

Annual Report 2014

{ } international institute of social history



Mission statement

Work and labour relations deeply influence how we live. The International Institute of Social History (IISH) examines how these relations develop globally over time. To conduct this historical research and support other researchers, we collect archives and data from all over the world. Established in 1935, the IISH is one of the world's leading research institutes on social history.

Summary

In 2014 the IISH continued its recovery from a period of performance decline at a rapid pace. With revived energy and enthusiasm, the staff set on to solve organizational problems, redesign workflows and generate new innovative projects.

In the collection department materials processed exceeded those received, and progress was made in building an environment for receiving digital born archives and enhancing the search features of the IISH collections. Dozens of the most important analogue archives were digitized and posted online.

The appointment of Professor Leo Lucassen as director of research gave the research group a new boost; at his suggestion, research on global labour history will highlight human agency – and in the process social movements and consequently use of our own collection as well. The central question is why has the appreciation of work varied so much in different times and places? This research will cover not only the IISH collections but also large data sets in increasing measure.

It is therefore encouraging that NWO allocated 12 million euros toward the new CLARIAH infrastructure for Dutch humanities. In the coming years this will enable the IISH considerably to strengthen its data infrastructure for Dutch and global socioeconomic history, working closely with VU University Amsterdam (computer science) and Utrecht University (economic history).

Within the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences (KNAW) the KNAW Humanities Group was established. In this context, the IISH will be working closely with the Huygens ING (Institute for Dutch History) and the Meertens Institute, especially on digital infrastructure and digital humani-

Research staff allocation and publications

	2011	2012	2013	2014	2014	2014
				Staff	Fellows	
Research allocation in ftes	14.3	12.5	10.7	11.8		
Permanent staff	5.3	3.5	3.2	4.4		
Temporary staff	4.3	3.6	3.3	3.2		
PhD candidates	4.3	4.9	4.2	4.2		
Contribution to journals - articles						
Peer-reviewed	26	33	15	34	10	44
Not peer-reviewed	5	11	2	4	3	7
Professional	10	11	12	18	3	21
Popularizing journals	4	18	10	18	1	19
Popularizing newspapers	20	9	4	21	5	26
Editorial boards/editor	23	5	2	18	0	18
Contributions to books - chapters	50	70	27	61	9	70
Peer-reviewed				36	3	39
Not peer-reviewed				4	2	6
Professional				19	2	21
Popularizing				0	0	0
Conference contributions		11	1	2	2	4
Books						
Author – Scholarly	12	8	2	3	2	5
Author – Professional				1	2	4
Author – Popularizing				1	0	3
Editor – Scholarly	9	19	4	4	3	7
Editor – Professional				1	0	1
Editor – Popularizing				0	0	0
Dissertations				2	0	2

ties. The KNAW is investing 15 million euros in this partnership. This will enable the IISH to add several new researchers to its research group.

Income and expenditures of the institute are now balanced for the first time in years. The organization of the institute has improved substantially. We have formulated clear new objectives and strategies. Within a few years, we expect to fully justify our status as a research and collection institute leading worldwide in our field. Fortunately, society is once again showing more interest in such themes as social and economic inequality.

Research

In 2014 the IISH generated a wealth of new knowledge and insights about long-term changes in global labour relations, social inequality and well-being. Given the research staff of 11.8 ftes, productivity is indisputably high. The IISH research staff – not including fellows and guest researchers – published *inter alia* 3 scholarly monographs, 4 scholarly collections, 34 articles in peer-reviewed journals, and 36 chapters in peer-reviewed collections. Most publications are highly-respected journals and prestigious series. These contributions have further strengthened the lead of the IISH in worldwide research on global labour history. Seven IISH researchers held positions as (endowed) professors. They supervised a total of 36 PhD candidates, among whom two took their PhD degrees in 2014.

