The Ibero-American Institute
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# Table of Contents

Message of Greeting: Prof. Monika Grütters, Federal Government Commissioner for Culture and the Media  
Message of Greeting: Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. mult. Hermann Parzinger, President of the Prussian Cultural Heritage Foundation  
Preface: Dr. Barbara Göbel, Director of the Ibero-American Institute  
The Ibero-American Institute (IAI)  
The Library  
Acquisitions  
Expert Information and Library Services  
The Digital Collections  
Acquisitions on Demand  
Book Sponsorship  
Collections of Latin American Popular Culture  
Theater and Romance Magazines  
Cultural Magazines  
Research  
Collaborative Projects
“The limits of my language are the limits of my world”, wrote Ludwig Wittgenstein a good 100 years ago. Among the greatest merits of the Ibero-Amerikanisches Institut (IAI, Ibero-American Institute), whose competences have enriched the variety of the Stiftung Preußischer Kulturbesitz (SPK, Prussian Cultural Heritage Foundation), is making the borders between the German and the Latin American linguistic regions more open. Here the scientific and cultural variety of the Ibero-American linguistic region is pooled in a way that is unique in all of Europe. The special collections, the rich archives and the extensive program of events and research characterize the great respect that the IAI has gained both nationally and internationally. In addition there is its significant contribution to cross-border cultural exchange: Germany’s contacts to Latin America and to the Iberian Peninsula in the areas of science, culture and the arts are cultivated in the IAI in many networks. Thus the 85-year-old Institute, which has nevertheless stayed young in its openness to the world, not only crosses borders but also expands horizons. I wish the IAI much success in the next decades as well and congratulate it sincerely on the 85th anniversary of its establishment.
Message of Greeting

Together with the Staatliche Museen zu Berlin, the Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin, the Geheimes Staatsarchiv Preußischer Kulturbesitz, and the Staatliches Institut für Musikforschung, the Ibero-Amerikanisches Institut (IAI, Ibero-American Institute) forms part of one of the largest and most diverse cultural and scientific institutions in the world: the Stiftung Preußischer Kulturbesitz (SPK, Prussian Cultural Heritage Foundation). A core feature of the SPK is the linkage between scientific research and archival knowledge, as well as between science and culture in general. The Ibero-American Institute embodies that bridge function in a very special way: it is an internationally visible and reputable broker institution that plays a key role in Germany’s scientific and cultural exchanges with Latin America, the Caribbean, Spain, and Portugal. For this reason, I’m convinced that the Institute will continue to set the tone for important debates in the future.
Preface

