CONVERGE OR DIE

How the LAM perspective unlocks the societal impact of Collections as Data

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Chief Librarian Rijksmuseum Research Library

Coen Wilders (he/him)
Head Collection Information & Archive

Session 13 - 04/07/2025

CC BY

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Ole Worm's cabinet of curiosities, from *Museum Wormianum*, 1655 – Inv. nr SIL21-07-001

WUNDERKAMMER

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DIVERGING PATHS

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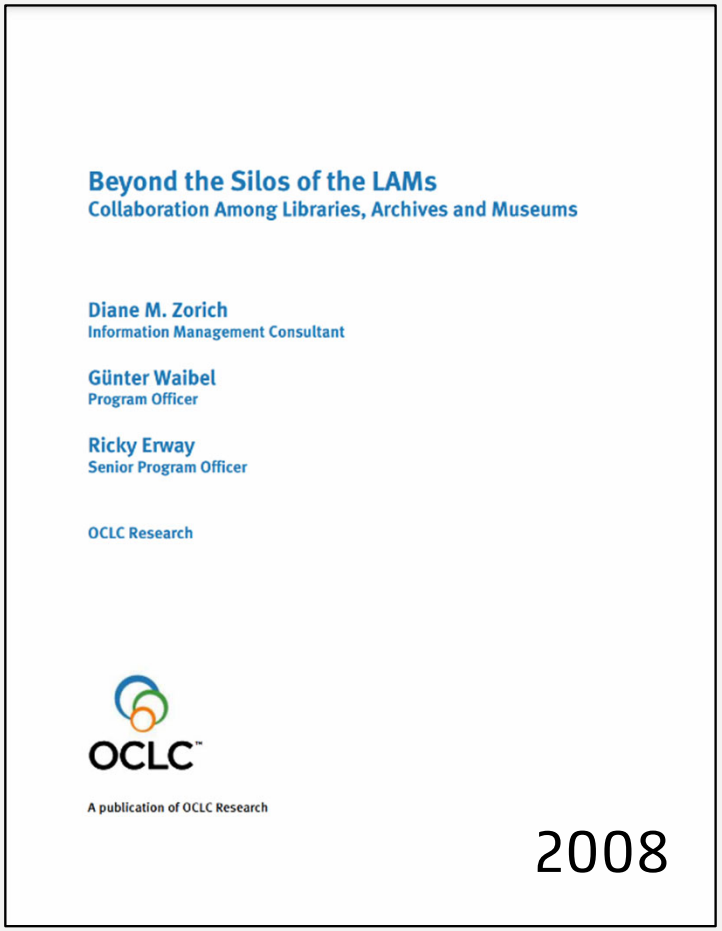
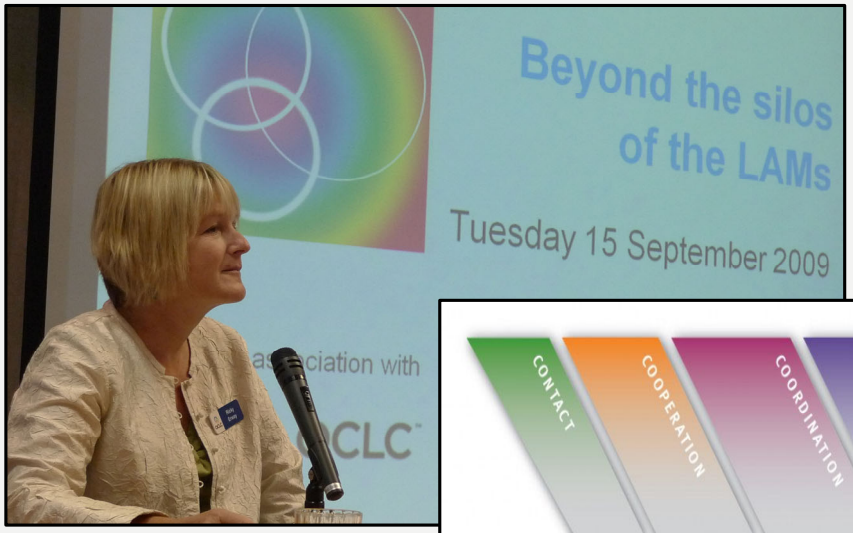
It is clear that - if electronic sources of information are to be effectively managed for future access by historians and others – **differences between libraries, archives and museums will largely have to disappear**

