



German Federal Archives: Online Access and use of archival material relevant for Provenance Research

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Akten



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Filme



Töne



Karten

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1.1 Research tools in the Federal Archives of Germany

a) Invenio

- Access to records: collections, **description** of records, download of **digital records** for free
 - if they don't have any legal restrictions
- If necessary it is possible to expand your account for research in records that have legal restrictions

b) The digital image archive

- The Federal Archives of Germany are home to around 12 million pictures, aerial pictures and posters documenting the German history
- At the moment around **245.000 pictures** are available **online** in that catalogue
- You can search for single pictures as well as for brief descriptions
- You can use **low resolution pictures for free**

c) Zentrale Datenbank Nachlässe

- Information about more than 25.000 **personal archives** held by the Federal Archives and other archives



1.2 Legislation and regulation

Federal Archives Act of 10 March 2017

§ 10

Use of Federal Archive Material

(1) All persons shall be entitled to request the use of federal archive material [...]

§ 11

Terms of Protection

(1) [...] the general term of protection for federal archive material shall be **30 years**. [...]

(2) Once the term of protection stipulated in (1) has expired, federal archive material whose purpose or essential content concerns one or more natural persons may only be used at least **ten years after the death** of the respective person. If their year of death cannot be established – or only with an unreasonable amount of time and effort – the term of protection shall expire **100 years after the birth** of the persons concerned. If their birthday cannot be established either – or only with an unreasonable amount of time and effort – the term of protection shall expire **60 years after the creation of the documents**.

→ Possibilities to shorten the terms of protection



2.1 Treuhandverwaltung von Kulturgut bei der Oberfinanzdirektion München (B 323)

General information

- This collection brings together different provenances, e.g.:
Reichskanzlei, Reichsleiter Bormann, Beauftragter und Referent für den Sonderauftrag Linz, Einsatzstab Reichsleiter Rosenberg, business records of art dealers
- This collection mainly contains of copies and collections of different material
- This collection is arranged by collections, e.g. of former owners, claim numbers etc. That's why it is more difficult to look for certain pictures or artists
- You find records in our collection B 323 and pictures in our collection B 323 BILD



2. Important records for provenance research in the Federal Archives of Germany

2.1 Treuhandverwaltung von Kulturgut bei der Oberfinanzdirektion München (B 323).- search invenio

The screenshot shows the 'invenio' search interface. On the left, there is a sidebar with a 'Tektonik' section containing a list of collections, with 'B 323 Treuhandverwaltung von Kulturgut bei der Oberfinanzdirektion München' selected. Below it is a 'Klassifikation' section with a hierarchical table of contents for B 323. The main content area displays search results for 'B 323/353', including a detailed description of the collection, its contents, and metadata. Annotations with red circles and arrows point to specific elements: 'collection' points to the selected item in the Tektonik list; 'collection: table of content' points to the classification table; 'Description of the record' points to the main text description; and 'Download the digital record - This collection is completely digitized' points to the 'Digitalisat anzeigen' link.

collection

collection: table of content

Description of the record

Download the digital record - This collection is completely digitized



2. Important records for provenance research in the Federal Archives of Germany

2.1 Treuhandverwaltung von Kulturgut bei der Oberfinanzdirektion München (B 323).- search the digital archive image

The screenshot shows the search results page for 'bundesarchiv' on the website https://www.bild.bundesarchiv.de/dba/de/search/?channelid=dc-channel-channel_barch_bilder&query=&day=&month=&yearfrom=&to=. The page displays a search bar with 'bundesarchiv' entered, a search button, and a search filter section. The search results are displayed in a grid format, showing four items. The first item is titled 'ERR-Lager Paris, Klavierlager' with the reference number 'B 323 Bild-0311-085' and the date '1942/1943 ca.'. The second item is titled 'ERR-Lager Paris, Skulpturen- und Klavierlager' with the reference number 'B 323 Bild-0311-084' and the date '1942/1943 ca.'. The third item is titled 'ERR-Lager Paris, Möbelausstellung' with the reference number 'B 323 Bild-0311-083' and the date '1942/1943 ca.'. The fourth item is titled 'ERR-Lager Paris, Möbelausstellung' with the reference number 'B 323 Bild-0311-082' and the date '1942/1943 ca.'. The page also includes a navigation bar with 'Finden', 'Benutzen', 'Entdecken', 'Merkzettel (0)', 'Warenkorb (0)', and 'Anmelden'. The search results are displayed on page 1 of 4. The page also includes a search filter section with 'Anzeige-Einstellungen' and 'Sucheeinstellungen'.

