

ESHCC CENTER FOR HISTORICAL CULTURE

ERASMUS UNIVERSITY LIBRARY

HISTORY DIDACTICS COLLECTION (HDC) - FACT SHEET

Drs. Jan Jüngen, 1 February 2013

Joint Venture

The History Didactics Collection (HDC) was created in 2007, as a joint venture between the Center for Historical Culture (CHC) and the Erasmus University Library (UL). Its primary function is to support CHC research activities by providing source materials: secondary education history textbooks, teaching guides, didactic studies on history education, government publications on history education.

Within the UL framework the HDC has the status of a Special Collection, which receives its content from donations and acquisitions. Additional funding from the library facilitates optimizing online access: the UL online catalogue is the main communication instrument between the collection and its users. CHC and library jointly fund the cost of MA-student assistantships; assistants contribute by adding subject terms and other metadata to catalogue records, and by selecting new collection content from donations of books. Library professionals provide supervision. CHC and library work closely together in managing the growth and the quality of the collection.

Collection stats

Schoolbooks:

- 1.909 NL History textbooks > 1945
- 252 NL History textbooks < 1945
- 298 NL History exams books and documents
- 391 Other countries History textbooks
- 19 Maps, surveys

History Education / Government publications

- 1.500 NL + Other countries

Number of publications:

2009 JUN	2010 FEB	2011 FEB	2012 FEB	2013 FEB
2.360	2.582	3.009	3.361	4.369
progress	+ 222	+ 427	+ 353	+ 1.008

Reading Room

The HDC (dedicated) Reading Room, located in the UL Building offers 140 meters of history schoolbooks and history education literature. Visitors can easily obtain publications from the shelves, and research the content at one of the 12 available study places. Selections of texts can be photocopied or digitized for further research.

Audiovisual facilities / web connectivity permit the use of the Reading Room as a lecture room for small groups. Access is granted on appointment; the UL Virtual Helpdesk administrates the process.

Visitors & activities

From 2009 to present most individual researchers visiting the Reading Room were connected to Erasmus University ESHCC/CHC: MA students, PhD students, faculty researchers. A substantial number of visitors however had a connection to another Dutch university (UvA, VU, Utrecht, Leiden, Nijmegen, Tilburg) or to a university abroad (Gent, Bergen Norway, Tokio). Foreign researchers were often interested in Dutch schoolbooks texts about their country of origin. The period of time individual researchers spent in the Reading Room varied between two days and two weeks.

A selection of research topics:

- Press photo's in history textbooks (PhD thesis)
- Schulbuchforschung (German texts) (PhD thesis)
- The position of the NSB in Dutch schoolbooks 1945-2000 (MA thesis)
- World War II in Dutch schoolbooks 1950-2000 (MA thesis)
- Louis Napoleon in Dutch schoolbooks (MA thesis)
- The VOC and Dutch influence in Indonesia (MA thesis, Bergen Norway)
- A comparison between popular Dutch history textbooks in the eighties (MA thesis)
- Jan Pietersz Coen in Dutch schoolbooks (MA thesis and exhibition Westfries Museum Hoorn)
- Nationalism in Dutch schoolbooks (MA thesis)
- Dutch handbooks analysis on holocaust and collaboration (MA thesis, Gent)
- World War II in English and Dutch schoolbooks (PhD thesis)
- Holocaust education in Dutch and German schoolbooks (PhD thesis)
- History education in Calvinist schools (MA thesis)
- The positive VOC feelings of P.M. Balkenende (article M. Prak, Utrecht)
- The image of Japan in Dutch schoolbooks 1950-present (article J. Mizushima, Tokio).

The Reading Room was also used as a discussion site for CHC members, and as a lecture room where BA and MA courses and working sessions were organized, using the practical advantages of the collection presence.