

Invitation to Participate

We invite all organisations preserving or making accessible cultural assets to join the BAM Portal. In German, BAM stands for Bibliotheken, Archive und Museen Libraries, Archives, and Museums.

By crosslinking our services we make them more easily available to the public in a variety of novel contexts. Participation is free of charge.

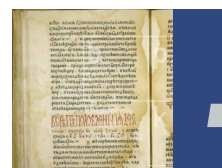
On our homepage you may find further information on the technology behind our portal, as well as terms and conditions of use. Please direct inquiries to the following contact persons:

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www.bam-portal.de



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A Portal to
Libraries, Archives and Museums

The Portal

The abbreviation BAM Bibliotheken, Archive or Museen Libraries, Archives and Museums stands for joint services on the internet provided by libraries, archives and museums in Germany. The BAM Portal gives scholarly users and other interested parties direct access to published works, archival records, and museum objects. The portal is not only a platform of those institutions, but it is also open to all organisations preserving cultural assets.

The aim of BAM is to centralise access to objects of cultural value.

A BAM Portal search yields results from German union catalogues, the online finding aids of the German Federal Archives, and the archives of many provinces, the object databases of museums, and museum associations, and the offerings of other organisations engaged in the conservation of cultural treasures. All participants, along with their collections, are introduced on the portal's website.

The results of each query in the BAM Portal are displayed in a short list with links to the original systems. Users have access to the full index description, presented in the context appropriate to each cultural institution. If available, users also get access to digital data sets of museum objects, archival records, and publication information.

The Project and its Partners:

The BAM Portal began as a project of the German Research Foundation DFG. During the third stage of the project, the BAM Portal has been expanded and now includes yet other partners in the Federal Republic of Germany. In addition to the State Archives of Baden Wuerttemberg, the German Federal Archives joined the project as an archival records expert. The State Museum of Technology and Labour in Mannheim, the State Museums of Berlin, and the Institute of Museum Research together represent the German museums. The Library Service Centre Baden Wuerttemberg and the Berlin State Library represent German libraries. In addition to project coordination, the Library Service Centre Baden Wuerttemberg is responsible for the technical implementation of BAM.

Upon expiration of the German Research Foundation's funding in summer 2007, a consortium of the project's partner organisations will ensure BAM's continued operation.

Deutsche
Forschungsgemeinschaft



The Technology:

Since the end of 2005, searchable metadata pertaining to the inventories and collections of the participating institutions have been kept a central search index. Queries lead to a search of all files, producing a list of hits containing the most important elements such as title and date of origin. These results serve as a jump label to more detailed information. The data exchange formats are derived from XML standards tailored to the specific needs of cultural organisations. In this way, the BAM Portal contributes to the further development and diffusion of interchange formats among cultural institutions.

The BAM Portal's search functions are actuated through open source software from Apache Lucene. This software allows the application of linguistic techniques to expand in a targeted fashion the quantity of hits. The inclusion of a structured controlled vocabulary subject headings of the German National Library allows the user to elaborate on a search of a particular term through inclusion of synonyms and narrower terms. The Portal offers a detailed search history including a my list function of items searched, as well as additional information concerning the participating institutions and collections. These services allow comfortable and individualised access to the information requested by the user.