reference number

title



2.2 Personal papers of the Gurlitt`s (reference N 1826)

- In **2017** this personal archive was transferred to the Federal Archives
- We got those papers that had been hold by the **Zentrum Kulturgutverluste** before
- These papers have passed through **different hands**
- You can use thes personal papers following the **conditions of the Federal Archives Act**
- An addition to the Federal Archives Act you have to follow the instructions of a **special declaration** which was arranged by the Federal Republic, Bavaria and the Kunstmuseum Bern (KMB):
 - The KMB has to be stated
 - We have to inform the KMB about all users of these papers
 - The KMB has inherited this collection
- Important are the letters that document different business activities e.g. of Hildebrand Gurlitt as well as several catalogues of auctions because of their comments



2. Important records for provenance research in the Federal Archives of Germany

2.2 Personal papers of the Gurlitt`s (reference N 1826)

Zentrale Datenbank Nachlässe

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL <https://www.bundesarchiv.de/nachlassdatenbank/viewresult.php?sid=220c53716239c43b6132e>. The page title is "Suchergebnis". The search term is "gurlitt familie" and the results show 1 entry. The first entry is "Gurlitt, Cornelius.- Familie" with a description: "Otto Biedermann Günther, Architekt (1802-1881); Cornelius Gurlitt, Architekt und Kunsthistoriker (1850-1938); Marie Gurlitt (1859-1949); Wilibald Gurlitt, Musikwissenschaftler (1889-1963); Hildebrand Gurlitt, Kunsthistoriker und Kunsthändler (1895-1956); Helene Gurlitt (1895-1968); Cornelius Gurlitt, Kunstsammler (1932-2014); Renate Benita Fräule, geb. Gurlitt (1935-2012)". Below this is a section for "Nachlass Bundesarchiv_Koblenz" with a description: "Familienarchiv, u. a.: Geschäfts-, Privat- und Familienkorrespondenz, Geschäftsbücher, Entnazifizierung, Tage- und Notizbücher, Bücher". A red arrow points from a callout box to the link "Bundesarchiv_Koblenz".

Link to the archive that holds the collection



2. Important records for provenance research in the Federal Archives of Germany

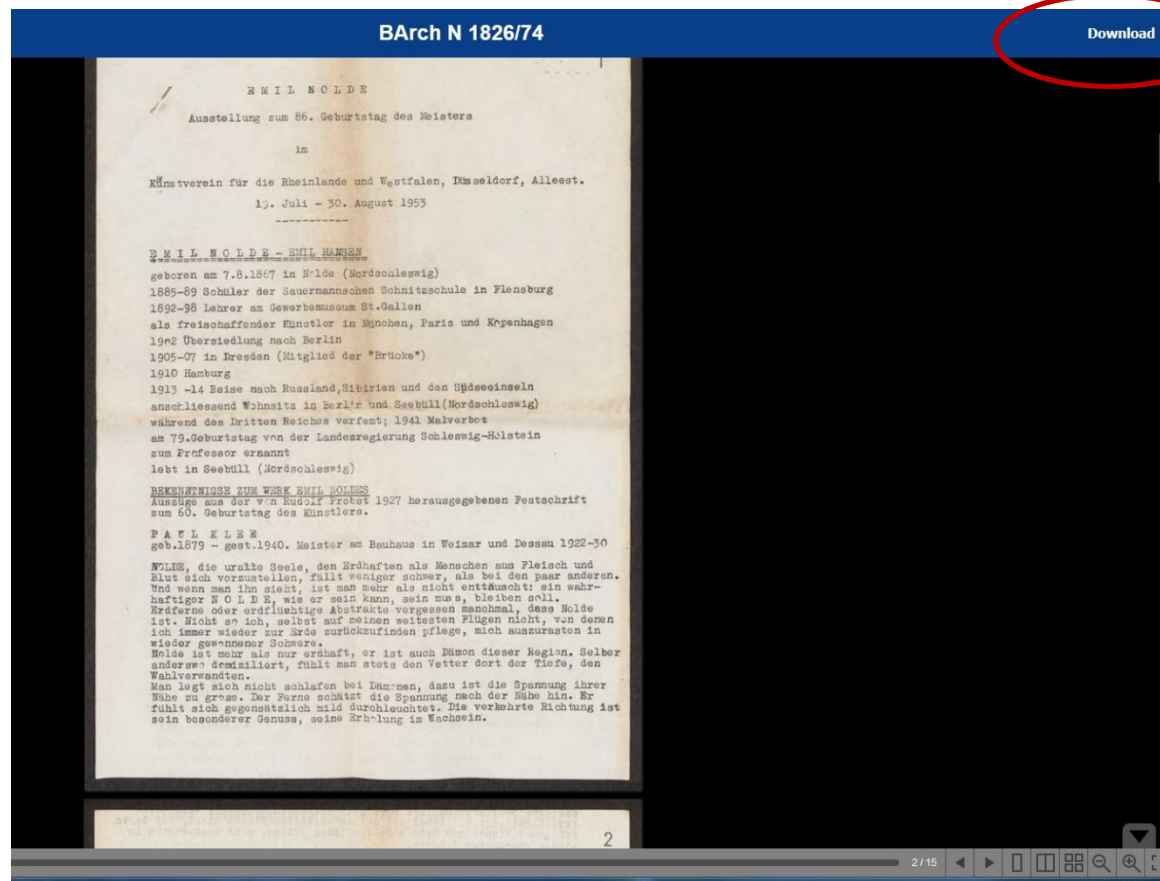
2.2 Personal papers of the Gurlitt`s (reference N

