The Gotha Research Library

Catalogues and Search Options

Historical stocks and catalogues

The following chapter provides you an initial overview to your research possibilities using the historical stocks of the library. A list of other important manuscripts and printed catalogues can be found online on the homepage of the library. There you will also find the appropriate catalogue of the Erfurt University Library that could be relevant for your research. In addition, a detailed catalogue overview with the listings of the Gotha Research Library is to be found in the handbook of the historical book stocks.

Please consider that the research bibliography of the University and Research Library Erfurt/Gotha, factual database and full text archive that you will find via the database info system (DBIS), can also be used for your research. Also, you can access the electronic journals (EZB).

Especially relevant research material or frequently used pieces of the historical libraries stocks are available in digital form and can be accessed through the digital historical library Erfurt/Gotha. The titles are also listed and linked in the online-catalogue.

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II. Catalogues for the printed collections
III. Catalogues for the special collections
IV. Research guide for the historical stocks
    main groups of various collections
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I. Catalogues of the manuscript collections

Medieval manuscripts

The medieval manuscripts of the Gotha Research Library were originated between the 8th and 15th centuries. They originate from the property of the Ernestinian family as well as from acquisitions of Duke Ernst I and Duke Ernst II.

Database
- Manuscripta Mediaevalia
- Handschriftenkatalog

Catalogues
- Cross catalogue (card catalogue in the special reading room)
- Systematic catalogue in bound form
- Handwritten and printed catalogues for the individual groups of stocks
- Catalogue for the Bibliotheca Amploniana

Early modern and modern manuscripts, inheritance, autographs

This stock consists of manuscripts, inheritance and autographs of the intellectual-historical principles and the formation period of the Reformation as well as its impact and reception. Besides this Reformation manuscripts that form the core stock, the collection preserves works, documents, inheritances and autographs of writers, scientists, librarians and cultural associations of the modern era.

Database
- HANS-database
- Kalliope
- RISM (sheet music, library signet D-GOL)
- Repertorium Bildungsgeschichte

Catalogues
- Cross catalogue (card catalogue in the special reading room)
- Systematic catalogue in bound form
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- Catalogues for the Bibliotheca Amploniana

Shelf marks
### I. Catalogues of the manuscript collections

**Oriental manuscripts**

The Research Library Gotha accommodates the country’s third largest Oriental manuscript collection comprising 3,496 codices. It was mainly collected at the early 19th century. The collection covers a broad spectrum of Islamic erudition and topics such as theology, jurisprudence, medicine, grammar, lexicography and poetry.

**Database**
- [Oriental manuscripts](#)

**Catalogues**

**Shelf marks**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ms. orient. A</th>
<th>arabic manuscripts</th>
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<tr>
<td>Ms. orient. P</td>
<td>persian manuscripts</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ms. orient. T</td>
<td>turkish manuscripts</td>
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<td>Ms. orient. Ag</td>
<td>appendix (Anhang): rare languages</td>
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</table>

### II. Catalogues for the printed collections

**Incunabulum and early publications until 1517**

The Research Library preserves over 1,000 incunabula from the Ducal and the Gymnasial Collection. Furthermore 31 incunabula of the former church library Pößneck including many Latin theological texts from German printing places and numerous prints from Venice and other European printing places.

**Database**
- [Online-catalogue](#) of the library
- [Complete catalogue of the cradle prints](#)
- Incunabula catalogue [INKA](#)
- [ISTC](#) (Incunabula short title catalogue)

**Catalogues**
- [Online-catalogue](#) of the library
- Ehwald, Rudolf: Catalogus Incunabulorum Bibliothecae Ducalis Gothanae. Handschriftlicher Bandkatalog nach Druckern und Druckorten
- Monumenta typographica. (Hand-written chronological book catalogue of publications until 1517)
- Both catalogues as microfiche publications at the general information and circulation desk of the FB

**Shelf marks**
- Mon. typ, Inc, Druck
## II. Catalogues for the printed collections

### Publications from the Ducal Collection

The Ducal Collection, founded by Duke Ernst I of Saxe-Gotha-Altenburg, consists of the court library and the private book collection of the dukes and duchesses. With 227,000 items, it is the largest historical collection of the research library and is regarded as complete since 1945.

