

MUSEUM AND RESEARCH



A Leibniz research museum

Leibniz
Leibniz
Association



THE DSM

With an indoor exhibition space spanning 8,000 m² and a museum harbour complete with historical ships, the German Maritime Museum / Leibniz Institute for Maritime History (DSM) is one of the largest maritime museums in the whole of Europe. One of the most famous exhibits within the museum itself is the Bremen Cog dating back to 1380, widely deemed to be the best preserved ship from the Middle Ages.

WHAT MAKES US DIFFERENT

Ships are a gateway to people and the sea

Ships transport people, goods and knowledge – in fact, globalisation would be completely unimaginable without them. Ships can also be used to explore the multifaceted and ever-changing relationship between humankind and the sea and to make it something truly tangible in exhibitions. We have set ourselves this goal.

In the scope of our research programme and our exhibition, we observe ships from a variety of perspectives. We explore shipbuilding and navigation from a socio-economic perspective, discover how human knowledge is able to spread all around the world with the aid of ships and consider the impact that shipping has on our environment.

www.dsm.museum/ausstellung

www.dsm.museum/forschung

A Leibniz Association research museum

The DSM is one of eight Leibniz research museums located across Germany. The Leibniz Association research museums collect, research and inform. Their combined collections are home to way in excess of 100 million exhibits and form the basis for research into the history of the Earth and biodiversity, cultural and technological history and the conservation of our scientific and cultural heritage. With their research-based exhibitions, the museums reach between three and four million people every year.

www.dsm.museum/forschungsmuseen

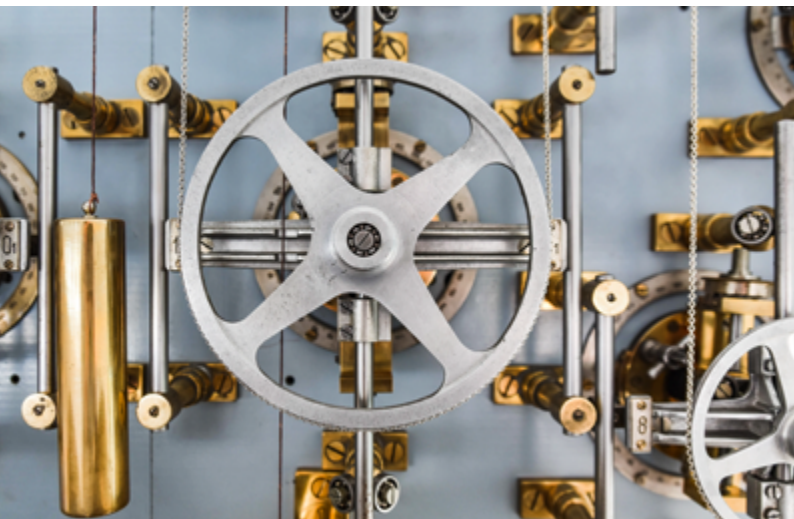
WHAT WE RESEARCH

Topic-related and object-related research

We collect and conserve historical evidence of the relationship between humankind and the sea. Our more than 150,000 exhibits offer different means of accessing information that we classify into three perspectives: interests, materiality and perception. For example, the alterations made to a printing plate for a historical map (materiality) can provide a wealth of information on changes in the political fabric (interests) and contemporary means of representing and interpreting these developments (perception).

The topic-generated research is derived from specific structures, developments and upheavals, for example the structural change in the maritime economy taking ship-building as an example or the developments in passenger shipping in imperial Germany. All of the research projects are integrally linked to the scientific exploration and further development of the collection.

The first German tide-predicting machine from 1915.



Citizen participation during the 2018 Future Weekend.

Interdisciplinary topics

Our research encompasses interdisciplinary topics from a wide range of scientific disciplines and museology methods. For example, the Bremen Cog has already been the starting point for research questions from the fields of archaeology, restoration and conservation sciences and cultural and visual studies. In provenance research, the primary focus is on studying the items in our collection and establishing their origin and history.

Visitor research focuses on communication as well as the interactive potential of the exhibition topics, reflecting the contribution we make as a place of education.

Digitalisation is an all-encompassing interdisciplinary topic which should go beyond infrastructures and shape the digital documentation of our collection and the cross-medial reach of our exhibits, for example via the digitalisation of model ships, conservational monitoring and concepts for mixed-media installations in the exhibition.

OUR RESEARCH AT A GLANCE

Interdisciplinary topics
Topic-related and
object-related research

Our research and exhibition programme is structured into three areas which form the basis for the exhibitions and research at the German Maritime Museum: Sailing and the environment, Shipbuilding and navigation in the socio-economic context and Ships and knowledge. They unite our research efforts with academic fields which are not specifically maritime-related, allowing the museum to investigate interdisciplinary questions going beyond the topics of the research areas and forge increasingly stronger ties between activities.