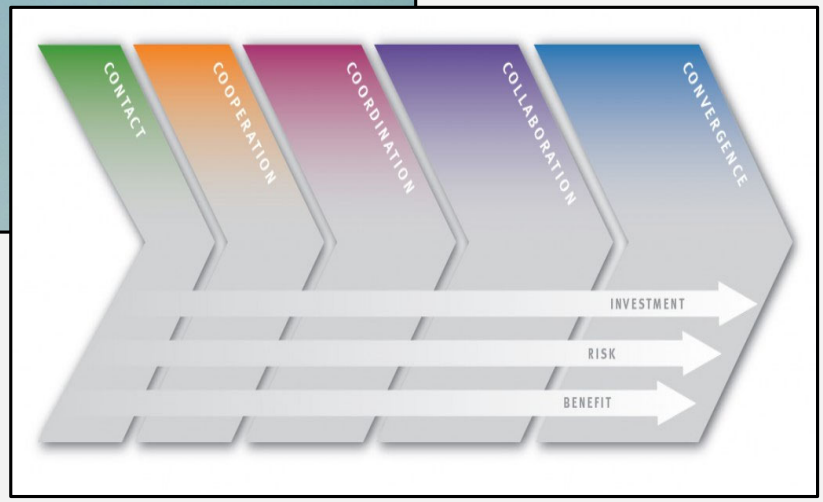
W. Boyd Rayward

In: *Electronic Information and the Functional Integration of Libraries, Museums, and Archives* (1998)





Ricky Erway at the
OCLC Executive Briefing
(2009)
Photo by Gunter Waibel
https://flic.kr/p/6Zr1KT



Collaboratium Continuum used in report
http://www.oclc.org/content/dam/research/
publications/library/2008/2008-05.pdf

LAM CONVERGENCE @ CONSORTIUM SCALE

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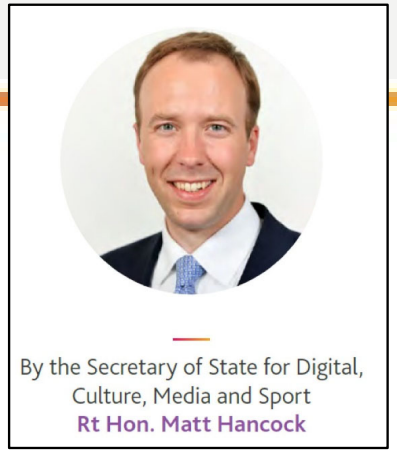
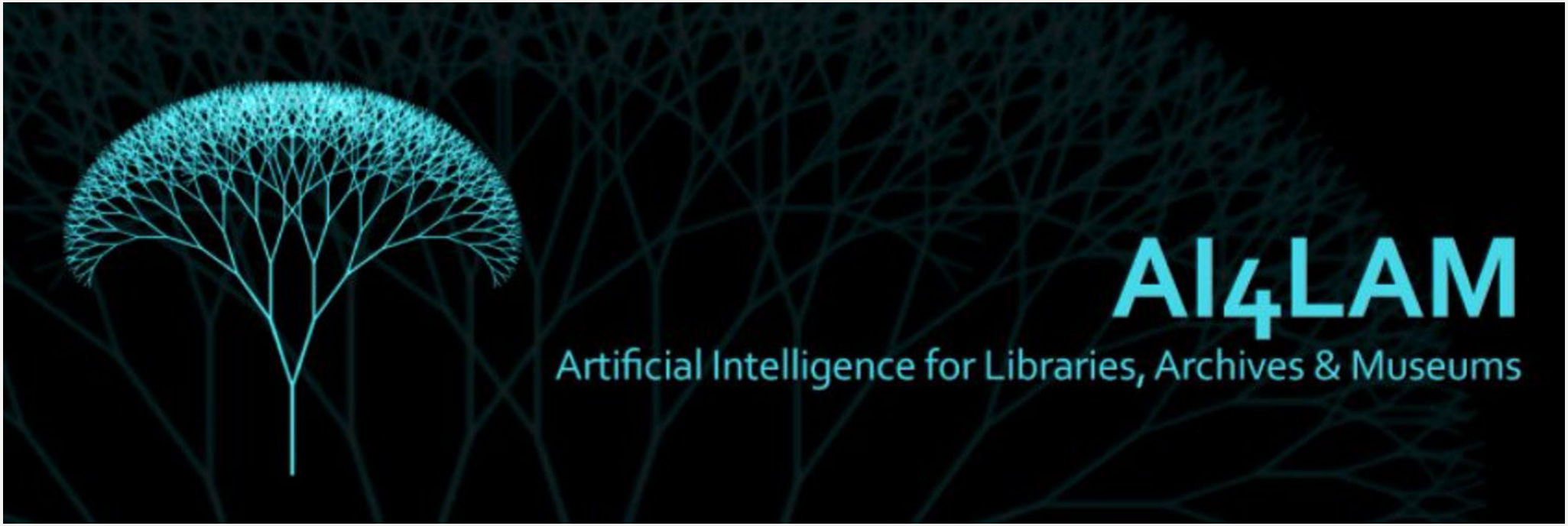
Digital technology is breaking down the silos between the cultural sectors.



