

**Courtauld Institute of Art Research Forum/Kunsthistorisches Institut in Florenz  
Photo Archives and the Photographic Memory of Art History  
Workshop (15 June 2009)**

**Photo Library Survey**

**Library:** RKD (Rijksbureau voor Kunsthistorische Documentatie / Netherlands Institute for Art History)

**Location:** 5 Prins Willem Alexanderhof, 2595 BE The Hague

**Website:** [www.rkd.nl](http://www.rkd.nl)

**Head of Photo Library:** Rudi Ekkart, director

**Founding of the host institution:** 1932

**Founding of the Photo Library:** 1932

**Status** (public/private/other): non-profit foundation, by public financing and additional private support for specific projects

**Number of employees and their roles:** the RKD has about 100 employees, including 3 head curators, 15 curators, 3 assistant curators, 9 assistants, 6 volunteers and about 10 temporary assistants for the photo library

**Photographers:** intern photographic department with 3 employees; other work done by external photographers on contract basis

**IT support:** intern IT department with 3 employees

**IT providers:** Adlib Information Systems

**Legal consultancy for copyright and licensing** (yes/no; what source): specialised advisors on contract basis

**Archive Holdings**

**Number of photographic prints:** over 6 million

**Number of negatives:** about 400.000

**Number of digital images:** about 300.000

**Technical characteristics of the digital images:** mainly high resolution, partly lower resolution

**Used storage space:**

**Acquisitions** (sources and types, i.e. digital or photographs): about 30.000 a year

**Catalogue:** -

**Photographic campaigns:** Dutch private collections and smaller museums; special projects, like decorative paintings 1600-1940 in Dutch public and private buildings; etc

**Acquisitions policy:** all still missing relevant material on Dutch and Flemish/Belgian visual arts from the 14<sup>th</sup> century up to now; selective acquisition of material of foreign schools.

Special topic: technical documentation, especially infraredreflectography.

## **The Photographic Archive in the Digital Era**

**Digital catalogue:** yes, since 1993, only for Dutch and Flemish/Belgian art

**Database and catalogue system:** Adlib

**Partnerships:**

**Photographs currently entered in the database:** about 150.000

**Internet presence:** [www.rkd.nl](http://www.rkd.nl)

**Technical support:** intern IT department

**Images available online:** all images in the database, except for the case where the owner refuses open access

**Access:** open access

**Digital photo campaigns:** all campaigns of the last four years were digital

**Long-term Archive for digital data:** inhouse digital management system

**Workflow:** regular input of 5.000 to 10.000 records a year, other input depending from projects

**Other digitalization projects:** archives, card index of Dutch and Flemish paintings in auction catalogues