The Ibero-Amerikanisches Institut (IAI, Ibero-American Institute) is a unique combination of research facility, information center, and cultural center all under one and the same roof. It is home to the largest specialist library in Europe for the Ibero-American region. It conducts research projects in the social sciences and the humanities, acts as an active participant in collaborative research projects, and plays an important role as a mediator via its multilingual publications program. A diverse schedule of events also contributes significantly to create intercultural and transcultural dialogues. What this means is that the IAI is a special place not just for all of us who work here, but for many people of Latin American, Caribbean, Spanish, or Portuguese origin and anyone interested in those regions. Indeed, we experience this affinity for and appreciation of the IAI in our everyday work. This fills us with pride and gratitude, but it also demonstrates our responsibility to work together in order to guarantee the continued development of this unique bridge institution.
The Ibero-American Institute (IAI) concerns itself with scientific pursuits and cultural debates regarding Latin America, the Caribbean, Spain, and Portugal. The IAI offers a unique combination of three fields of activities that normally stand side-by-side: an information center, a research center, and a cultural center are all housed under the same roof. This gives it special agency as a hub for interdisciplinary networking among countries and research fields. The IAI houses Europe’s largest specialized library for the Ibero-American regions, making it a magnet for scientists and students from all over the world as well as for literary buffs, music fans, and film enthusiasts. Its catalog comprises scientific publications, popular literature and fiction, journals and periodicals, and special collections including maps, posters, photo-
graphs, audio recordings, and films. Additionally, a variety of bequests left behind by scientists, travelers, and artists provide extraordinary possibilities for research. The combination of text, images, and audio-visual sources ensures that the IAI remains an attractive archive of knowledge. The Institute is dedicated to the production and exchange of knowledge through its own research activities, cooperative projects with universities and academic institutions both domestic and foreign, a grant program, its own publications and journals, and numerous scientific conferences. The IAI also stands out thanks to a wide variety of cultural events: together with its partners, the Institute organizes readings, lectures, round tables, exhibitions, film screenings, and concerts.
The Argentinian scholar Ernesto Quesada was the first to intend this unique combination of information, research, and culture for the IAI. In 1930, he laid the cornerstone for the Institute’s founding by donating his private library of 82,000 books to the Prussian state. Two more endowments followed: the Mexico Library put together by Hermann Hagen with the help of Mexican President Plutarco Elías Calles; and a collection from the geographer Otto Quelle at the University of Bonn. On 12 October 1930, the IAI was founded under the auspices of founding director Otto Boelitz at the royal stables of the Berlin Palace. As of 1934 his successor, retired Major General Wilhelm Faupel, enacted a policy of active
National Socialist entanglement. This prompted the Allies in 1945 to reduce the functions of the Institute, by then newly situated in Berlin-Lankwitz, to that of a “Latin American library”. It wasn’t until 1954 that the regional focus was once again extended to Spain and Portugal, and the Institute was renamed to the „Ibero-American Library“. In 1962, it was ultimately re-purposed as the “Ibero-American Institute“ and integrated into the Stiftung Preußischer Kulturbesitz (SPK, Prussian Cultural Heritage Foundation), one of the world’s largest cultural and scientific institutions. The IAI has been located at Berlin’s Kulturforum near Potsdamer Platz since 1977. Following its restructuring towards the end of the 1990s, its original mission – namely the coupling of information, research, and culture – has evolved significantly.
One of the innovations was the introduction of an international scientific counsel to advise the institute on strategic matters. Furthermore, the SPK’s library commission accompanies the Institute’s work. Significant support has also come from the Freunde des Ibero-Amerikanischen Instituts e.V. (Friends of the Ibero-American Institute), a non-profit association.

The IAI’s combined function as a center for information, research, and culture enables it to give new impetus to scientific and cultural issues in an increasingly interconnected world.
The Library

The IAI’s library is the largest in Europe to specialize on Latin America, the Caribbean, Spain, and Portugal. It is known globally as one of the three most comprehensive collections of its kind. A significant portion of these collections are unique, that is, in Germany they exist exclusively at the IAI and they are indexed in several international and national databases.

The library houses some 1.4 million printed volumes, periodicals, and newspapers. Readers also have access to more than 80,000 electronic books, publications, and documents, as well as to a comprehensive list of international databases.

The library collects material – irrespective of its language or country of origin – on Latin America, the Caribbean, Spain, and Portugal, as well as in the field of Latino Studies. The focus of these acquisitions is on the humanities and social sciences, literary fiction, culture and art, as well as migration, the environment, and related topics.
One of the IAI information center’s priorities is to work closely with various academic communities in order to keep the existing collections up-to-date. This leads to the acquisition of some 30,000 new books annually plus subscriptions for over 4,300 active periodicals, along with additional acquisitions for the special collections and a growing number of digital media. The IAI combines various acquisition strategies. On the one hand, it negotiates supply contracts with book exporters in Latin America and the Caribbean; on the other hand, it places targeted orders for older literature with publishers and retailers. There is a special emphasis on periodicals, which are collected through antiquarian purchases.
One third of the annual accessions come to the library in the form of gifts or exchanges. The IAI trades its own publications and duplicates with over 500 institutions in Latin America, the United States, and Europe. Noteworthy exchange programs exist with the national libraries of Argentina, Chile, Colombia, and Cuba, for which the Institute receives a grant from the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG, German Research Foundation). Further exchange programs include the Nettie Lee Benson Collection at the University of Texas in Austin and the Latin American Library at Tulane University in New Orleans. The process of acquisition involves visiting bookfairs, second-hand bookshops, as well as government and non-governmental organizations where otherwise inaccessible materials can be acquired.
The IAI’s reading room provides more than 70 workstations with wireless Internet. Users can access the online catalog (OPAC) as well as electronic documents and databases using the available computers. In addition, there are modern scanners and readers for microfilm and microfiches. A multilingual team of librarians is on site to assist with searches in the library catalog, books and databases. Appointments are available for groups looking to provide general training courses in literary research and the use of various databases.
The library offers guided tours in different languages and across a variety of subjects for students, researchers, and librarians from Germany and abroad. This allows participants to learn more about the Institute’s history, structure, and work, while also providing them with insight into the various collections.