By the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport
Rt Hon. Matt Hancock

Culture is Digital report (2018) - UK



https://sites.google.com/view/ai4lam

(2018-)

PERSISTENT LAM CONVERGENCE DREAMS

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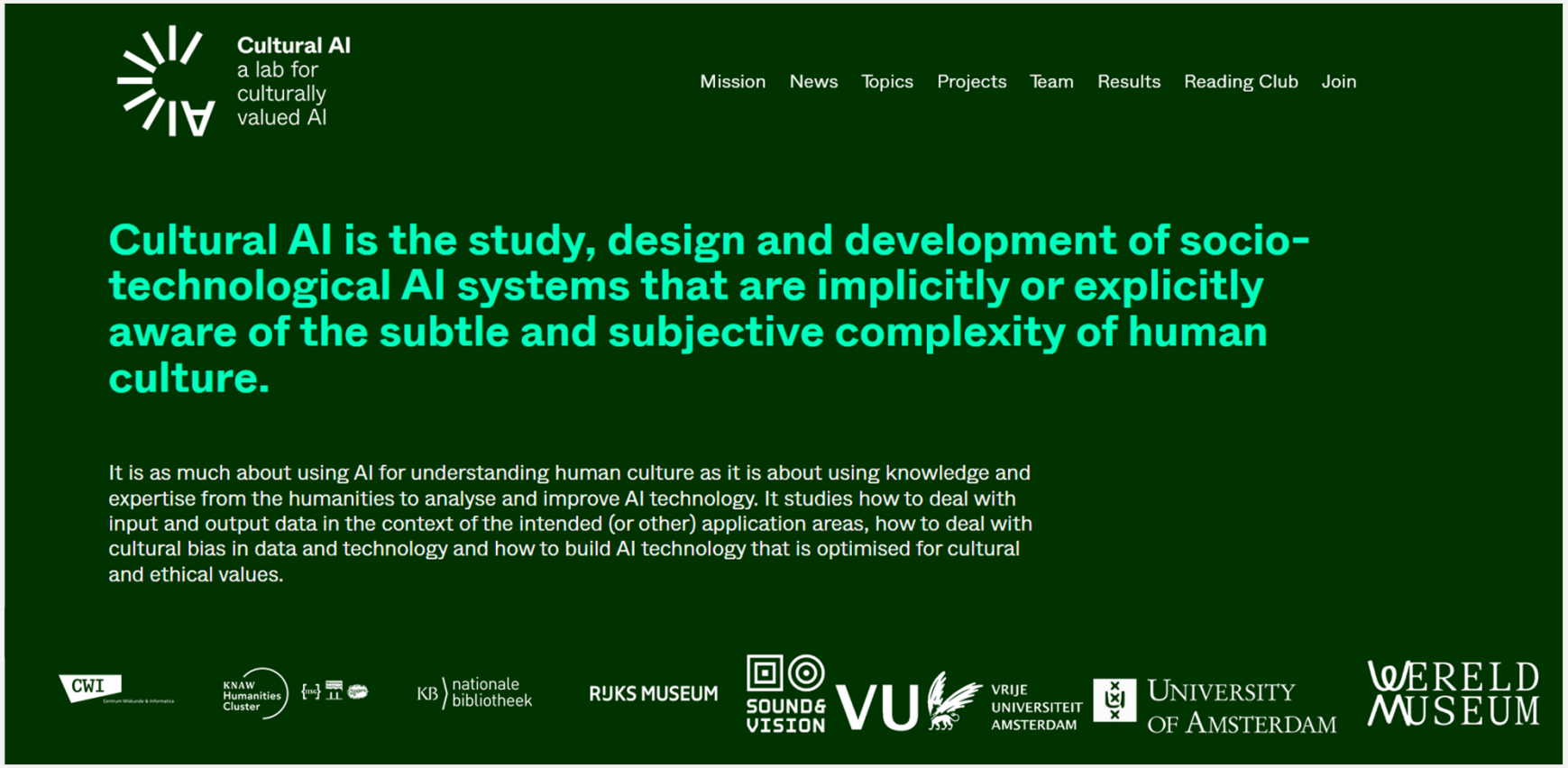

https://www.cultural-ai.nl/

(2021-)

PERSISTENT LAM CONVERGENCE DREAMS

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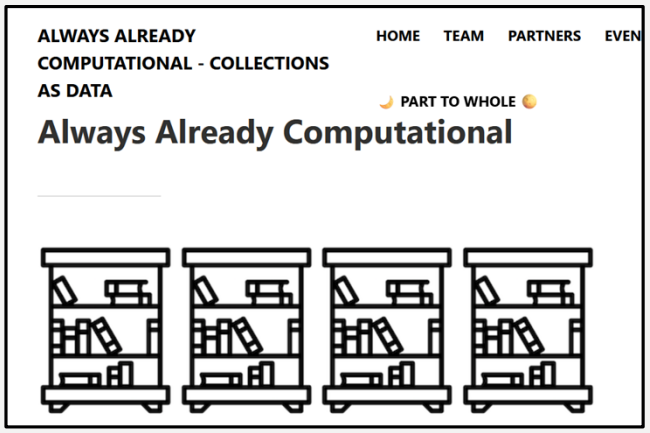
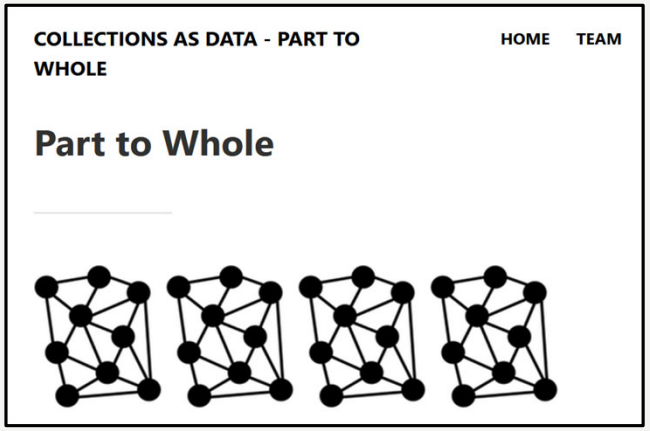
From Digital Surrogates to Datasets