**Database**
- [Online-catalogue](#) of the library, incl. [VD 16](#) and [VD 17](#)

**Catalogues**
- [Online-catalogue](#) of the library
- Microfiche of handwritten book catalogues at the general information and circulation desk at the Gotha Research Library or the information centre of the University Library Erfurt (ground floor)
- Alphabetical catalogue
- Systematic catalogue with 25 specialized groups
- Further handwritten or printed catalogues, special catalogues (e.g. book catalogues under the subject group Poetry)

**Shelf marks**
- see main groups of the Ducal Collection on p. 7

### Prints from the Gymnasial Collection

The gymnasial collection goes back to the 1596 donated book collection of the Gotha Gymnasium Illustre (since 1859 Gymnasium Ernestinum) that was donated in 1596. Under Duke Friedrich II of Saxe-Gotha-Altenburg (1693–1732) it was augmented with duplicates from the Gotha ducal library. The integrated collection from 1945 that can be found in the present Research Library Gotha contains approx. 70,000 titles.

**Database**
- [Online-catalogue](#) of the library, incl. [VD 16](#) and [VD 17](#)

**Catalogues**
- [Online-catalogue](#) of the library

**Shelf marks**
- see main groups of the Gymnasial Collection on p. 7
III. Catalogues for the special collections

Collection Perthes

The Collection Perthes contains collections of the former publishing house Justus Perthes Gotha as well as the VEB Hermann Haack geographic-cartografic institution Gotha. It consist of the Map Collection, the Library of the Publishing House and the Archive of the Publishing House. Special Holdings are the Gothaischer Hofkalender (Gotha Court Calendar) and the Henze Library.

Database

- Map database IKAR, contains:
  Maps or items from the publishing production of Perthes from 1785 until 1945 including individual maps, all in monographs, atlases and journals of the publishing house’s published maps as well as copperplates from the 10th and 11th (international) edition of the “Stielers Handatlas” (‘Stieler’Hand-Atlas’)

Catalogues

- Catalogues and Finding aids of the Perthes Collection

Dissertations (Diss)

Database

- Online-catalogue of the library, incl. VD 16 and VD 17

Catalogues

- Alphabetical, handwritten book catalogue
- Until the middle of the 18th century, ordered according to the name of the praesides and subsequently under the name of the respondents
- Online-catalogue of the library

Hymnal Book Collection (Cant. Spir)

Database

- Completely listed in the Online-catalogue of the library

Catalogues

- Online-catalogue of the library
- Alphabetical book catalogue

Funeral Sermons

Database

- Online-catalogue of the library, incl. VD 16 and VD 17

Catalogues

- Online-catalogue of the library
- Alphabetical book catalogue

Sheet Music (Mus, M)

Database

- Sheet music database (For access: please contact the library staff)
- The gymnasial sheet music collection ist currently being listed in the Online-catalogue
- Handwritten sheet music: RISM, library signet D-GOL

School Documents (S)

Database

- Online-Database, according to <Place> <School> <Year>
IV. Research guide for the historical stocks

The research guide shows you the possible research steps you can take with your search for literature according to contents and alphabetically - both online as well as using the handwritten book catalogue of the Ducal Collection (microfiche at the general information and circulation desk).

The alphabetical book catalogue of the Ducal catalogue only serves as a registering function to the systematic catalogue. This indicates a page shelf mark under which, in the systematic catalogue, the complete shelf mark (individual shelf mark) must be used.

In the special catalogues available in microfiche, please research additionally, as these are not integrated into the alphabetical and systematic book catalogue.

You will receive the handwritten special catalogue Dissertations upon request from the staff of the special reading room. They will be happy to help you with any questions or advice regarding the stocks and their research tools.

If you would like to use stocks from the Perthes collection, please go to the Homepage, in particular to the page „Accessing the holdings“. 
### Main groups of the Ducal Collection*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Main groups of the Ducal Collection*</th>
<th>Main groups of the Gymnasial Collection</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Philosophy</td>
<td>Prints from the 16th century</td>
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<td>History</td>
<td>Druck</td>
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<td>Theology</td>
<td>Geography</td>
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<td>Geography</td>
<td>Historiography</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cities</td>
<td>Prints from the 15th century</td>
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<tr>
<td>Biography</td>
<td>Jurisprudence</td>
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<tr>
<td>Genealogy und Heraldry</td>
<td>Prints from the 15th century</td>
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<tr>
<td>Antiquitates</td>
<td>Art</td>
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<tr>
<td>Journals</td>
<td>Mathematics, Science</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jurisprudence</td>
<td>Music</td>
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<tr>
<td>Politics</td>
<td>Philosophy, Philology</td>
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<tr>
<td>Medicine</td>
<td>Theology</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mathesis</td>
<td>Monastery school Ilfeld Library</td>
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<tr>
<td>Numismatic</td>
<td>East prussian collection Horn</td>
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<tr>
<td>Poesis</td>
<td>Reyher Publishing House</td>
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<td>Sheet Music</td>
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<td>Gothana</td>
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<td>Statistics</td>
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<td>Art</td>
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<td>Pedagogic</td>
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<td>Book and Writing</td>
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<td>Spiritual Songs</td>
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<td>Funeral Sermon</td>
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<td>Incunabula and early prints until</td>
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<tr>
<td>1517</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

* The order on the list is related to the Ducal classification system in the online catalogue.

