

Germany

Report by

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Introduction - Key Issues

Germany has a federal structure. This results in decentralised responsibilities for culture. Since 1998, there is a State Minister for culture in the Federal government but the main responsibility for cultural matters lies within the 16 Länder. (see: <http://www.kmk.org/aufg-org/home.htm>). Out of these, five are new Länder since the German reunification in 1990. 3 out of the 16 Bundesländer are "city"-States covering not more than the area of the city (Berlin, Bremen and Hamburg).

A central provider of museum statistics in Germany (number of museums, number of visits, opening hours, entrance fees, etc.) is the Institut für Museumskunde (IfM) in Berlin, founded 1979. The Institute is a part of the public administration and is the only museum-related institute in Germany with a mission stretching out nation-wide. It provides the annual museum statistics and works closely together with the institutions in the Länder. It is a part of the State Museums of Berlin (SMB), which in turn belong to the foundation Prussian Heritage (SPK), which is held jointly by the Federal government and the 16 Länder of Germany. The data of the individual museums are not published by the IfM, only aggregated data are publicly released.

The Institute also produces annual statistical data on exhibition halls (since 1987).

Other than a general museum statistics, the IfM also undertakes specific studies on visitor research and on cultural/economic behaviour - often in cooperation with partners outside the Institute. There is for example a study on the relation between museum entrance fees and the expenditure by the visitors (What effects does a rise in museum entrance fee have? How does the fee interrelate with the readiness to visit and to spend extra money in the museum facilities?) This study was undertaken at eighteen different museums, situated in six different German cities. Another study focussed on exhibition catalogues, where one question was for the acceptable price level which an exhibition catalogue should not exceed from the visitors point of view. Yet other studies, carried out at individual museums, did research into: who is the museum audience, how often do they visit a museum, do they come alone or in groups, etc.

An important issue in the German museum landscape at this time is the tendency to transform museums from parts of the state government into more self-governed, autonomous foundations.

Definition of Museum

The term "museum" is not officially (by law or other legal sources) defined in Germany. Anybody who wishes to do so, may call their institution a museum. The 16 ministries of culture and the museum bodies in the 16 Länder determine what is a museum - in their region - under the aspect of granting a funding.

The "Deutscher Museumsbund" - DMB - (the German Museum Association) studies this question from time to time. The latest published definition dates from 1978 ("Museumskunde" 1978, Nr. 2, back cover page). In general practice, it is resorted to the ICOM definition (the current German language translation of the "Code of ethics" was published by ICOM-D, ICOM-A and ICOM-CH in 2003).

For the purposes of the German museum statistics as established by the IfM, to be included in the annual museum survey an institution shall require

- presentation of objects (of a cultural, historic or general scientific nature)
- defined terms of accessibility to the general public, i.e. opening hours
- by majority, no commercial exhibitions - serving no commercial purpose
- clearly delineated exhibition space which foremost serves for exhibition purposes

(source: Annual statistical report by the IfM: Materialien aus dem Institut für Museumskunde).

Obviously, every one of these conditions can still have a wide range of interpretation, for example a museum could be open to the public 10 or more hours a day. On the other hand, there are smaller museums for which it is necessary to make an appointment in advance to be able to visit the museum.

In the context of official statistics on public expenditures as well as on staff, museums are not listed by one identical concept and in one category only but in different categories (places) in the public budget schemes. A distinction, e.g., is sometimes made between "scientific" and "non-scientific" museums. This, then, has less to do with the question whether the museum is actually carrying out scientific research, but is largely due to the different sources in the public budget from which different museums are funded (were they are public museums). See Kulturfinanzbericht 2000. - Wiesbaden: Statistisches Bundesamt, 2001.

Existence of Museum-related Laws

Neither on the Federal level of Germany as a whole nor on that of the 16 German "Länder" there does exist a law which explicitly tackles museums in general. Individual laws do exist which serve to set up individual museums, e.g. as foundations. Cultural affairs, on the whole, are mainly subject to political regulation by the 16 Länder. Laws do exist on "monument protection" and archaeology, in individual cases also on cultural policy with relevance to museums (Kulturraumgesetz Sachsen).

The IfM has published a handbook series "Handbuch des Museumsrechts" whose individual volumes describe legal provisions which have not been devised exclusively for museums but have a bearing on the operation of museums as well, e.g. the international protection of museum objects (see "Rudolf Streinz: Internationaler Schutz von Museumsgut" (Handbuch des Museumsrechts, Bd. 4)).

