

## Which services do we offer?

**Library services:** We can offer our readers a professional bibliographic information service based on our subject index of the library's holdings. Almost all of our holdings and parts of our special collections can be accessed via the Internet at [www.iaicat.de](http://www.iaicat.de). Our *current contents* service allows readers to search the indexes of major journals for articles. The IAI can be found on the Internet at [www.iai.spk-berlin.de](http://www.iai.spk-berlin.de).

**cibera Virtual library Ibero-America / Spain / Portugal:** The interdisciplinary online portal *cibera*, which is coordinated by the IAI, allows readers to search library catalogues, a collection of sources housed on the Internet, a digital collection of complete texts, a journal contents service, a database on Latin America research in the German-speaking world and a press archive. The portal can be accessed at [www.cibera.de](http://www.cibera.de)

**Financial aid and logistical support for researchers:** The IAI awards grants of one to three months duration to enable academics from outside the Institute, particularly academics from Latin America, to access our library holdings, bequests and special collections for their own research, as well as to liaise with the IAI's members. The IAI also offers its professional expertise, as well as a work space in the library's reading room, to visiting researchers from at home and abroad.

**Regional expertise:** We put our regional expertise to practical use with our professional advisory service for decision-makers from the worlds of politics, economics, culture and science.

**Access to international networks:** The IAI coordinates the Forschungsverbund Lateinamerika Berlin-Brandenburg, ForLaBB (Berlin-Brandenburg Latin American Research Association) and plays an active role in the Arbeitsgemeinschaft Deutsche Lateinamerikaforschung, ADLAF (German Latin American Research Collective), in the Red de Centros Culturales de América y Europa, Red CCAE ("Network for the Cultural Centres of Europe and America") and in the Red Europea de Información y Documentación sobre América Latina, REDIAL (European Information and Documentation Centre for Latin America).

**Academic and cultural events:** In cooperation with the Ibero-American embassies, universities, political foundations, research funding bodies, cultural organisations and other groups, the IAI regularly hosts conferences, lectures, exhibitions, readings, film screenings and concerts.

## IBERO-AMERICAN INSTITUTE PRUSSIAN HERITAGE FOUNDATION (Ibero-Amerikanisches Institut Preußischer Kulturbesitz)

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### Library opening hours:

	Monday	Tuesday-Friday	Saturday
Reading Room/ Catalogues/ Borrowing*	9.00-19.00	9.00-19.00	9.00-13.00
Audio-Visual Collection	15.00-18.00	10.00-12.00	
Card Collection	13.00-17.00	10.00-13.00	
Slide and Picture/Library/ Bequests	by appointment	by appointment	

\*Books ordered before 17.00 hours Monday to Friday and before 12.00 hours on Saturday will be fetched from the stacks the same day.

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## IBERO-AMERICAN INSTITUTE PRUSSIAN HERITAGE FOUNDATION

## About us



### Our Mission Statement

The Ibero-American Institute (IAI) is an interdisciplinary centre devoted to academic and cultural exchange with Latin America, the Caribbean, Spain and Portugal. The IAI's library is the largest in Europe dedicated to the Ibero-American region and the IAI itself constitutes a locus for research and dialogue, placing a unique range of facilities at the disposal of its users. The IAI acts both as a forum and as a catalyst for intercultural cooperation and dialogue.

### Our History

The IAI was founded in 1930 as a Prussian institution charged with nurturing cultural and academic relations with the Iberian and Latin American countries. The library's founding collection was made up of the 82,000-volume private collection donated by the Argentinian scholar Ernesto Quesada and his father Vicente. Ernesto Quesada bequeathed his books to the Prussian state on condition that they form the basis of a new institute for the "upkeep of academic relations between Germany and Latin America". From 1934 the IAI was used to further the foreign policy objectives of the National Socialist regime. Systematic investigation into the role played by the institute between 1934 and 1945 only commenced in 2000 with the initiation of several research projects on this period. Post-1945 the IAI initially only survived as a "Latin American Library" with its functions officially limited to those of a specialist library. In 1962 the IAI was incorporated into the Prussian Cultural Heritage Foundation. It reclaimed its original name as well as its original function. At the beginning of 1977 the IAI moved to its current home in the Kulturforum. Following the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989 this area of Berlin, and the IAI along with it, found itself at the heart of the capital of a unified Germany.

### The Library and Special Collections

The library consists of:

- 830,000 volumes, primarily in the subject areas of Geography, Economics, the Social Sciences, Ethnology, Indigenous Studies, History, Language and Literature, as well as Art History, Cultural History and Music History.
- the DFG "Ibero-America" special collection with its emphases on law, parliamentary papers, newspapers and *Latino Studies*;
- 29,000 journals, 4,700 of them current;
- an extensive collection of texts on microfiche and microfilm;
- a card collection with approx. 69,000 cards;
- an audio-visual collection with approx. 26,000 audio recordings and 2,000 videos and DVDs;

- a picture library with approx. 22,000 slides and 60,000 photographs;
- a poster collection containing 2,600 posters, placards and other graphic work;
- approx. 350,000 newspaper articles;
- approx. 300 bequests.

### Research and Publications

The IAI is home to researchers from a variety of academic fields including Library Studies, Ethnology, History, Literary and Cultural Studies, Political Science and Linguistics. Our research focuses on two areas: "Relations between Europe and Latin America, Past and Present" and "Constructions of Identity in Latin America - Strategies of Delimitation and Adaptation".

The IAI's research activity and its cooperation with academics both at home and abroad are channelled into a number of publications. In its two series *Bibliotheca Ibero-Americana* and *Biblioteca Luso-Brasileira*, the IAI publishes both monographs and edited volumes on the literature, cultures, languages, history, economics and politics of Latin America, the Caribbean, Spain and Portugal.

The journal *Iberoamericana. América Latina - España - Portugal* covers topics of literary, historical and social scientific interest. The yearbook *Indiana* is dedicated to research into the indigenous peoples and cultures of South and Meso America. The journal *Revista Internacional de Lingüística Iberoamericana* is devoted to the study of Ibero-Romance languages.

The institute's research interests, library and cultural activities feed into three sets of 'working papers': the *Ibero-Analysen* provide decision-makers with information on politics, economics, society and culture. The *Ibero-Bibliographien* give an overview of the IAI's research output and its library holdings. *Ibero-Online* acts as a forum for special lectures and colloquia held at the IAI.