Collections as Data - projects (2016-2021), funded by IMLS and the Mellon Foundation

Promoted a data-centric approach to digital LAM collections as datasets for public use.

Fostered equal collaboration between LAM heritage experts, digital humanities scholars, and data scientists.





https://collectionsasdata.github.io/

COLLECTIONS AS DATA

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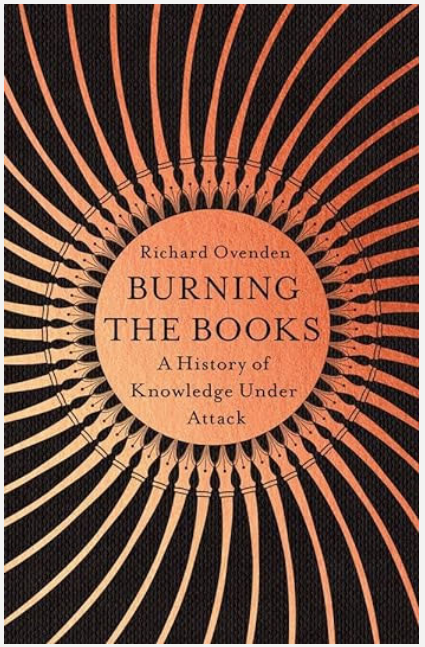
Libraries, archives [and museums, SS] are essential for a society, by (…)

- rooting societies in their cultural and historical identities;
- providing a fixed reference point.

Richard Ovenden



SOCIETAL RELEVANCE

A joint, data-driven approach allows LAM collections to better connect to society, and vice versa.

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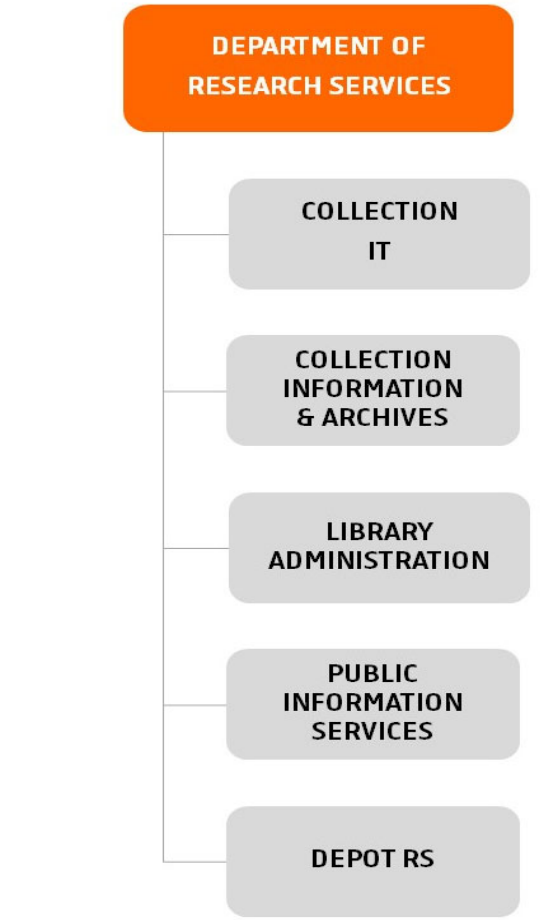
DEPARTMENT OF RESEARCH SERVICES (2016-)

Responsible for all ***information and data*** about the collection and the organisation, digital ánd analog

Rijksmuseum Research Library & institutional Archive lost their organisational independence

Extra responsabilities: Collection IT, Digital Collection Strategy, Collection Data Infrastructure, Data Services, Research Data, Information & Data Policy