The international status of the IISH research group was confirmed in part by the presentation of the prestigious *Bochumer Historiker Preis* to Professor Marcel van der Linden, who decided in 2014 to exchange his position as director of research (which he held for 13 years) for that of senior researcher to be able to devote more time to research. Van der Linden was succeeded by Leo Lucassen, professor of social history at Leiden University.

Soon after joining the institute, Lucassen presented a discussion paper, in which he proposed increasing the focus more on the problem of social



The CLARIAH team at the grant award on 1 July 2014

Academic Advisory Board

Professor Jan Luiten van Zanden (chair), Kurt de Belder, Professor Ewout Frankema, Professor Frank van Harmelen, Maria Heijne, Dr Dennie Oude Nijhuis, Professor Pal Nyiri, Johan Oomen, Professor Hilde de Weerdt, Professor Anne Winter.

inequality in global labour history research. Such analysis should be based on data gathered on the triad of labour relations, social movements, and indicators of economic wellbeing. Lucassen also hopes to make human agency and social movements more explicit in research on social inequality. In addition to promising content, this will lead the IISH collections to be used more intensively for internal research, thereby enhancing coherence at the institute. In 2015 the new research mission will be implemented.

In addition to acquiring some smaller research grants, the allocation of a 12-million euro NWO grant to a consortium of institutions toward the CLARIAH research infrastructure was especially important in 2014. In conjunction with Utrecht University (Professor Jan Luiten van Zanden, economic history) and the VU University Amsterdam (Professor Frank van Harmelen, computer science), the IISH is responsible for building an infrastructure for collecting and managing structured data concerning international socioeconomic history. Over 2 million euros is available to this end.

In the autumn a new Academic Advisory Board started under the aegis of Professor Jan Luiten van Zanden. The Board first met in November.

Collections

Despite reduced staff following the reorganization in 2013, the collection department achieved important progress in 2014. The institute acquired 249 metres of collections (comprising 217 m of archives, 25 m of serials, and 7 m of documentation materials), as well as nearly 16,000 individual items, including books (7,280), photographs and negatives (6,635), and posters (1,264). One important acquisition consisted of a collection comprising over 100 metres of materials that the IISH obtained from the Central Bureau of Statistics, featuring mainly censuses from countries in the Global South. Incoming digital archives totalled 4.9 TB, in 28 entirely or partially digital collections. This quantity will increase rapidly in the years ahead. In 2014 we worked hard on the analogue-to-digital transition and made arrange-

Collections: staff allocation and results

	2011	2012	2013	2014
Staff allocation to collection duties in ftes	33.9	31.1	37.2	24.9
for collection development	8.9	10.2	6.1	7.5
for provision of access	17.8	11.9	23	6.5
for services	7.2	9.0	8.1	10.9

Acquisitions				
Growth of collections in metres (mainly archives, batches, documentation)	329	404	314	249
Growth of collections in items (books, periodicals, audiovisual)	33.370			15.908

Provision of access				
Collections processed in metres	491	528	171	755
Collections processed in items	6,164	11,135	61,206	18,580

	2011	2012	2013	2014
Services				
Collection units consulted				20,659
Archive units	8,000	8,380	8,758	8,290
Reading room visits	4,820	5,261	5,688	6,401
Visitors				1,180
From abroad	N/A		345	333
On loan to exhibitions				117
Files consulted from digital collections				3,131,784

ments with the large records creators about how and when conversion might happen.

In 2014 the collection processing department worked on building an environment enabling (semi-)automatic ingest, storage, and provision of access to digital born archives in the project Registering and accommodating digital archives. By early 2015 we will be able to receive and safely store digital archives.

Provision of access exceeded arrivals: 755 metres of (mostly) archives and periodicals, as well as 18,580 items described individually or as collections, especially photographs, negatives, prints, and books. This means that in 2015 the backlog in providing access has diminished for the first time in years. This result is thanks to procedural changes at the collection processing department, with less material being made accessible individually and more as part of a collection. Photographs and prints were especially likely to be made available this way in 2014. Archives are considered to be accessible, if they are physically accessible for research, even if no list of their inventory is available yet. In some cases, researchers may therefore be presented with boxes of material for which the content is only generally known. They will undoubtedly prefer this option to not having any access to the material.

