrimony is in jeopardy from pillage, Article 9 provides a possibility for more specific undertakings such as a call for import and export controls.



Awareness-raising:



How can you act carefully?
 Your rule of thumb should be: If an object is more than 50 years old, there is a chance that it cannot be taken out of its country of origin. Check whether the seller is known to be reliable. Photograph the object. Ask the seller for written information, certificates and other statements, and verify their authenticity. For the following questions consult authorities like:

How can you tell if an object belongs to the legally protected heritage of a country?

- **Interpol's database** of stolen works of art: <http://www.interpol.int/Crime-branch/Works-of-art/Works-of-art>
- **The UNESCO website** for a database of national cultural heritage laws: www.unesco.org/culture/heritage/laws.
- **The ICOM website** for lists of cultural objects at risk in Africa, Latin America, Libya, Egypt and especially Syria, Iraq and Afghanistan: <http://icom.museum/programme/fighling-ill-legal-traffic-etc/>
- The **Customs, National Museum and/or Ministry of Culture** of countries that the object may have come from.
- The **Dutch Embassy or Consulate** in that country

Which agency can you contact if you would like to export cultural goods?

- **Customs:** www.bslm.nl/onderdelen/customs
- **Culture Heritage Inspectorate** of the Ministry of Education, Culture and Science: <http://english.erfgoedinspectie.nl/>

Cultural heritage that falls under Dutch protective legislation
 In the Netherlands, protected cultural objects are defined by the Erfgoedwet (Heritage Act) as:

- Objects or collections which have been granted protected status by the Minister of Culture based on various criteria.
- Objects from public collections in institutions such as museums, archives and libraries
- Objects from ecclesiastical collections
- Protected historic buildings and monuments and parts of them
- Archives
- Unlawfully excavated archaeological objects

The database of legally protected cultural objects in the Netherlands:
<http://www.digitaleerfgoedregister.nl/> (only Dutch)

Do you have doubts as to whether an object's origin is lawful?
 Contact the Cultural Heritage Inspectorate or consult <http://english.erfgoedinspectie.nl/>

<https://english.erfgoedinspectie.nl/publications/publication/2016/11/16/brochure-import-and-export-of-cultural-objects>



Awareness-raising: Register of loss and incidents

Example: Interpol

Interpol Work of art search

Work of art search criteria

Main criteria

* Type : MUSICAL INSTRUMENT → STRINGS → PL [List] [Reset]
Medium/Technique : MUSICAL INSTRUMENT [List] [Reset]
Material : WOOD* [List] [Reset]
Subject/Title : [List] [Reset]
Description : [List] [Reset]
Artist : [List] [Reset]

Additional criteria

Inscriptions/Markings : [List] [Reset]
Height : [List] [Reset] (cm)
Width : [List] [Reset] (cm)
Diameter : [List] [Reset] (cm)
Shape : [List] [Reset]
Colours : [List] [Reset]

Administrative criteria

Country of event : All [List] [Reset]
* File number : [List] [Reset]

Search options

Search within : Stolen objects [List] [Reset]
Results per page : 8 [List] [Reset]
Paging : [List] [Reset]

* Mandatory fields (please specify at least one of these fields)

Be cautious when using this field as your query should correspond exactly to the same sequence of signs, characters, digits and markings as registered in the database

When using this field, utmost care is required. Your query will only match if it corresponds exactly to the same sequence of signs, characters, digits and markings, as registered in the database.

You may wish to add additional criteria to your search: inscriptions / markings, height, width, and shape. ONLY IF YOU ARE CERTAIN!