Additionally, the IAI makes its collections available worldwide via inter-library loans and by delivery service: for the former, books and essays are dispatched to national and international libraries; whereas for the latter, the IAI delivers essays to registered users and libraries through a fee-based document delivery service called “subito”. Registered users can obtain digital copies of non-copyrighted material on demand using a fee-based digitization service.
Digitization allows libraries to publicize especially relevant and unique collections online, where they are conveniently accessible irrespective of time and place. The IAI offers this modern service to its users through the digital collections at www.iaidigital.de, where significant library stock as well as an outstanding selection of special collections are presented in digital form. Users of the digital collections can organize their search results into “book shelves”, which they can share with others. By exchanging information and comments in this way, users can contribute substantial analysis of their own to the materials at hand. Standard interfaces allow these digital objects to be reused, for example, in virtual research environments of the digital humanities.
Alongside its archival function, the IAI is also guided by developments in the world of academia and research. If users are unable to find the specialized literature they need at the library, they can recommend these titles for acquisition. This involves an electronic form that is linked in the online catalog (OPAC) and can be filled out from anywhere. Every proposal is considered on its merits and will be implemented whenever possible.
The IAI’s collections contain numerous books of value dating from the past centuries. Several of them have become one-of-a-kind items, each telling a unique story through hand-written annotations that reveal details about its former owner and contemporary perceptions of the text. Unfortunately, time and frequent study have left their mark on several of these works, in some cases preventing their continued use. In order to restore at least a part of these collections, and to maintain the important information contained within these texts as well as their transmission history, the library has created a book sponsorship program. Monetary donations enable the Institute to restore the most damaged titles and create digital copies.

www.iai.spk-berlin.de/booksponsorships
Collections of Latin American Popular Culture

For scientists from Germany and abroad, the most sought-after collections include Latin American popular culture from the 19th century onward. The “Biblioteca criolla”, originally compiled by anthropologist Robert Lehmann-Nitsche, holds special significance. The collection includes works from Argentina, but also from Chile and Uruguay. Mexican popular culture is represented by the “José Guadalupe Posada collection”. Another important collection, “Literatura de cordel” from Brasil, consists of some 8,000 magazines with new additions on a regular basis.
The IAI’s unique collection of Argentinian theater and romance literature is recognized around the world for its size and completeness. It contains some 210 magazine titles with roughly 6,500 individual issues dating back to the golden age of Argentinian theater from 1910 to 1940. Their digitization, coupled with an analysis of their form and content, has secured a collection that was otherwise threatened by paper decay, making it available to researchers in the context of a project financed in 2013 by the Beauftragte der Bundesregierung für Kultur und Medien (BKM, Federal Government Commissioner for Culture and the Media). The periodicals are available from the IAI’s Digital Collections at www.iaidigital.de. To round off the project, the IAI held an exhibition in 2014 and published a comprehensive catalog.
Cultural Magazines

Cultural magazines from the period of 1880 to 1930 are an important source for researchers in various fields of the humanities today, mainly because of their topical variety, their collaboration with high-profile authors, and their function as a link between high and popular culture. With support from the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG, German Research Foundation), from 2013 to 2016 the Cultural Magazines Project is adding – and digitizing whenever possible – 80 titles from Argentina, Chile, Cuba, Ecuador, Peru, and Puerto Rico. The state of preservation and demand for specific research projects were the key to the selection process for these titles. Future plans include the addition of cultural magazines from Brazil, Colombia, and Central America.
Hervorhebung einer Ruffel

[Hervorhebung einer Schürze]

[Hervorhebung einer Schürze]
Research

The Institute’s scientific profile encompasses a wide range of activities, including third-party funded international research projects, publishing, the hosting of visiting scholars, the provision of research grants and fellowships, an interdisciplinary research colloquium, policy advice, collaboration through various scientific committees and boards and academic teaching, both in Germany and abroad. The Institute conducts research of its own in the areas of archaeology, ethnology, history, literary and cultural studies, and political sciences, and linguistics. Because of its research activities, the Institute is not only a place of knowledge production but also of cultural and scientific exchange with and about Latin America. At the IAI, visiting scholars from all over the world engage in a dialogue with a team of local researchers from the humanities and the social sciences specializing in Latin America and the Caribbean.