Categories used regarding Type of Collection

The IfM in 1987 has modified its own classification system and now distinguishes, very near to the categories by UNESCO (UNESCO/STC/Q 853), 9 types of museums by nature of collection:

1. Local history, local ethnography and regional museums
2. Art museums (including architectural museums)
3. Castles with inventory
4. Natural history museums
5. Science and technology museums
6. Archaeology and history museums
7. Museums with collections covering several of the points from 1. to 6.
8. Cultural history museums on specialised topics
9. Museum complexes (different museums in one building).

Categories used regarding Type of Ownership

The IfM in 1992 has modified its classification system in accordance with the statistics of the "Deutscher Städtetag" to the following types of ownership. These are the bodies legally responsible for the museum, but not always necessarily the funding bodies:

1. Federal government and governments of the Länder (including all establishments under their jurisdiction, e.g. universities)
2. Local communities
3. Other bodies (under public law), e.g. public foundations
4. Private associations
5. Companies, cooperative societies
6. Private foundations
7. Private persons
8. Mixed public and private ownership.

Existing Data - Basic Figures and Diagrams

In 2002, the database of the IfM contained 6.501 museums (strictly, buildings, because attendance figures are counted which requires separate counting at every separate building). Of these, 6.059 were included in the annual statistical survey. The response rate was 87,2 %, 80,7 % did indicate visit figures. Also included in the survey were 488 exhibitions halls, i.e. non-commercial institutions which have no own collections but do devote their space to ever changing special exhibitions. In 2002, they counted 7.511.111 visits.

The statistical museum questionnaire consists of

- questions which are asked every year (e.g., attendance figures, entrance fees, opening hours, special exhibitions)
- changing subjects (e.g., security in museums, museum education, staff, computers in museums).

The following table shows a grouping of the German museums by type of collection. The by far biggest number is found in type "Local history, local ethnography and regional museums", also receiving the biggest number of visits. These are in the majority small local museums, often not run by professional staff. Next in line are the art museums, with nearly the same number of visits, although they are much smaller in number. In all, about 10 % of all German museums are art museums.

Type of collection	Number of museums	Number of museums providing data	Number of visits 2002	Number of temporary exhibitions
Local history, local ethnography and regional museums	2.773	2.201	18.152.793	4.465
Art museums	604	508	17.250.796	1.812
Castles with inventory	268	239	13.459.762	225
Natural history museums	311	248	7.127.529	389
Science and technology museums	720	572	14.849.646	658
Archaeology and history museums	383	319	14.302.341	347
Museums with a variety of collections	28	27	2.118.186	138
Cultural history museums on specialised topics	897	707	10.374.793	960
Museum complexes	75	71	3.582.955	279
Total	6.059	4.892	101.218.801	9.273

Visits to German museums 2002 - grouped according to type of collection

Type of ownership	Number of museums	Number of museums providing data	Number of visits 2002	Number of temporary exhibitions
Federal government, Länder governments	491	463	24.565.796	815
local communities	2.510	2.250	27.131.455	5.060
Other bodies under public law	387	365	19.474.090	618
Private associations	1.495	1.233	11.819.194	1.584
Companies, cooperative societies	235	206	8.300.714	233
Private foundations	89	86	2.511.252	209
Private persons	505	382	4.500.070	261
Mixed public and private	347	301	2.916.230	493
Total	6.059	5.286	101.218.801	9.273

Visits in German museums 2002 – grouped according to type of ownership

The largest group (more than 40 %) is the group of museums which belong to and are run by local communities (towns and regional bodies like district areas). The second largest group (25 %) is the group of museums which belong to private associations (Vereine). Altogether, about two third of German museums are in public ownership and about one third is owned by private institutions: associations, private persons, companies.

If a company or a private person owns or holds a museum, they are free to do with their collection what they like. But if they apply for public support, the body which grants it often has special requirements which the applicant has to accept. What requirements these are depends on the body providing the money. Every "Land" has its own regulations, which define under what conditions a museum can ask for financial support.

The following table shows the distribution of German museums among the 16 German Länder. It is apparent that the two big Southern countries Bavaria (Freistaat Bayern) and Baden-Württemberg are hosting more than one third of the German museums and count more than one third of the visits to all German museums.