Search **Clear**



Awareness-raising: Register of loss and incidents

Example: ICOM

Home / What we do / Resources / Red Lists Database

Red Lists Database

The screenshot displays the Red Lists Database website interface. At the top, there is a navigation menu with the text "Home / What we do / Resources / Red Lists Database". Below this is the main heading "Red Lists Database". The main content area features a grid of nine regional categories, each with a representative image and a label: Afghanistan, Africa, Cambodia, Central America and Mexico, China, and Colombia. To the right of the grid is a search sidebar with the heading "Find a category of objects". This sidebar includes a text input field for "Enter keyword(s)", three dropdown menus for "By material", "By type", and "By region or country", and a "By period" dropdown menu. A "Start Search" button is located at the bottom of the sidebar. The ICOM logo is visible in the top right corner of the website header.

Find a category of objects

Enter keyword(s)

By material

By type

By region or country

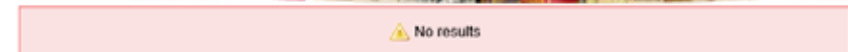
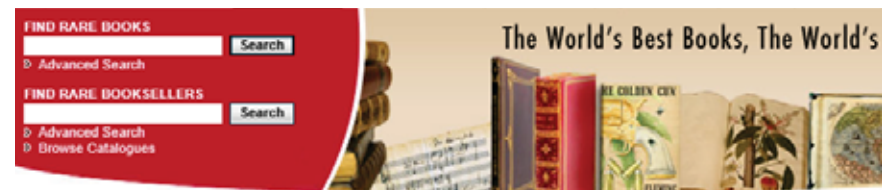
By period

Start Search



Awareness-raising: Register of loss and incidents

Example: ILAB



ILAB Book Search - Buy with Confidence: Rare Books, Autographs, Manuscripts, Modern First Editions, Illustrated Books, Atlases, Maps, Prints

https://www.ilab.org/eng/ilab/ILAB_Stolen_Books.html



Proposal: Register of loss and incidents

1. In close cooperation with UNESCO, ICA and Interpol
Develop a dedicated red list for archives

OR

Expand the present ICOM red lists to incorporate information on missing archives or possible examples of vulnerable archives

2. Develop an online tool for the registration of stolen or missing archival pieces
3. Using a uniform description language / thesaurus to identify (e.g. parts of Encoded Archival Description (EAD))



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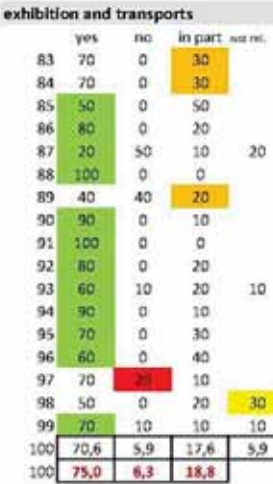
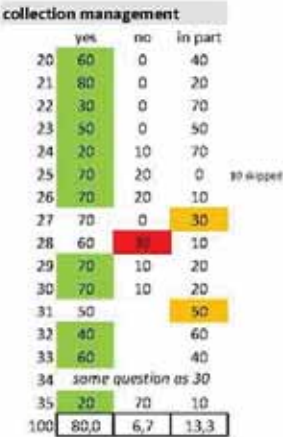
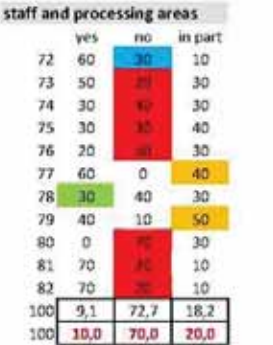
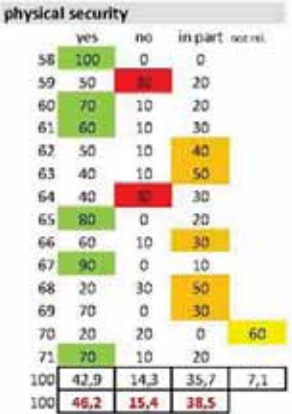
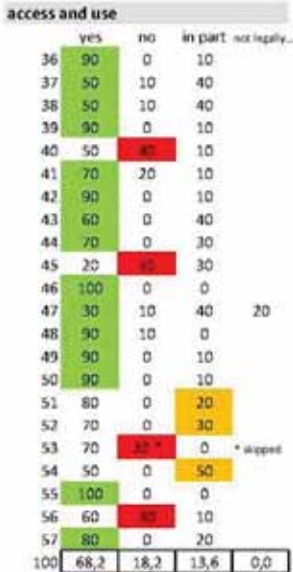
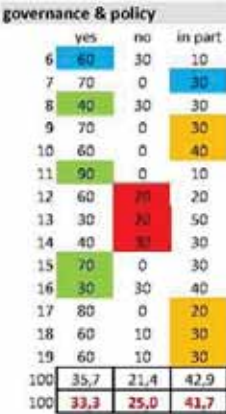
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International Cooperation Framework