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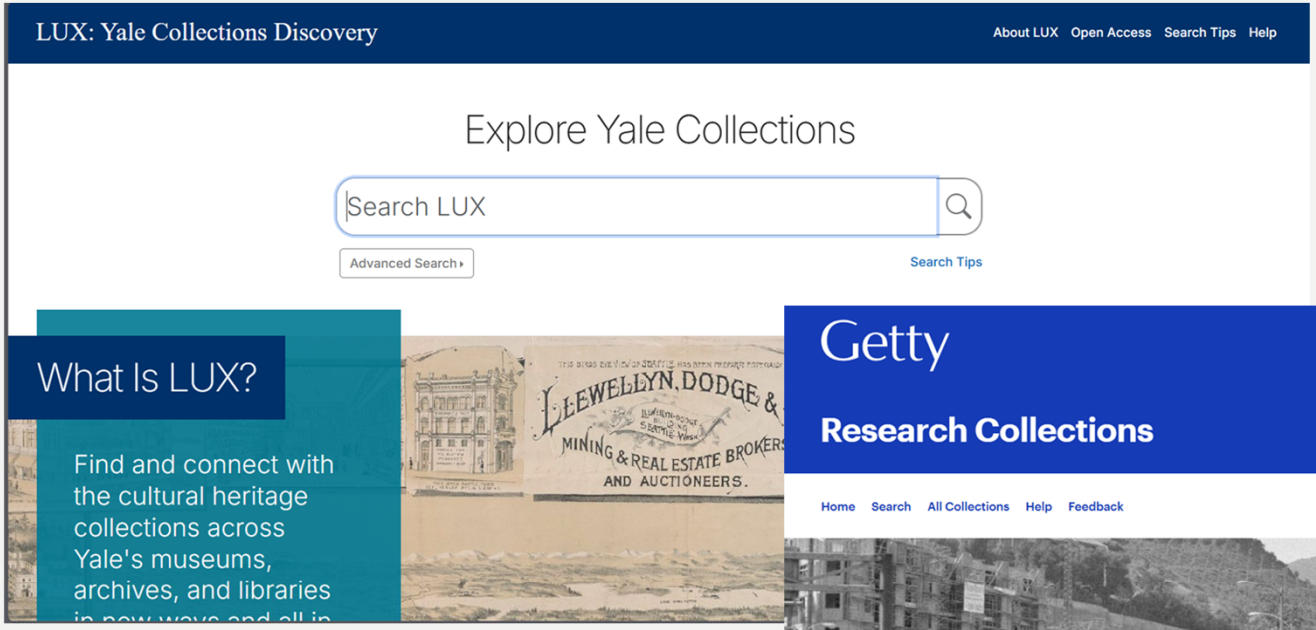

https://lux.collections.yale.edu/

https://www.getty.edu/research/collections/

INSTITUTIONAL LAM PORTALS

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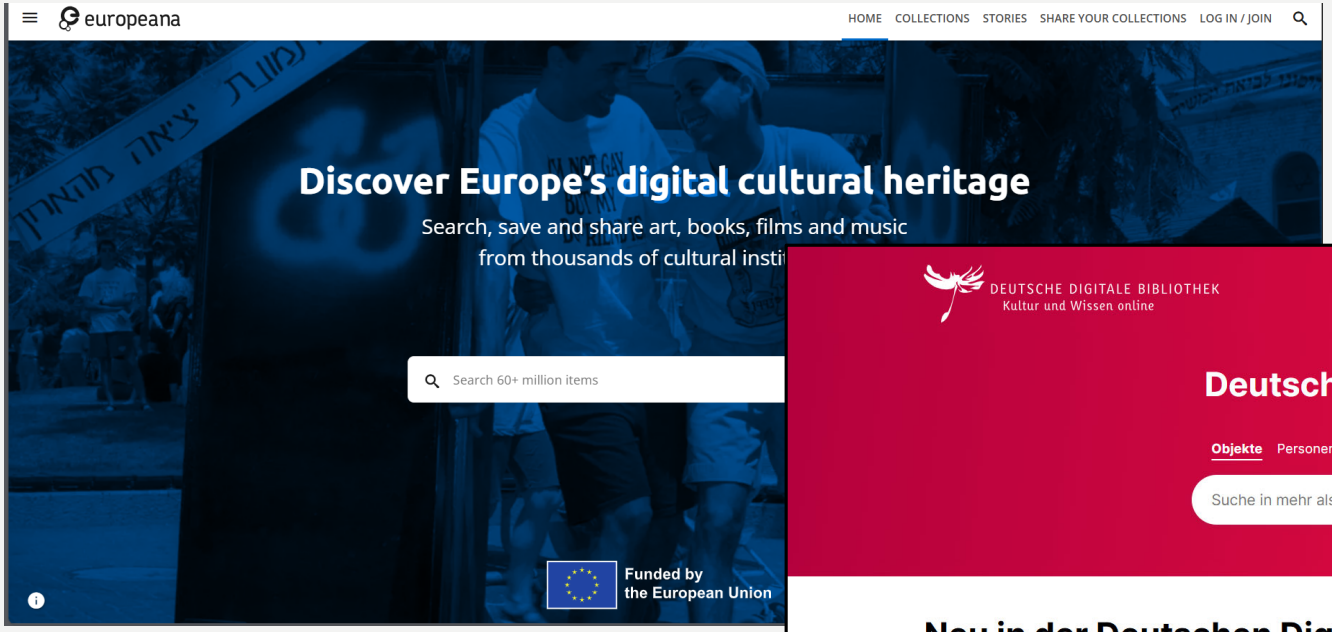
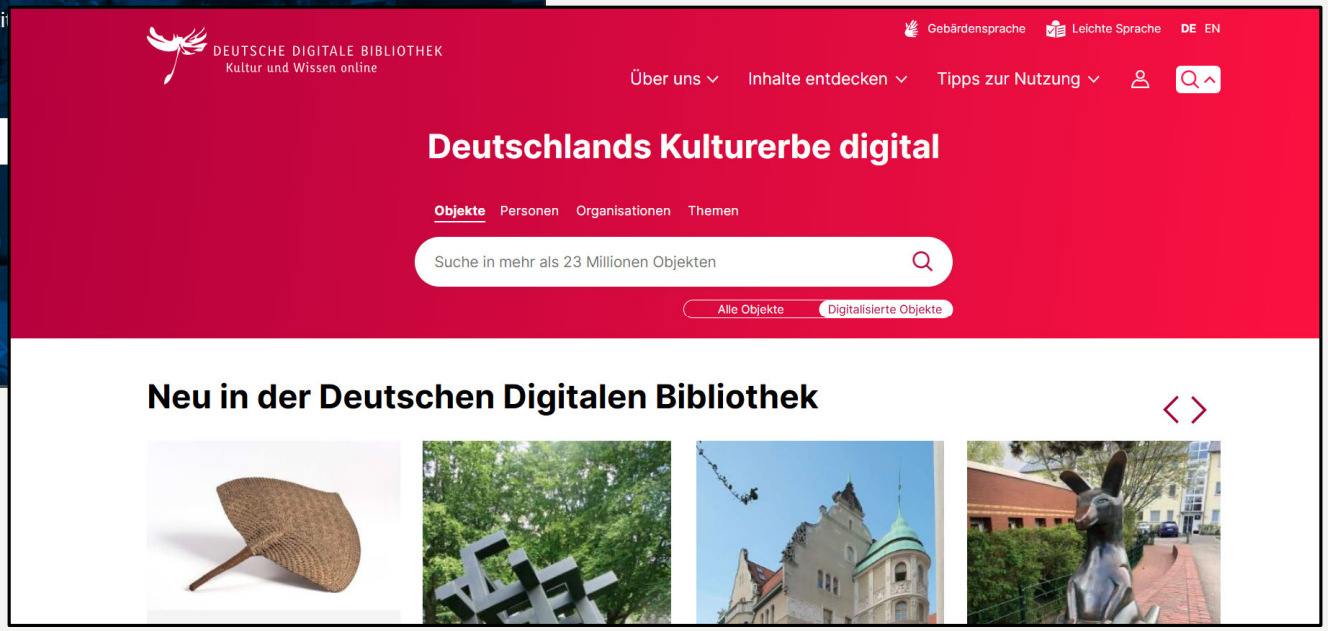