The intercultural and interdisciplinary dialogues that develop at the Institute on a daily basis inspired the research theme for 2015 to 2020 “Knowledge Production and Cultural Transfers: Latin America in Trans-regional Contexts”. The research theme focuses on the critical examination of concepts as well as historical and empirical research about the role of national and international institutions as well as other actors for knowledge production in the region. Concepts such as autonomy and dependence, delimitation, appropriation, translation and adaptation, center and periphery, or colonialism of knowledge are of great importance to this topic. Another aspect of this line of research is a critical examination of the knowledge production about Latin America. For instance, this covers the question to what extent theoretical models stemming from a European or North American experiential background are conducive to
understanding Latin American realities. Other topics include Latin America’s role in the international circulation of knowledge.

Cultural transfer processes are examined with a view towards contact between individuals and institutions as well as their facilitation through objects such as artifacts, artwork, books and other written sources, periodicals, and audio-visual media. For the purposes of understanding transfer processes, the significance of an object is a function of its geographic or temporal separation from the culture of writing.

The research program aims to create a dialog among various interdisciplinary viewpoints. Not least of all, it is intended as a measure of self-reflection and a chance to critically examine the Institute’s own research on Latin America.

In addition, the Institute is also working on other subjects.
“Interdependent Inequality Research in Latin America” (desiguALdades.net) is an international, interdisciplinary, and multi-institutional research network. The Bundesministerium für Bildung und Forschung (BMBF, German Federal Ministry of Education and Research) has supported it financially since 2009 as part of a grant program called “Empowerment and Development of Area Studies”. During the second funding phase from May 2014 through April 2016, the network will be further developed under the auspices of the program “Inequality Research in Latin America: Structures and Negotiations”. The IAI is coordinating two complementary work packages here: first, there is an examination of the global valorization of nature and the specifics of socio-ecological inequalities; and second, a deeper study of global extractive value chains and social disparities based on the example of lithium mining in Chile and Argentina.
Mobile Objects

The base project is being conducted in cooperation with the Lehrstuhl für Wissenschaftsgeschichte (Chair for the History of Science) and the Hermann von Helmholtz-Zentrum für Kulturtechnik (Hermann von Helmholtz Center for Cultural Technology) of the Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin as well as the Museum für Naturkunde – Leibniz-Institut für Evolutions- und Biodiversitätsforschung Berlin (Museum of Natural History – Leibniz Institute for Evolution and Biodiversity Science Berlin). It deals with natural and cultural historical objects and asks for their context of origins, movements and transformations. Using various collection facilities, the object concept is analyzed from a comparative perspective. The aim is to question accustomed categorizations and to clarify the relationships between institutions, actors, objects and practice more closely. In the base project the IAI is conducting the section “Digital Object Mobility. Recent Technologies and Transatlantic Exchange of Knowledge”. It investigates the effects of the digital shift on object practices, on status of objects and the role of the “object manager” both within institutional structures and in reference to the trans-institutional moving apart of objects. A special emphasis is placed on the circulation of objects between Germany and Latin America.

Collaborative Project

Management of the Sub-Project:
Dr. Barbara Göbel

Main applicant:
Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin

Duration: 2014 - 2017

Funding:
Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG, German Research Foundation)

www.interdisciplinary-laboratory.hu-berlin.de
Archaeological Project Dzehkabtún
Terminal and Post-Classicism in Northern Campeche: Continuities and Breaks

Since 2012, the archaeological project has been at the site of a Maya discovery on the Yucatán peninsula to examine the organization and development of a settlement during the time of transition from late to post-classicism. Of particular interest are the socio-economic and political continuities and discontinuities since the classical era; the causes and ramifications for the local population of the upheaval from the end of the classical era to the beginning of post-classicism; and their strategies for overcoming the crisis. This is a joint project in cooperation with the Instituto Nacional de Antropología e Historia (INAH) in Mexico.
Archaeological Project Dzehkabtún
Terminal and Post-Classicism in Northern Campeche: Continuities and Breaks
Year after year, numerous visiting scholars from Germany and abroad conduct their research at the IAI. Many of them receive grants from supporting institutions such as the Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst (DAAD, German Academic Exchange Service) or the Alexander von Humboldt-Stiftung (AvH, Alexander von Humboldt Foundation), but also from the IAI itself or from universities and supporting organizations in their countries of origin, CAPES, CONICET, Conacyt, and Fondecyt, among others. Researchers at the IAI guide the visiting scholars in their research, involving them in research discussions. This has also proven to be an important asset to the Institute: visiting scholars bring in fresh expertise, suggest ways to examine issues in a new light, participate in projects and events, and contribute to publications, all of which helps to expand the IAI’s worldwide network.

