

Press Release

8th International

PROVENANCE RESEARCH DAY 2026

Researching the Origins of Objects in Museums, Libraries,
Archives, and Beyond



On April 8, 2026, International *Provenance Research Day* will take place for the eighth time. More than 130 cultural institutions in eight countries have already registered their participation (as of March 31, 2026).

The wide-ranging program currently includes almost 93 in-person events as well as various online formats. The events focus primarily on topics related to cultural assets confiscated as a result of Nazi persecution, cultural assets from colonial contexts, and objects expropriated in the Soviet Occupation Zone and the GDR, but they also address object and collection histories in general. This globally unique collaborative initiative brings together researchers from a wide range of institutions, including museums, libraries and universities. It reflects the successful efforts of the Arbeitskreis Provenienzforschung e.V. to promote transparency and strengthen professional exchange within a still young research community committed to shedding light on the origin of cultural objects (not only) in public institutions.

A survey of all events and further information on *Provenance Research Day 2026* can be found on the website of the Working Group: <https://www.arbeitskreis-provenienzforschung.org/veranstaltungen/>. For questions regarding the individual program of the participating institutions please contact the institution in question directly.

About the Provenance Research Day

Since 2019, Provenance Research Day has been held annually on the second Wednesday in April. The day plays an important role in raising awareness of the social and academic relevance of provenance research while also offering broader audiences insight into the methods of a field that often remains largely invisible behind the scenes. It emphasizes the value of provenance research as the basis and foundation for future decisions on cultural work. At the same time, the precarious employment situation of many provenance researchers remains alarming, especially given the political debates that focus on the object as a cultural heritage of remembrance.

About the Arbeitskreis Provenienzforschung

The Arbeitskreis Provenienzforschung e.V. is an international network of scientists and experts who are involved in researching the origin and unlawful confiscation of cultural assets. Founded in 2000 and organized as a registered association since 2014, its central tasks include providing professional support for provenance research across all areas of activity and promoting interdisciplinary exchange. The Arbeitskreis now has more than 650 members from 16 countries: <https://www.arbeitskreis-provenienzforschung.org/>.

Registration still open until 8 April 2026!

All institutions conducting provenance research in the broadest sense, as well as provenance researchers worldwide, are warmly invited to participate. Please also share our Call for Participation on [LinkedIn](#).



PRESS enquiries regarding interviews should be addressed directly to the Board of the Arbeitskreis Provenienzforschung e.V.: vorstand@arbeitskreis-provenienzforschung.org

Arbeitskreis Provenienzforschung e.V. | Working group Provenance Research Day

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