The collection processing department also continued to enhance discoverability of the IISH collections. In March over 4,000 archives were included in Apex, the Archives Portal Europe. Progress continued in entering the complete IISH catalogue in WorldCat. This will be completed in the spring of 2015.

In the spring of 2014 a milestone was reached, when dozens of IISH archives were posted digitally online. Thanks to a grant from SNS Reaal and the Metamorfoze program of the National Library, classics such as the papers of Pieter Jelles Troelstra, Ferdinand Domela Nieuwenhuis, Lev Trotsky, leading

Collection size on 31 December 2014

Archives (indexed) (m)	11,589
Archives (available) (m)	17,246
Books (titles)	810,185
Books (m)	13,302
Periodicals (m)	12,756
Documentation collections (m)	105
Photographs and negatives (number)	576,994
Posters (number)	116,631
Visual recordings (number)	2,554
Sound recordings (number)	10,017
Prints, drawings etc. (number)	713,834
Other visual materials (number)	2,986

Directors of the IISH

Henk Wals, *General Director*

Leo Lucassen, *Research Director*

Afelonne Doek, *Director of Collections and Digital Infrastructure*

social democrats Eduard Bernstein and Karl Kautsky, and French anarchist Louise Michel, as well as the archives of political parties, such as the SDAP, are now universally available.

The services and collection preservation department also worked on a new organizational and technical environment to be able to digitize documents on demand. The department obtained € 222,720 in new grants in the Metamorfoze program toward digitizing the archives of Trade Unions in the Netherlands (part of CNV, ANVV, NAS and PAS-Amsterdam), as well as those of the Hamon archives and the Sozialistische Jugend-Internationale. Additionally, the National Library will digitize the periodicals *De Fabrieksarbeider 1907-1949*, *Vereenigt U! 1909-1950*, *De Metaalbewerker 1894-1950* and *Links Front 1934* free of charge for the IISH.

The reading room received 6,401 visits from 1,180 patrons, including 333 visits from abroad. This represented a 14% increase in visits with respect to the 5,688 visits in 2013.

Social value

The IISH collections contribute more than anything else to the social value of the institute. In a world where lack of freedom and exploitation are likely to be the rule rather than the exception, society has an interest in having non-government archives documenting the social circumstances and actions of people aiming to improve their life (and the ensuing consequences, good and bad alike). Documenting these situations ensures that the collective memory of the world is more balanced than it would be if this memory depended entirely on state archives – in those circumstances, after all, only the “official” historical account will be preserved, with the state determining its content and consequently conditioning historiography. A more balanced collective memory is of intrinsic value. Documenting and studying experiences of “ordinary” people, who may or may not have acted against what they regarded as injustice, will moreover lead to greater

Outreach

	2014
Unique visitors website	311,290
Facebook page liked	1,908
Followers on Twitter	1,797
Downloads from Flickr	2,813,362
Subscriptions newsletter	1,586
Questions answered	2,902

Most important acquisitions

- The personal papers of Frank Deppe (1941), covering the period 1966-2005.
- Accrual to the papers of Isaac Deutscher (1907-1967).
- The papers of Koos Vorrink (1891-1955).
- Documents and rare publications from the collection of Arthur Lehning (1899-2000).
- The Asian Students Association archives (1969-2010).
- The Dersim collection of ca. 100 video tapes, 200 slides and thousands of photographs, 1980-2000. Dersim is a region in Central Turkey.
- The CBS Censuses Collection.
- Gerçek (1950). A complete collection of the very rare Turkish periodical Gerçek (Truth).
- Large and/or important accruals were received to the following collections: Nederlands Christelijk Instituut voor Volkshuisvesting, Stichting van de Arbeid, La Via Campesina, Harry Verheij, Gerben Wagenaar, Peter Waterman, Henri Wiessing.

