## DIGITAL RESEARCH AIDS

For provenance research into colonial collections



Colonial Collections Datahub BETA



Add your narratives to heritage

Your knowledge about the heritage on this platform is vital. With your narratives and perspectives, we can present the 'objects' in their context and point to biases in

When you create an account, you can add

your narrative to these 'objects', make communities and create lists.

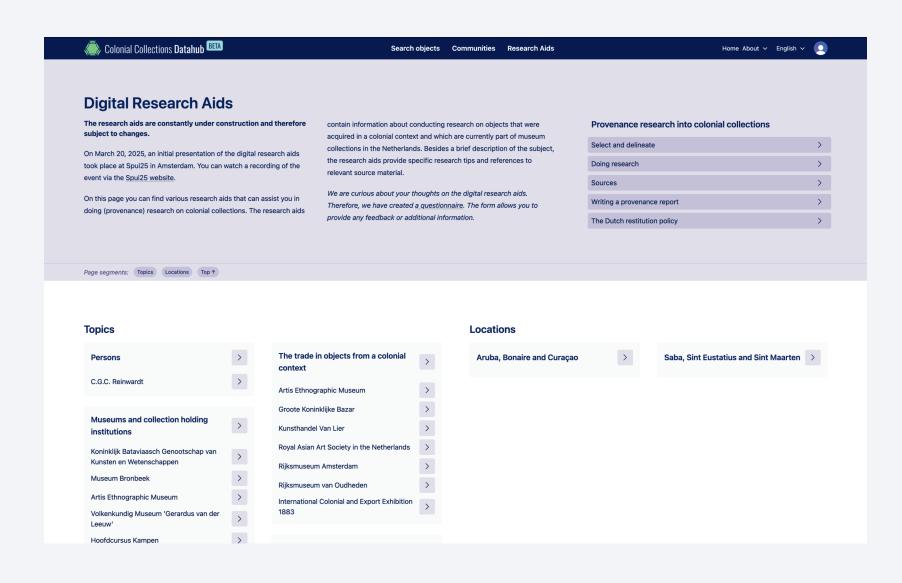
and objects

Create an account

## WHAT?

The Expert Centre Restitution of the NIOD Institute for War, Holocaust and Genocide Studies is creating a series of digital research aids. These have the goal to make available a wide variety of knowledge on how to conduct research into museum collections that were acquired in a colonial context. The research aids are created in the context of the Colonial Collections Consortium — a collaboration between five cultural and scientific institutions.

The intended audiences are starting provenance researchers in the Netherlands (such as curators, students, and other heritage professionals) as well as researchers, source communities and other interested parties from countries of origin.



## WHY?

In recent years, we have witnessed a changing attitude towards colonial collections within museums in the Global North. In the Netherlands, this has resulted in on the one hand the development of a restitution policy and on the other hand in the establishment of various projects to support and encourage research into Dutch museum collections.

**Colonial Collections Datahub** 

includes heritage from Suriname, Indonesia, Sri Lanka, South Africa, Aruba, Curaçao, Sint Maarten and many other countries and areas. The datahub provides

Heritage communities

Below are some communities to inspire you. Click here to see all the

The Colonial Collections Datahub is a digital platform that brings together, enriches

communities and researchers space to add perspectives on the included data. See

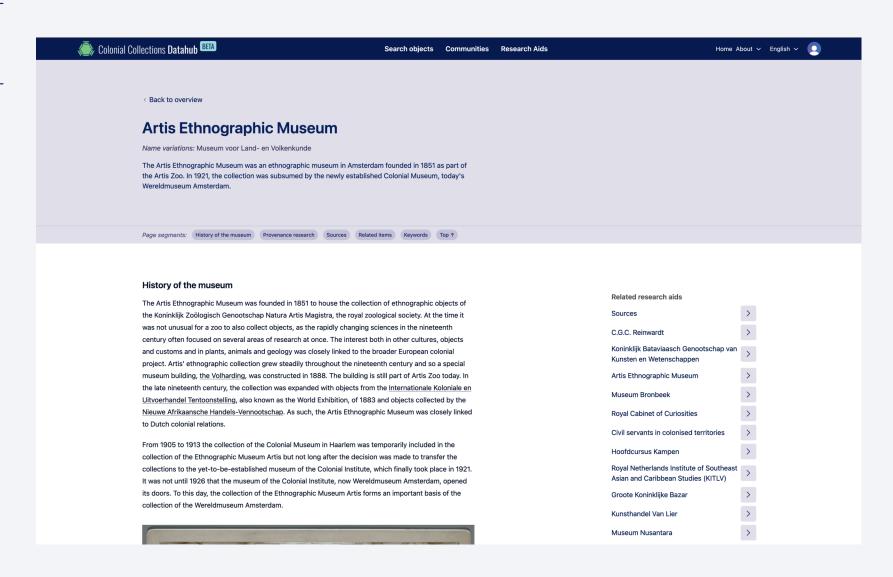
While the Dutch restitution policy has already resulted in returns of cultural items to Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Nigeria and the United States, a lot is still unknown about the histories of objects that came to the Netherlands during the colonial era. Moreover, there is still no clear picture of all colonial collections present in Dutch museums.

The Digital Research Aids developed by the NIOD are tools to inform researchers from the Netherlands and abroad about the Dutch museal and archival landscape, institutional histories and specific individuals that have played an important role in amassing objects in colonial contexts.

## HOW?

The website of the Digital Research Aids offers a dynamic digital environment where users can find relevant information to start their research. Therefore, we have created an intuitive structure existing of three levels of research aids:

- A more abstract level. This level acts as a set of guidelines for starting provenance research. Here, you can find information on where to find relevant source material or how to write a provenance report, for instance.
- A thematic level. Through themes, such as the trade in objects during the colonial era or the work of missionaries in colonised regions, these research aids discuss how objects came to the Netherlands.
- A detailed level. These research aids cover specific subjects, ranging from individual collectors to museums. These aids provide detailed information on where to find relevant archival material and how to approach researching the relevant topic.





SCAN THE QR CODE AND HAVE A LOOK AT THE WEBSITE!