In order to support the IAI’s networking efforts with national and international research institutions, and to strengthen the exchange of scientific knowledge across disciplinary boundaries, the Institute’s research department conducts a research colloquium at regular intervals. It serves as a forum for visiting scholars and Institute staff to present their projects, and as a place for exchanging ideas and discussing epistemological and methodological issues. The colloquium takes place at the IAI’s meeting room once every two weeks, typically on Thursdays starting at 10:15 a.m. It is usually conducted in Spanish but sometimes also in English or Portuguese. Anyone interested is cordially invited to join us!
The IAI regularly organizes international academic conferences in the area of humanities and social sciences, many of which are related to the Institute’s own research or to current issues and scientific debates. The IAI hosts the majority of its conferences with the support of third-party funding and in cooperation with partner institutions at home and abroad.
Publications

The IAI holds a broad program of publications in German, Spanish, Portuguese, and English. It encompasses three book series: Bibliotheca Ibero-Americana, Estudios Indiana, and Biblioteca Luso-Brasileira. It also includes the journals Iberoamericana. América Latina – España – Portugal, Indiana and Revista Internacional de Lingüística Iberoamericana, as well as the online series Ibero Analysen, Ibero Bibliographien, Ibero Online, and desiguALdades.net Working Paper Series, plus a number of additional “out-of-band” publications and exhibition catalogs. The program mainly draws on the Institute’s own research activities, on conferences carried out at the IAI, and on collaborations with other academic institutions. These publications are a major factor contributing to the Institute’s public image. The IAI’s full catalog of publications is regularly updated and available as a brochure or online at www.iai.spk-berlin.de/publications.

The series Bibliotheca Ibero-Americana and Biblioteca Luso-Brasileira contain monographs and edited volumes on history, culture, literature, language, society and politics in Latin America, Spain, and Portugal. The series Estudios Indiana presents the results of research into the indigenous and multi-ethnic societies and cultures of Latin America and the Caribbean, past and present. All proposals for serial publication are subject to extensive review.
This interdisciplinary journal is jointly published by the Ibero-American Institute, the GIGA Institute for Latin American Studies (Hamburg) and the Iberoamericana/Vervuert publishing house (Madrid/Frankfurt am Main) since 2001. In keeping with contemporary academic debates, it is dedicated to the examination of history, literature, and culture, as well as of socio-political processes in Latin America, the Caribbean, Spain, and Portugal. An international board of publishers and a double-blind peer review system ensure that it is filled with high-quality content.

Iberoamericana encompasses four sections: “Artículos y ensayos” showcases essays from renowned specialists; a “dossier” highlighting important topics from different disciplinary perspectives; the “Foro de debate” with current analyses and interviews; and “Notas. Reseñas iberoamericanas” with reviews of new releases. The journal is published with articles in Spanish, Portuguese, and English.

All contributions published in Iberoamericana are available under open access: http://journals.iai.spk-berlin.de.
The Journal Indiana

The Indiana journal is a forum for everyone involved in researching the indigenous and multiethnic societies and cultures of Latin America and the Caribbean, both present and past. It brings together articles from all fields of Amerindian studies, including archaeology, ethnohistory, ethnolinguistics, as well as cultural, social and linguistic anthropology. Essays on methodological and theoretical issues are also welcome.

Indiana was founded in 1973 within the tradition of Americanist Studies as developed by Eduard Seler and Max Uhle, among others. Each issue features contributions on a variety of topics, plus a dossier with papers and essays devoted to a specific subject.

Indiana publishes original contributions in Spanish, Portuguese, English, and German. All submissions undergo an anonymous peer-review procedure.