https://www.europeana.eu/en



https://www.deutsche-digitale-bibliothek.de/

AGGREGATED LAM PORTALS

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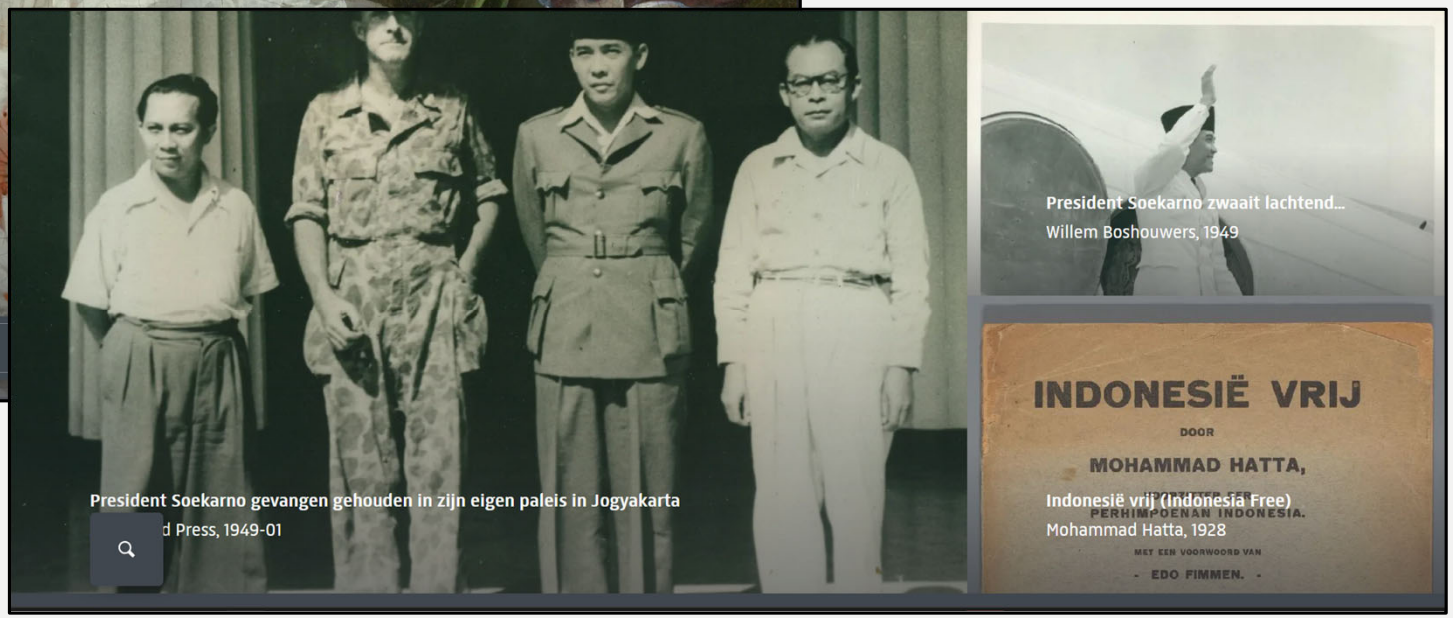
https://www.rijksmuseum.nl/en/collection