insight, more adequate strategies, and ultimately to a better society. The position of the IISH, though not unique, is rare: only a few archives in the world are responsible for documenting social movements around the world. Nationally, there are other private documentation centres, often affiliated with a political movement or a trade union, although not every country has them. Archives such as the IISH can therefore add only bits and pieces to the collective world memory. But those fragments are not selected at random. Because they reveal a perspective that differs from the one in the official archives, they offer considerable enrichment. The interest attributed to this function worldwide is reflected in visits by foreign dignitaries to the IISH. In 2013 we welcomed the vice president of Bolivia, Alvaro García Linera, and in 2014 South African Minister of Foreign Affairs Ms Nkoana-Mashabane visited the IISH.

In the past year IISH staff members wrote 44 popularizing articles and appeared 17 times in the media. IISH staff members made 47 public appearances, describing the results of the IISH research or collections. Forty-nine



Visit from South-African Minister of Foreign Affairs, 18 March 2014

Social value

	2014
Popularizing articles in journals	18
Popularizing articles in newspapers	26
Popularizing books	1
Media appearances	17
Public appearances	47
Guided tours at the IISH	49
Exhibitions	3
Support with exhibitions (standing loans)	117
Gatherings organized for a general audience	7

Board of the IISH Foundation

Hans van de Kar (chair), Edward Asscher, Professor Wim Blockmans, Marens Engelhard (from 1 February 2014), Agnes Jongerius, Professor (emeritus) Rinus Penninx, Bas Savenije (until 1 November 2014), Wim Henk Steenpoorte (from 1 November 2014), Gerrit Terpstra, Lodewijk de Waal, Renz de Wit (until 1 November 2014)



Exhibition *Disobedient Objects* at the Victoria & Albert Museum, London

guided tours were conducted of the IISH premises. In the context of History Month (the theme was Friend and Foe) we organized a walk (which was oversubscribed) entitled “Night of Bloodshed on Kattenburg,” preceded by an introduction at a café.

We organized three public exhibitions: two (in the Netherlands and South Africa, by Kier Schuringa) about the Dutch anti-apartheid movement and one (in St Petersburg, by Dr Gijs Kessler) about everyday life in twentieth-century Russia. The IISH also assisted 117 times with exhibitions by third parties by lending materials. These events included many heavily attended exhibitions such as *Disobedient Objects* at the Victoria & Albert Museum in London. The IISH also organized seven well-attended gatherings for a general audience, with highlights including the KNAW-IISH mini symposia “Working without security” and “Slavery in the Dutch empire” at the

Staff: key figures

	Number	Ftes	%
Staff	86	67.7	100%
Permanent employment	61	51.1	71%
Temporary contracts	25	16.5	29%
Men	52	44.0	60%
Women	34	23.6	40%
Average age	50.6		
Absenteeism due to sickness %			4.04%

Financial key figures

	IISH KNAW	IISH foundation	Total
Income			
KNAW	€ 5,144,700	€ 284,000	€ 5,428,700
External funds	€ 2,064,833	€ 0	€ 2,064,833
Other income	€ 520,439	€ 22,380	€ 542,819
Total	€ 7,729,972	€ 306,380	€ 8,036,352
Expenditure			
Staff	€ 4,942,586	€ 0	€ 4,942,586
Equipment	€ 2,771,733	€ 275,200	€ 3,046,933
Surplus	€ 15,653	€ 31,180	€ 46,833
Total	€ 7,729,972	€ 306,380	€ 8,036,352

Trippenhuis, the book presentation “The voc and early-modern globalization” at Spui25, and the lecture by Professor David Harvey about Marx in the Balie theatre.

The Volkskrant-IISH history thesis award was presented to Daan de Leeuw for his thesis *In the Name of Humanity. Nazi Doctors and Human Experiments in German Concentration Camps, 1939-145* featuring a lecture by Professor James Kennedy.

Finance

For the first time in years expenditures did not exceed income. A modest surplus remained at the end of the year. In 2014, 27% of revenues came from external funders.