Land	Number of museums 2002	Number of museums providing data	Number of visits 2002	Number of temporary exhibitions
Baden-Württemberg	1.032	830	14.110.017	1.119
Freistaat Bayern Bavaria	1.082	867	20.454.338	1.335
Berlin	150	128	8.665.858	347
Brandenburg	344	265	3.315.507	535
Bremen	30	23	1.599.275	52
Hamburg	56	49	2.089.989	146
Hessen Hesse	421	327	4.806.695	632
Mecklenburg-Vorpommern	171	151	3.199.571	343
Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania				
Niedersachsen Lower Saxony	638	513	7.523.649	874
Nordrhein-Westfalen North Rhine-Westphalia	671	530	14.274.980	1.269
Rheinland-Pfalz Rhineland-Palatinate	383	283	4.106.085	448
Saarland	59	46	462.603	82
Freistaat Sachsen Saxony	370	326	7.051.071	835
Sachsen-Anhalt Saxony-Anhalt	216	188	2.463.789	439
Schleswig-Holstein	225	180	2.921.890	356
Thüringen Thuringia	211	186	4.173.484	461
Total	6.059	4.892	101.218.801	9.273

There is a wide spectrum of museums ranging from very big institutions down to small, often local, houses. Thus, some museums have hundreds of staff members and a full-time-director, whereas smaller institutions are often totally run on a voluntary basis. This also can be seen from the percentage of types of directorship. In the following table, "full-time" means a person whose occupational role is to run the museum, "part-time" in this context means that the person beside her or his responsibility for the museum, has responsibilities in other places, too, like e.g. being the Head of the culture department of the municipality. "Voluntary" shall mean that the person is not getting paid for performing this task.

A Guide to European Museum Statistics

Directorship	Number of museums	% of museums in survey
Full-time director	1.978	32,6
Part-time director	366	6,0
Voluntary	1.920	31,7
Question not answered	1.022	16,9
No questionnaire returned	773	12,8
Total	6.059	100

(Data from the 2002 survey)

Beside the IfM statistics, there was one by the "Deutscher Städtetag" (Association of German municipalities), collected approx. every four years (last edition 1993), relating to museums in municipalities over 20.000 inhabitants. This statistics had an emphasis on data concerning expenditure for museums (public and private) and for number and positions of staff. This statistics has been discontinued for the time being, due to lack of funding. I.a. for this reason, the IfM has included in the survey for 2002 questions concerning directorship and staff working in museums.

The Statistisches Bundesamt (the Federal Statistical Bureau of Germany) is not producing an own statistics on culture due to the fact that cultural affairs in Germany lie mainly within the responsibility of the "Länder" and the municipalities. One of the tasks of the Statistisches Bundesamt, however, is to report on public finances in Germany. From those statistics available, some information on public funding of culture can be gained. Data related to this topic are published annually by the Statistisches Bundesamt through its series: Rechnungsergebnisse der öffentlichen Haushalte für Bildung, Wissenschaft und Kultur. Fachserie 14, Reihe 3.4.

The Statistisches Bundesamt together with the Statistische Landesämter (the Statistical Bureaus of the 16 Länder of Germany) produces separate publications on the analysis of funding of culture in Germany (Kulturfinanzbericht 2003) - the first report in 2001. This publication documents the development of public expenditure for museums (except those grouped in the category "scientific museums") and exhibitions.

Year	Public expenditure for museums and exhibitions -
1975	235.800.000 EURO
1985	5688000.000 EURO
1995	1.129.600.000 EURO
1997	1.132.700.000 EURO
1999	1.218.100.000 EURO
2000	1.283.500.000 EURO
2001	1.376.400.000 EURO
2002 estimated	1.275.500.000 EURO
2003 planned	1.266.800.000 EURO

(see Kulturfinanzbericht 2003, p 71 f.)

In addition to the "Kulturfinanzbericht" a special publication on data on German museum within the German Länder will be published as "Museumsbericht 2004" in 2005.

List of References

Annual reports are available since 1981 (complete list can be found on the website of the Institut für Museumskunde (www.smb.spk-berlin.de/ifm))

Kulturfinanzbericht 2003. Statistische Ämter des Bundes und der Länder (Hrsg.). Statistisches Bundesamt, Wiesbaden 2004

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