

Institute for Newspaper Research



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Opening Hours:

Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday

10 am - 4 pm

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1pm - 7 pm



The third PISA study again shows that forward-looking policies are achievable only through a close focus on education and research. Institutions set up with this goal are therefore reclaiming their place at the forefront of public attention.

One such institution is the Institute for Newspaper Research, which is attached to the library's business division. The Institute offers a large number of services, and staff handle a broad range of customer requests. With the considerable volume of information now available, members of the public increasingly need guidance and advice to find their way through the data jungle.

The Institute combines the features of a specialist media library, a newspaper archive and a press documentation centre. It is the oldest and undoubtedly the most comprehensive specialist library and newspaper and microfilm collection in Germany. It was founded in 1926, building on a local newspaper collection started by Dr Erich Schulz, head of the municipal library. During the Second World War 60% of the original collection was lost. In the post-war period the range of newspapers collected was significantly expanded to cover the entire German-speaking world.

In the Institute's founding days, newspapers were not considered to be of academic interest but merely a part of trivial everyday communication. By scientifically compiling a comprehensive collection of German daily newspapers, the Institute has created an invaluable source of material for research on the history of the press.

With the reappraisal of the role of the newspaper as a means of public communication, the Institute has won international acclaim.

From the outset, the Institute of Newspaper Research has been evidence of the value placed by the city of Dortmund on culture and education.



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The Institute's stock can be accessed by a variety of different methods, whereby approximately 50 % of the stock is available electronically. There is an ongoing demand for all services, with a noticeable increase in the popularity of internet access.

Among the Institute's customers are scientists, students, pupils, genealogists and ordinary citizens, who may, for example, wish to acquire a newspaper from a particular date for an anniversary.

The Institute operates a press database, which is used mainly by students and journalists. Daily newspapers and periodicals are continually monitored and relevant findings added to the database.