Shipping,
navigation and
exploration



Provenance
research



Use of maritime
resources



Digitalisation



Passenger,
commercial and
wartime shipping



Restoration and
conservation
research



Labour in
shipbuilding



Marine and
polar sciences




Museum visitor
research

1.
**SHIPS
AND THE
ENVIRONMENT**

2.
**SHIPS AND
KNOWLEDGE**

3.
**SHIPBUILDING
AND NAVIGATION
IN THE SOCIO-
ECONOMIC
CONTEXT**



COOPERATIVE RESEARCH

HOW WE RESEARCH

Research-focused exhibitions

What can the past reveal about the current situation and future of humankind and the sea? Our aim is to create three-dimensional adventures with and through our exhibitions. We see exhibitions as an expression and the result of scientific research and publications, which is why all of our research projects are also integrated in our exhibition programme. Exhibits are tools both for investigation and for communicating/exchanging information in a public space specially developed for this purpose, where we enter into dialogue with our visitors.

Collaborations and teaching at universities and colleges

Our experts research and teach at a range of universities and colleges. We are proud to maintain collaborations with the University of Bremen, Carl von Ossietzky University of Oldenburg, Bremerhaven and Bremen Universities of Applied Sciences and the University of Cambridge. We also enjoy a particularly close cooperation with the neighbouring Alfred Wegener Institute, Helmholtz Centre for Polar and Marine Research. In addition, we work with a wide variety of different partners both in Germany and abroad on specific projects.

Cooperative research

The cooperation in our working groups focuses on inter-disciplinarity, internationality and networking. The next generation of scientists and academics works together with internationally renowned experts to identify relevant research questions and make the results available to a wider public. We integrate oral history in our research projects focusing on contemporary issues, allowing us to contextualise material, image and written sources and answer questions relating to perception. This maritime, immaterial, cultural heritage also flows into the exhibitions and the communication and exchange of information.

RESEARCH WITH US!

Our museum and the research we perform thrive on the exchange of information and experiences. As such, we have a range of possibilities on offer to let you get involved and gather experience. We are delighted that you are interested and look forward to hearing from you! You can find details of how to contact us on the back page.

Dissertations and postdocs

Supporting the next generation of budding scientists and academics is central to our research activities, which is why we offer the possibility of writing dissertations and conducting postdoc projects in collaboration with a range of different universities. Ph.D. candidates are also able to participate in the POLMAR programme at the Alfred Wegener Institute.

Third-party-funded projects

We actively support proposals for projects (e.g., doctoral projects) involving applications for third-party funding. We have considerable experience in the successful acquisition of financing (e.g., INTERREG, German Research Foundation (DFG), German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF), Leibniz Competition).

International fellowships

We offer our international fellowships to academics from abroad who have not yet had the opportunity to research at a German academic institution. The sum of the grant depends on the applicant's academic qualification and the scope of the proposed project. Travel and accommodation costs are also covered.

DSM fellows / senior experts

DSM fellows / senior experts work at external universities and other research institutes investigating maritime history from a myriad of different perspectives. As experts, they are important partners for our joint projects and are integrated to some extent into our research and exhibition in the scope of our promotion of young talent.

Internships

Students from all years are welcome to complete internships lasting from several weeks to several months in all areas of our museum.

Citizen science

Interested citizens are welcome to take part in the research at the museum in the scope of projects open to the public. Everyone is welcome to join in. The contributions serve as the basis for further research projects which, in turn, are also open for anyone and everyone to participate in.

RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURE

Our collection forms the basis of our research infrastructure and includes model ships, paintings, nautical charts, real ships you can board and explore, technical drawings, films, photographs and posters among many other things. In addition to the extensive collection of exhibits, our archives also include 380,000 additional items, including 542 titles (rare books) published before 1800, which are stored in our library. These are complemented by specific data collections relating to different topics and projects. The range of topics in our reference library open to the public spans all areas of German maritime history and exploitation of the sea in all their international interdependencies. The majority of the items are printed monographs along with around 370 current magazines, journals and periodicals.

German Maritime Museum

Leibniz Institute for Maritime History

Hans-Scharoun-Platz 1 · 27568 Bremerhaven

T +49 (0)471 482 07 0 · info@dsm.museum

www.dsm.museum

www.instagram.com/leibnizdsm

www.facebook.com/leibnizdsm

CONTACT INFORMATION

General research questions

info@dsm.museum

www.dsm.museum/ausstellung

www.dsm.museum/forschung

RESEARCH WITH US!

Dissertations / postdocs / international fellowships / third-party-funded projects

forschung@dsm.museum

Internships

personal@dsm.museum

Citizen science

mitmachen@dsm.museum

www.dsm.museum/citizenscience

LIBRARY

T +49 (0)471 4820722 / 44 or

bibliothek@dsm.museum

ARCHIVE AND MAGAZINE

Enquiries relating to the collection

sammlung@dsm.museum

Enquiries relating to photographs and other images

archiv@dsm.museum