Next steps:
+ 2026 Archive
+ 2027 Research Data



https://www.rijksmuseum.nl/en/collection/node/Indonesie-onafhankelijk

NEW LAM COLLECTION WEBSITE (2024-)

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https://data.rijksmuseum.nl

Research Services team

NEW INTEGRATED DATASERVICES (2024 -)

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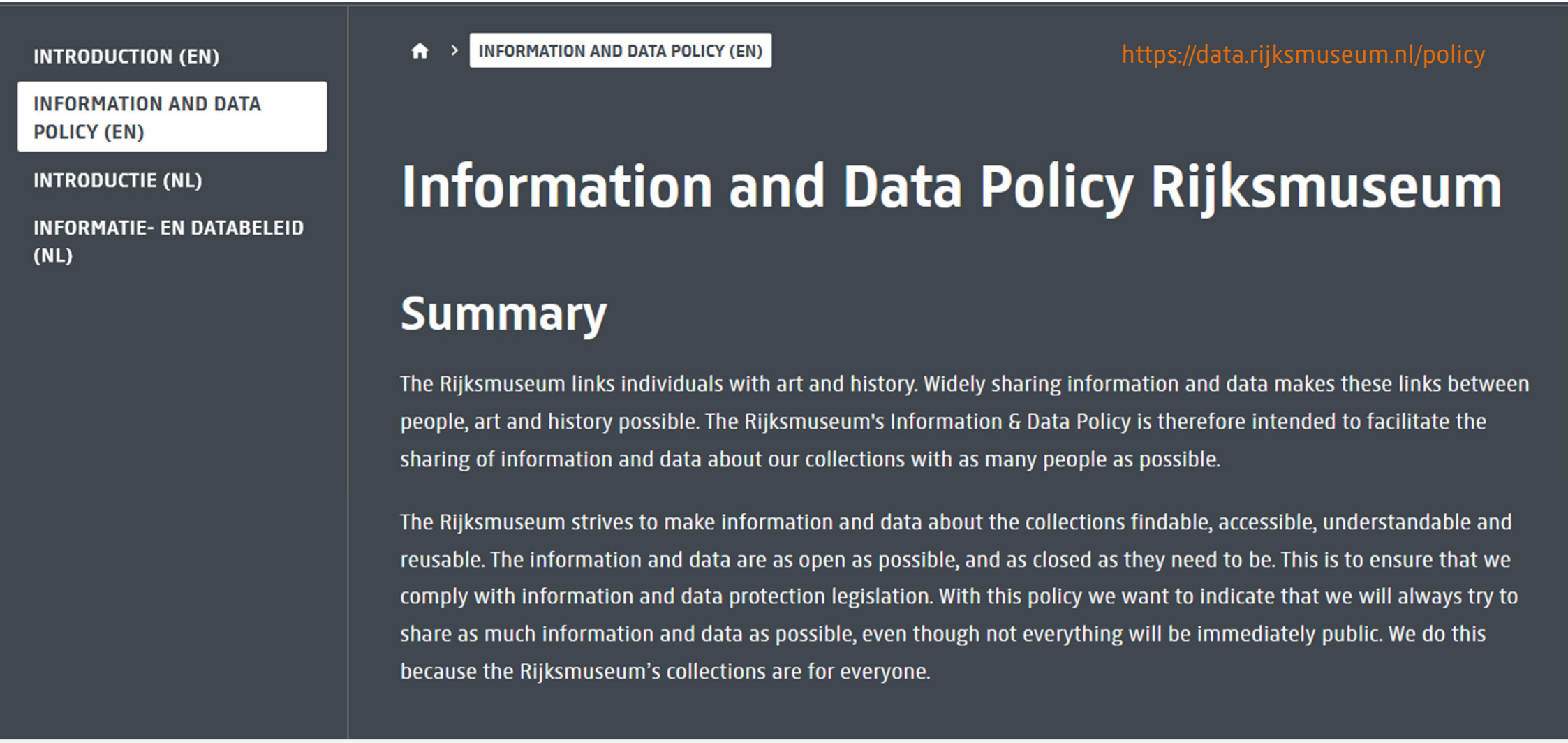

NEW INFORMATION & DATA POLICY (2024 -)