### Further groups

- Monastery school Ilfeld Library
- East prussian collection Horn
- Reyher Publishing House

### Revision markers in the book catalogue of the Ducal Collection

The stocks have been revised. The following revision marks can be found in the catalogue volumes:

- √ at location
- O missing
- ___ referral, cf.
Content research

1. Version
Search in the classification system of the Ducal collection (online, microfiche)

Example:
Searching on titles about Spiritual Teaching
- Find an overview of the individual shelf mark groups under „Classification system of the Ducal collection“
- Identify the page shelf mark (Indicates the pages in the systematic catalogue, on which the title of the searched subject are listed on)

0.12 Spiritual Teaching Phil 2° 00043

Search with the shelf mark in the Online-catalogue
- Search for Phil 2° 00043
- Search key „Shelf mark [SGN]“
- Entry with truncation: Phil 2° 004?
- Found are titles from pages 40 to 49 of the catalogue

or:
Search with the shelf mark Phil 2° 00043 in the systematic catalogue of the microfiche edition.

2. Version
Search with notations in the complete inventory

Using notation, you can search for previously online documented literature under the category „Classification [RVK]“ in the online-catalogue. Please note, that thereby, also stocks from the special collection of the University Library Erfurt will be shown that also use this notation.

Example:
Search for titles about Canon Law
- Search for the Classification Mark in the „Classification system of the Ducal Collection“, copy

Entry in the search field in the online-catalogue
- Search for 10.05
- Search key: „Classification [RVK]“
- Shows all of the accessible titles with this notation in the online-catalogue

Tip: The allocation of notation is being continuously upgraded for the complete old stocks. As long as all the stocks do not have this notation yet, the first version offered will bring more comprehensive research results and is, therefore, the central starting point for your complete research.
Alphabetical Research in handwritten catalogues

1. Step

Search in the alphabetical catalogue to determine the base shelf mark and the page number in the systematic catalogue (microfiche)
  • in this catalogue you find information like author and title as well as subject group, format and (page) numbering that form the base shelf mark
  • Base shelf mark located under the title
  • get information where to find title in the appropriate volume of the systematic catalogue
  • alphabetical catalogue has only register function: Subnumber not specified
  • Tip: Ordered according to „Prussian Instructions“, search for: Substantivum regens (first the independant noun)
  • No entries under corporations

2. Step

Search in the systematic catalogue with the base shelf mark to complete the Individual shelf mark (microfiche)
  • Select the subject group
  • Search for the given page in the alphabetical catalogue and your title
  • find the subnumber written in front of the author names
  • complete the individual shelf mark with subnumber and if necessary with volume/issue

→ Shelf mark is complete

Example: Search for Francisco Suarez, Metaphysicarvm Disputationvm, Venice 1605

1. Step

Search in the alphabetical catalogue (microfiche)
  • Search for Suárez: Phil. Fol., p. 43
  • Standardized form: Phil 2° 43

2. Step

Search in the systematic catalogue
  • Select subject group Phil, format Fol. (2°)
  • Search on p. 43 for Suarez
  • Complete the individual shelf mark with subnumber and volume

→ Complete Shelf mark: Phil 2° 43/1 (2)

3. Step

Search in the online catalogue
  • Search with the standardized shelf mark: Phil 2 00043 01 02
  • Search key: „Shelf mark [SGN]
Research tips

Standardize shelf mark when using the online-catalogue

Shelf mark Phil 8° 120/3 (1)

- Standardized shelf mark: Phil 8 00120 03 01 (The space characters are not necessary for the search.)
- Search key: „Shelf mark [SGN]“

Finding secondary literature from their sources

Based on the shelf mark of manuscripts or old prints, you will find appropriate secondary literature in the online-catalogue (research documentation). Here, the manuscript shelf mark will be used as the keyword.

- Shelf Mark: Chart. A 102
- Standardized Shelf Mark: Chart A00102
- Entry with truncation: Chart A00102?
- Search key: “Subject Heading [SP]”

Example

At the moment available in the research documentation is, in particular, research literature about Bibliotheca Amploniana and of the Research Library Gotha which is being continuously expanded.