Example:
Consortium of
European
Research
Libraries
(CERL)





International Cooperation Framework

Example:
International
Committee for
Museum
Security
(ICMS)

The screenshot displays the ICMS website interface. At the top left is the ICMS logo with the text 'ICOM international committee for museum security'. A 'MEMBER ACCESS EN' button is in the top right. A vertical green 'JOIN IN' button is on the right. The main navigation menu on the left includes: ABOUT ICMS, MEETINGS, ICMS INTERNAL, PUBLICATIONS, USEFUL LINKS (highlighted), Links to relevant programs and information, and ICMS WORKSHOPS. The main content area features the heading 'Links to relevant programs and information' and two paragraphs: one about the Museum Security Network (established in 1996) and another about the Museums Emergency Programme (MEP). A search bar with 'ICMS' and 'ICOM' tabs and an 'OK' button is located below the navigation menu. A maintenance notice for the website by Hans-Jürgen Herras is at the bottom left.



International Cooperation Framework

Mexico Principles Inspired by the Copenhagen Principles



- Principle 1: To establish a security network for transnational cooperation between archival institutions
- Principle 2: Set up security policies and security systems in archives
- Principle 3: Agreements to inform and assist colleagues in a secure network
- Principle 4: Share security information among archival institutions
- Principle 5: Cooperate on security issues with the trade organizations
- Principle 6: Cooperate with the law enforcement agencies



International Cooperation Framework

Example: APE



Welcome to the Archives Portal Europe

The Archives Portal Europe provides access to information on archival material from different European countries as well as information on archival institutions throughout the continent.

Search

- You can search in:
- 260,037,881 descriptive units of archives
 - 21,498 persons and entities
 - 6975 institutions

Romania: birth of the Royal House - 150 years

With the arrival of prince Karl of Hohenzollern-Sigmaringen in Bucharest on 10 May 1866, the Royal House of Romania was established. Karl reigned Romania for 48 years as King Carol I.



Explore our topics:

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- Charters
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- Crime
- Culture
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- Genealogy
- Justice
- Napoleon I
- Napoleon III
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- Slavery
- Transport

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By giving access to archival material from all over Europe, the Archives Portal Europe provides the opportunity to detect common relations in a comprehensive approach while at the same time reflecting the diversity of national and regional developments. [Read more...](#)



Combined search facilities

In addition to a simple full text search, the Archives Portal Europe offers an advanced search concentrating on aspects such as dates as well as a navigated search for browsing through the archival material. All approaches can be followed separately or in combination. [Read more...](#)



Years of collaboration and development

The Archives Portal Europe is made available through our technical investment. In particular, we have spent a considerable amount of time developing standards and tools to manage highly complex data. [Read more...](#)



Contact details and services

Within the section "Directory", information such as contact details or opening hours of the archival institutions can be consulted. This not only includes those institutions already featuring their archival material in the Archives Portal Europe, but also other institutions from the participating countries. [Read more...](#)

Contact:
Arjan Agema
arjan.agema@nationaalarchief.nl



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Proposals

- Red List of Archives at Risk
- Online registration tool for stolen archival pieces

- 

Proposal “Mexico Principles”
(Inspired by The Copenhagen Principles)

Established during the General Assembly of Association of Latin-American Archivists (ALA)



Contact

Cultural Heritage Inspectorate

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