The screenshot displays the Invenio search interface for the Gurlitt family collection. The left sidebar shows a list of collections, with 'N 1826 Gurlitt - Familie' highlighted. Below this is a 'Klassifikation' (Classification) section with a table of contents. The main area shows search results for 'N 1826/50' and 'N 1826/51', including details like 'Bd. 1: Maschinenschriftliche Liste mit 127 Kunstgegenständen...' and 'Bd. 2: Verzeichnis (43 Seiten, alphabetisch nach Künstlernamen)'. Red circles and arrows highlight key features: 'collection' (pointing to the list), 'collection: table of content' (pointing to the 'Klassifikation' section), 'description of the record' (pointing to the record details), and 'Download the digital record' (pointing to the 'Digitalisat anzeigen' link).



2. Important records for provenance research in the Federal Archives of Germany

2.2 Personal papers of the Gurlitt`s (reference N 1826) - inventory record



2.3 Some more relevant fonds held by the Federal

Archives

- **Bundesministerium der Finanzen**/ Ministry of Finance (reference B 126): file plan group VV 4*; registration, administration and exploitation of cultural goods; art work that was possessed by the German Empire; lending to central government departments; German War Art Collection; declaration of claims; abstracts of cultural goods possessed by the central authorities; information about art work that was revoked from the jews
- **Bundeskanzleramt**/Federal Chancellery (B 136): German-Russia cultural relationship, esp. returns of cultural goods that were relocated due to the Second World War
- **Verwaltungsamt für innere Restitution**/The Administration for the inner restitution (B 129)
- **Bundesministerium des Innern**/Home Office (B 106): reference 331 133 bis 331 134
- **Schiedsgerichtshof und Gemischte Kommission für das Abkommen über deutsche Auslandsschulden**
- **Bundesamt für äußere Restitution**/ The Administration for the outer restitution (B 441)
- **Ministerium der Finanzen der DDR**/Ministry of Finance, Teilbestand Tresorverwaltung (DN 1)
- VEH Bildende Kunst und Antiquitäten (**Staatlicher Kunsthandel der DDR**) (DR 144)
- **Kunst und Antiquitäten GmbH** (DL 210)



Records will be added to the fonds continually because of transfers from the public authorities to the Federal Archives

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www.bundesarchiv.de

- The Federal Archives gain experiences with designing methods of **keywording**
We have started the following projects:
 - „Sachthematische Zugänge im Archivportal-D am Beispiel der Weimarer Republik“
(access by using keywords)
 - „Transformation der Wiedergutmachung“ (The transformation of compensation)
- The Federal Archives also gain experiences in using methods of **artificial intelligence**
- Work has started in order to create a **virtual reading room**



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