All contributions published in Indiana are available under open access: http://journals.iai.spk-berlin.de.
The IAI’s library collections are complemented by extensive special collections, comprising papers and manuscripts, photographic images, maps, audiovisual materials, graphics and posters. These unique and diverse collections provide particular insight into the cultures of Latin America, the Caribbean, and the Iberian peninsula, and play an important role in preserving their cultural heritage. They are also an invaluable resource for research projects, publications and exhibitions.

The Audio Library houses a variety of sound recordings from Latin America, the Caribbean, Spain, and Portugal. They include musical performances of various genres, interviews with authors and politicians, ethnographic recordings, and language courses. The Film Collection, on the other hand, is focused on motion pictures and documentaries, while the Map Collection contains topographical maps, theme-based maps, city maps, roadmaps, and historical maps. The Poster Collection notably includes banners from Brazil’s health campaigns during the presidency of Getúlio Vargas and billboards advertising Mexican films, dating from 1946 to 1950, while the Art Prints & Illustrations Archive shines a spotlight on several works such as “Estampas de la Independencia y la Revolución”, the print graphics “Taller de Gráfica Popular”, and the collection “José Guadalupe Posada”.

http://sondersammlungen.iai.spk-berlin.de
The IAI holds some 300 personal bequests of great significance to the international research community. Around 100 scholars visit the Institute each year in order to work with these materials. From 2000 to 2015, over 300 published scientific articles discussed these bequests. In addition, the material frequently finds its way into exhibition projects. The majority of it originates from German explorers and scholars who have worked on Latin America and the Caribbean. The individual bequests contain different materials such as manuscripts, letters, postcards, travel diaries, notebooks, photos, and archaeological plans.

To make these materials more easily accessible to international researchers, it is necessary to apply for third-party funding. With support from the German Research Foundation (DFG) and the Federal Government Commissioner for Culture and the Media (BKM), the IAI has been able to catalog bequests from luminaries such as archaeologist Max Uhle, anthropologist Robert Lehmann-Nitsche, political scientist Wolfgang Hirsch-Weber, and geographer Hans Steffen. The vast majority of these materials come to the IAI in the form of gifts. However, with funding from the DFG, the IAI was also able to acquire parts of the bequests of author Roberto Arlt and botanist August Weberbauer.

### Other important bequests

- **Paul Ehrenreich**, ethnologist (1855–1914)
- **Karl Fiebrig**, botanist (1869–1951)
- **Guilherme Gaelzer-Neto**, diplomat (1874–1955)
- **Walter Lehmann**, specialist in Ancient American studies (1878–1938)
- **Teobert Maler**, archaeologist (1842–1917)
- **Rudolf Amandus Philippi**, naturalist (1808–1904)
- **Ernesto Quesada**, sociologist/diplomat (1858–1934)
- **Vicente Quesada**, diplomat (1830–1913)
- **Eduard Seler**, specialist in Ancient American studies (1849–1922)
The Image Archive

The Image Archive contains over 100,000 photographic records with roughly 60,000 photographs, 36,000 slides, 8,300 glass plate negatives, 1,100 negatives, and 2,300 postcards. The regional focus is on Argentina, Brazil, Mexico, and Peru. As a whole, the collection covers the period from 1860 to 2000, and the majority of it is closely linked to the collection of literary bequests. The embedding of the Image Archive into the context of the bequests and of the library as a whole creates advantages for academic pursuits: travel diaries, manuscripts, lists of photos, and correspondence allow the images to be classified, interpreted, and compared to other publications in consultation with a comprehensive trove of secondary literature. In the collection you will find photographs of famous photographers such as Emilio Biel (Portugal), Hugo Brehme (Mexico), Martín Chambi (Peru), Marc Ferrez (Brasil), Guillermo Kahlo (Mexico), Jean Laurent (Spain), Teobert Maler (Mexico), Perry Kretz (Nicaragua), C.B. Waite (Mexico), and Max T. Vargas (Peru).
As part of the project “Latin America’s cultural photographic memory. Formal and scientific analysis and digitization of the IAI’s glass plate negative collection”, funded by the Beauftragte der Bundesregierung für Kultur und Medien (BKM, Federal Government Commissioner for Culture and the Media) in 2013, 6,500 original photo records severely threatened by decay were scientifically indexed and digitally preserved. These image documents from the late 19th and the early 20th century serve as a special source of information on the archaeology, history, ethnology, and regional studies of Latin America, as well as on the work of pioneers in Latin American studies. After completion of the project, this hitherto mostly nonaccessible material can now be viewed online via the IAI’s Digital Collections.
Borderline Experiences of a German Geographer in Chile.
Hans Steffen Papers and Manuscripts