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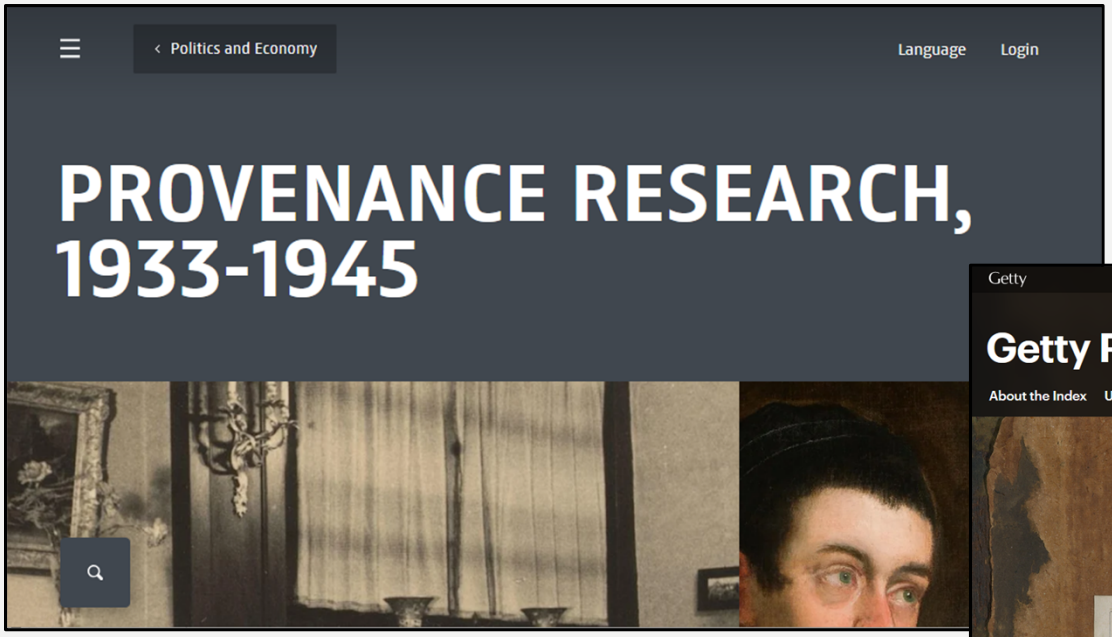
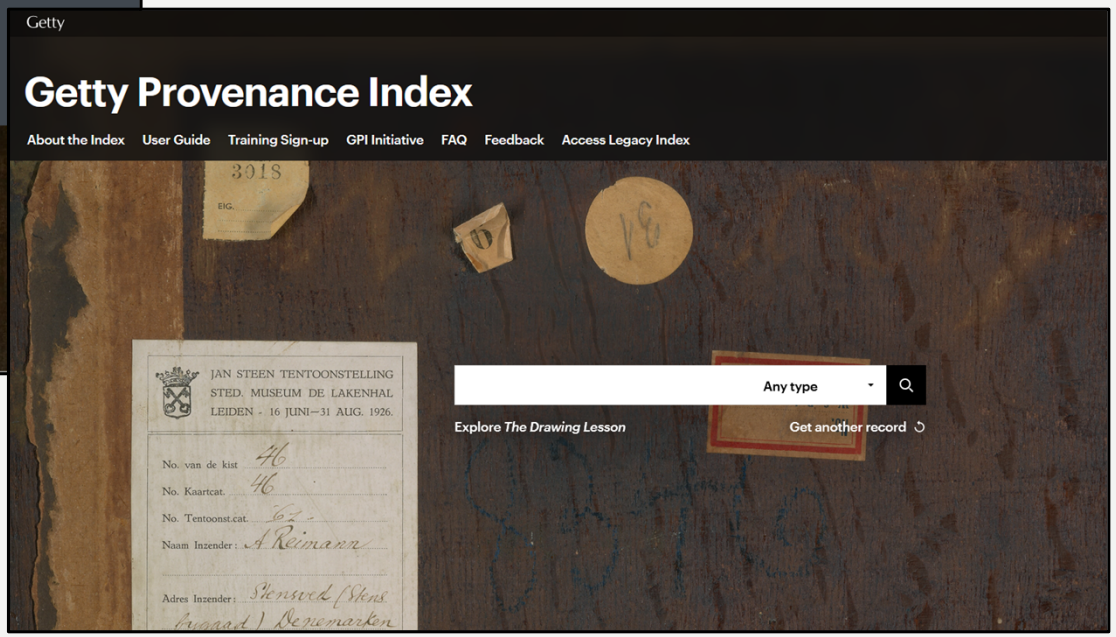


https://www.rijksmuseum.nl/en/collection/discover/politics-and-economy/provenance-research-1933-1945



https://www.getty.edu/research/provenance/

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https://www.rijksmuseum.nl/en/research/our-research/overarching/terminology

Protesters on the stairs of the Metropolitan Museum NY

SOCIETAL RELEVANCE

Statements

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LAM

Everything Is Connected

Align People and Technology

Together We Are Stronger

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Questions? Remarks?

Contact us!

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