With support from the Beauftragte der Bundesregierung für Kultur und Medien (BKM, Federal Government Commissioner for Culture and the Media), the literary remains of geographer Hans Steffen (1865 - 1936) were formally and scientifically indexed in 2013, and large portions are now digitally available for science under the Institute’s Digital Collections. It contains valuable documentary evidence from the Patagonian Andes mountain range, the border demarcation between Argentina and Chile, the institutionalization of Chile’s geography and scientific exchanges between Germany and Chile.
Exhibits from the IAI Collections

The IAI regularly organizes exhibits with a variety of items from the Institute’s collections. The show “Latin America’s Glass Picture Memory” (Berlin 2014 - 2015), in which historic original glass plates and digital enlargements from the Image Archive were exhibited, consisted of a virtual expedition into the scientific and commercial photography of Latin America in the late 19th century and the first half of the 20th century. The various uses of the pictures in the age of technical reproducibility in scientific, political and private contexts were also shown. The exhibition “Hans Steffen: Borderline Experiences of a German Geographer in Chile” was held in Hamburg in 2015. Both exhibits were made possible by the financial support of the Federal Government Commissioner for Culture and the Media (BKM). Within the context of the IAI’s 85th anniversary in 2015 the exhibition “Bandits, Gauchos and Songs. The Biblioteca criolla: the history of a collection” was held.

Exhibits 2014 - 2015

Hugo Brehme and the Mexican Revolution, 2014

From Love, Murder and Everyday. The Ibero-American Institute’s Collection of Argentinian Theater and Romance Literature, 2014

Latin America’s Glass Picture Memory. An Expedition to the Ibero-American Institute’s Digital Collections, 2014

Hans Steffen: Borderline Experiences of a German Geographer in Chile, 2015

Bandits, Gauchos and Songs. The Biblioteca criolla: the history of a collection, 2015
Every year, the IAI hosts about 80 scientific and cultural events that combine different topics and formats from the full spectrum of book readings, discussion panels, lectures, conferences, film showings, concerts, and exhibitions. In keeping with the Institute’s profile, the program of events creates connections between research, culture, and the archive of knowledge. It is the IAI’s goal to promote debates on Latin America, the Caribbean, Spain, and Portugal; to convey a variety of nuanced perspectives; and to meet the demands of increasingly interconnected regions in the world. A set of core themes were designed to highlight special issues.

The bulk of events takes place in cooperation with partner institutions in Germany, Europe, and Latin America. In 2014, the IAI worked with more than 60 different partners from the fields of science, education, culture, and politics. The events thus play an important role in the expansion and development of the Institute’s networks.
Commenting on the start of the First World War a hundred years ago, the IAI in 2014 participated in the SPK’s (Prussian Cultural Heritage Foundation) thematic year “1914. Aufbruch. Weltbruch” (“1914. Departure. Breaking of the World”), devoting its efforts to studying perceptions of this global event in Latin America. Led by historian Prof. Dr. Stefan Rinke and sponsored by the Einstein Foundation Berlin, an exhibition was developed in cooperation with the Institute for Latin American Studies (LAI, Lateinamerika-Institut) at the Freie Universität Berlin and a group of students. Using the Latin American example, the goal was to decentralize the hitherto mostly euro-centric view of World War I, but also to view it “from the margins”. The project team examined a multitude of Latin American texts, images, and audio sources from the IAI’s collections to place these historical materials into context. This led to an exhibition that demonstrates the extent to which the “Great War” in many ways unsettled the relationship between Latin America and Europe.
Caricatures in various weekly papers testify to a disillusioned renunciation of the former European role model. Contemporary documents also reveal that Latin America was part of a new global public that was following and discussing the war intensely thanks to its staging as a global media event.

Individual aspects of the exhibition were examined further through an accompanying lecture series with support from scholars at the IAI.

The exhibition was part of the supporting program for the XVII. International Congress of the European Association of Latin Americanist Historians (AHILA, Asociación de Historiadores Latinoamericanistas Europeos) in September 2014, after which it was shown at various universities in Germany and Latin America.
In 2013, Brazil was guest of honor at the Frankfurt Book Fair. For this reason, and as a contribution to the federal government’s initiative “Germany + Brazil 2013-2014. Where ideas connect”, the IAI developed a multifaceted program of events both in Germany and in Brazil. The Institute used readings and discussions to present the great variety and diversity of the Brazilian literary scene. The focus was not just on established authors, but also on more informal literary manifestations such as the so-called literatura periférica from disadvantaged urban districts in São Paulo. The project also examined transcultural writings, that is, those produced by authors who are at home in multiple languages and no longer relate solely to their country of origin. Other focal points of the program included coming to grips with the dictatorship and examining the role of indigenous cultures in Brazilian society. In consultation with the Goethe Institute Porto Alegre, the IAI created a symposium to discuss the ramifications of the digital transformation for the handling of cultural assets. The event, which took place as part of Porto Alegre’s book fair, was attended by German and Brazilian libraries, archives, and museums.
20 Years of Town Twinning Berlin – Buenos Aires

2014 marked the 20-year anniversary of a sister-city arrangement between Berlin and Buenos Aires, providing an incentive to trace the interrelation of these two metropolises. Thus, the IAI joined with “migrantas”, a Berlin-based collective, to organize a panel discussion on the topic of migration and intercultural dialog. Two artists from Argentina created the group with the task of bringing the immigrant life experiences and mindsets to Berlin by way of pictographs. Meanwhile, a concert recalled the long history of musical exchanges among the two cities as homage to the bandoneon. Berlin-based musician and instrument builder Klaus Gutjahr paid tribute to the instrument that had come to Argentina from Germany via immigrants before becoming a vital element in tango music. One of the highlights of this anniversary was the celebration of the iconic comic figure Mafalda’s 50th birthday. The crafty Argentinian girl has become popular well beyond the borders of Argentina thanks to her unabated views on the grown-up world.

Mexico – Germany 2016 – 2017

In 2016 and 2017, Mexico is hosting a German year and Germany is hosting a Mexican year. The IAI will participate with a diverse program of exhibitions, lectures, film showings, symposiums, workshops, readings, and concerts. It will be doing so in cooperation with its own scientific, cultural, and librarian networks with Mexico.
Get in Contact with the IAI

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www.facebook.com/iai.berlin

You can reach the IAI with the following public means:
Bus: M 48 or M 85: bus stop “Kulturforum”
M 29: bus stop “Potsdamer Brücke”
Subway/Commuter train (U-Bahn/S-Bahn): station “Potsdamer Platz” (U2, S1, S2)
or “Mendelssohn-Bartholdy-Park” (U2)

Digital Collections: digital.iai.spk-berlin.de

Opening Hours Library:
Monday – Friday: 9 a.m. – 7 p.m.
Saturday: 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Tel.: +49 (0)30 266 45 – 2210
Online-Catalog: www.iaicat.de

Opening Hours Special Collections:
Art Prints & Illustrations Archive | Audio Library | Film Collection | Map Collection
Newspaper Clippings Archive | Poster Collection
Monday: 1 p.m. – 5 p.m.
Tuesday – Friday: 10 a.m. – 12 a.m.
Collections from Corporate Bodies | Image Archive | Papers and Manuscripts
Monday, Thursday, Friday: 2 p.m. – 6 p.m.
Tuesday, Wednesday: 11 a.m. – 12 a.m. and 1 p.m. – 4 p.m.
Appointments outside of the regular office hours are possible.
Further information: http://ondersammlungen.iai.spk-berlin.de
# The IAI in Numbers

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Quantity/Amount</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Staff (permanent positions)</td>
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<td>(IAI grant holders, AvH, DAAD etc.)</td>
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Ever since they were founded in April 2000, the Freunde des Ibero-Amerikanischen Instituts e.V. (Friends of the Ibero-American Institute) have supported the IAI’s work. The association enriches the cultural offerings with a diverse range of events. Moreover, The Friends contribute to the purchase of rare works and outstanding collection items, and they promote publications of the IAI. Their contributions are especially apparent in the comprehensive acquisitions for the Institute’s film collection.

Are you interested in becoming a member?
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Regular annual membership is 35 euros or 15 euros for students.

www.iai.spk-berlin.de/friends
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